

Minutes of the Project Board Meeting

Project name: UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project (Nagoya Protocol)
Project ID: SVK10/00095244
Output IDs: SVK10/00099240
Place: Istanbul Regional Hub and remotely via Skype
Date: 6th November 2019
Subject: 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee

1. General opening and introduction

Mr. Gerd Trogemann, in his capacity as Chair of the steering committee of the UNDP-GEF project “Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol” (Global ABS project), welcomed all the participants to the second meeting of the steering committee and opened the meeting. Confirmed the online participants (Belarus, Ecuador, Honduras, Seychelles) and acknowledge the possibility that the remaining 3 countries (India, Mongolia and South Africa may join later). He also confirmed with the participants the receipt of all the supporting documentation for the meeting. Made a brief summary of the agenda, kindly requested to try to keep the meeting within the one hour usual timeframe, confirmed the online participation of UNV for component 4 of the project and presented a brief outline of the methodology to be followed in the meeting including the presentation of the project manager and the colleagues from the United Nations Volunteers Program (UNV) for component 4, the presentation of the quality assurance report and that the participation of the Project Board members starting with the late time zones as a special courtesy to Mongolia for participating in non working hours, continuing from east to west zones.

An appreciation message was stated by the Chair towards the Project Manager Alejandro Lago and the team for the visible progress achieved, which has been well documented as the project enters its final year of implementation in 2020 and looking forward to the future for post project conclusion work on ABS.

2. Presentation & Discussion on 2019 Progress and 2020 Workplan (documents 2, 3, 4 and 5)

Mr. Lago, Project Manager of the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project, started his presentation with a brief statement on “How does ABS fit into the big picture” indicating efforts to link ABS with the SDG’s and the alignment with the UNDP Strategic plan investing efforts in communicating this connection of ABS into different elements of the SDGs with an important publication gathering cases from 27 countries, including non-project countries who have UNDP ABS national projects. The project has been aligned with the six “signature solutions” within the UNDP Strategic Plan to achieve multiple SDGs in an integrated fashion, with emphasis in the Environment one: Nature based solutions for development – Considering that *Biodiversity, including genetic resources provide the foundation for human societies and a safety net of resources and ecosystem services for billions of people*. From the 3-part framework for nature-based solutions: Action is Research and Development, Nature Element is Genetic Resources and SDG Outcomes are Food Security, Health, No poverty, Life on Land and Gender.

The publication “ABS is Genetic Resources for Sustainable Development” which included the before mentioned 27 cases was presented last year at the COP in Egypt to highlight the impact of ABS in the SDGs.

Component 1 (Strengthening the legal, policy, and institutional capacity to develop national ABS frameworks):

- From an original target of 1,360 trained stakeholders, the project has trained 6,656, exceeding the expectations, with the figure to be increased in the remaining months.
- Development, improvement or Amendment of ABS laws and regulations (including TK measures), 19 out of a target of 21 has been achieved and the complete target is to be achieved before the end of the year 2019
- 3 countries have approved ABS legal measures. The target remains a challenge and the project's goal is to leave all the installed capacity within the countries and to continue to push for more approved legal frameworks before the conclusion of the project.
- Supported the development of 14 out of 21 National Clearing House mechanisms or dedicated websites to publicize the legal frameworks. This effort will continue throughout the remaining months of the project to achieve the target in its entirety.

Recognizing that the main challenge under component 1 is the fact that the project relies on governments and parliaments to approve the legal frameworks the project will continue to organize specific activities to support/obtain the necessary political support.

Component 2 (Building trust between users and providers of genetic resources to facilitate the identification of bio-discovery efforts):

- Supported the development of 21 out of a target of 24 Biodiscovