

Minutes of Project Board Review

Project name: UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project - Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol
Project ID: 95244
Output IDs: 99240
Place: Virtual
Date: 7-15 March 2019
Subject: Request of approval of a 1-year non-cost extension of the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project
Implementing: Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS
Project Team based: Istanbul and Panama Regional Hubs

1. General background and basis for the request of 1-year non-cost extension of the project

On 7 March, Alejandro Lago, the Project Manager has submitted a request to the Steering Committee to approve 1-year extension of the project and presented the case as follows.

The UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project was endorsed by the GEF Executive Coordinator and communicated to UNDP on 13 June 2016. The Executive Coordinator of the UNDP-Global Environmental Finance sent a letter to UNDP Manager of the Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS delegating the authority to sign the project document on 24 August 2016, which became the date of the operational start of the project and thus determined the operational end date of the project as 23 August 2019.

The non-cost extension is therefore requested for one more year of the project implementation until 23 August 2020 due to the following reasons:

1. The recruitment and on-boarding of the core team was completed only by 1 July, 2017 and that delayed the implementation of key activities of the project.
2. The administrative articulation of the collaboration with United Nations Volunteers (UNV), was fully accomplished on 1 August 2017, however, due to the internal restructuring at UNV during that year, there was no execution of funds by UNV until the beginning of 2018.
3. The initiation of the project at the national level in the 24 countries covered by the project in 2017 was delayed due to issues experienced at the national level. Some countries (Belarus, Colombia, Egypt, and South Africa) did not start the implementation of the project in 2017 due to administrative procedures and requirements at country level.
4. The overall project delivery at 31 December 2018 was 44 %, (the delivery of some countries at that time was as low as 1%). 3 countries have indicated their need to extend the project until mid-2020. Other 6 countries will likely need to continue the implementation of the project during the initial months of 2020. 14 countries have indicated their intention to end the project at the end of 2019, but some of them may benefit from some extra time in early 2020 in case there are some unforeseen delays in the implementation of some activities.
5. The lack of answer and initiation of the project in Egypt has led, in consultation with the Country Office, to the cancellation of the project in this country in February 2019. The funding initially planned for Egypt (USD 337,750) is suggested to be reprogrammed under the global part of the project to conduct other activities in 2019 and 2020. These funds open an opportunity to improve

traceability and tools for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and to test innovative technologies, such as blockchain. A final workshop, at the global or regional levels, is also envisaged with a special focus on private sector

2. Objectives of this Request

This no-cost extension will allow the project to ensure achievement of set targets based on the project's proposed outcomes. Some of the outputs of the project are sequential, and therefore, they depend on the progress of previous outputs. ABS legal frameworks processes require time at the national level and are very conditioned by the legal and political context of each country (national elections, constitutional reforms, government changes, etc.).

Project staff in all the countries of the project has been building partnerships amongst the different stakeholders and competent authorities, which is expected to bring about results as soon as the national ABS legal frameworks are approved and implemented. These partnerships include biodiscovery projects that normally require longer periods of time to deliver results. In this regard, extending the project will enable countries to move into a different level to initiate negotiations with key industries along ABS-compliant value chains to broker ABS deals that will yield co-development benefits in contribution to the SDGs.

Another key component of the project that will substantially benefit from the extension is the community of practice on ABS (Global ABS Community), recently launched on 15 February 2019, led by UNV (through the webinar "Blockchain as an innovative tool to implement the Nagoya Protocol and ABS"). The Global ABS Community will need time to consolidate its functionalities and added value to the broader ABS community, which also suggests that UNV should accompany the project until its end.

3. Benefits expected to be obtained from this agreement

The implementation of most of the components of the project will benefit from the required one-year extension to be able to fully accomplish their objectives or, at least, to allow them to consolidate their implementation. The new end date of the project will be 23 August 2020, which includes its operational closure. The final meeting of the Steering Committee will take place on 4 May 2020 and therefore, all activities of the project must be completed before that date.

4. Feedback received from Steering Committee Members regarding this agreement

The proposed request of approval for a 1-year non-cost extension of the project was submitted via email on 7 March 2019 to the members of the Steering Committee (Albania, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Rwanda, Samoa, and Uruguay) and to the rest of the countries participating in the project for their review and approval.


All the countries participating in the project, including the present members of the Steering Committee, provided their explicit positive feedback and no objection to the request of the non-cost extension of the project for the period of 1-year (as reflected in the below table).

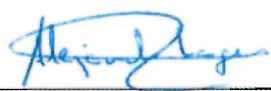
Name – Country	Category	Response	Date
Elvita Kabashi – UNDP Albania – Global ABS Project Focal Point	2018 SC Member	After In-Country Consultation approves the request	12 Mar 2019
Jimena Puyana – UNDP Colombia – Global ABS Project Focal Point	2018 SC Member	After In-Country Consultation approves the request	14 Mar 2019
Wubua Mekonnen – UNDP Ethiopia – Global ABS Project Focal Point	2018 SC Member	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – CO plans to finish activities in 2019	8 Mar 2019
Mohammad Abumughli – UNDP Jordan – Global ABS Project Focal Point	2018 SC Member	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – CO plans to finish activities by the end of 2019	10 Mar 2019


Geoffey Ornedo – UNDP Kenya – Global ABS Project Focal Point	2018 SC Member	After In-Country Consultation approves the request	8 Mar 2019
Reina Otsuka – UNDP Rwanda – Global ABS Project Focal Point	2018 SC Member	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – CO aims to finish activities in 2019 or early 2020	8 Mar 2019
Anne Patricia Trevor-Stanley – UNDP Samoa – Global ABS Project Focal Point	2018 SC Member	After In-Country Consultation approves the request to 23 August 2020	12 Mar 2019
Flavio Scasso – UNDP Uruguay – Global ABS Project Focal Point	2018 SC Member	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – aims to finish activities in 2019	11 Mar 2019
Elena Makeyeva – Belarus – Global ABS Project Counterpart	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – Country plans to finish activities by the end of 2019	11 Mar 2019
Oduetse Koboto – UNDP Botswana – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – aims to finish activities as currently planned – could plan more activities but will require administrative support	8 Mar 2019
Anliyat Mze Ahmed Abdallah – UNDP Comoros – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request of extension of the project until end of April 2020	8 Mar 2019
Marina Hernandez – Dominican Republic – Global ABS Project Counterpart	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request	11 Mar 2019
Monica Andrade – UNDP Ecuador – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request	14 Mar 2019
Alexis Irias – UNDP Honduras – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request and plans activities until first months of 2020	11 Mar 2019
Ruchi Pant – UNDP India – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – aims to finish activities by the end of 2019	7 Mar 2019
Firuz Ibrohimov – UNDP Kazakhstan – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – aims to finish activities by the end of 2019	10 Mar 2019
Khishigjargal Kharkhuu – UNDP Mongolia – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – aims to finish activities as currently planned	13 Mar 2019
Biplove Choudhary – UNDP Myanmar – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request to 23 August 2020	14 Mar 2019
Dario Luque – Panama – Global ABS Project Counterpart	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – would benefit from the extension due to incoming national elections	11 Mar 2019
Roland Alcindor – UNDP Seychelles – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – Country plans to finish activities by the end of 2019	8 Mar 2019
Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni – South Africa – Global ABS Project Counterpart	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request to 23 August 2020	8 Mar 2019
Khitma Mohammed – Sudan – Global ABS Project Counterpart	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request and plans activities until first months of 2020	12 Mar 2019
Nargizakhon Usmanova – UNDP Tajikistan – Global ABS Project Focal Point	Project Country	After In-Country Consultation approves the request – aims to finish activities by the end of 2019	13 Mar 2019


5. Project Board decision

Approves the non-cost extension of the project for 1 year, based on the presented information and requests UNDP and GEF to proceed, through their respective internal procedures, with the final approvals.

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Cleared by: 
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Approved by: 
Gerd Trogemann, Manager, Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and
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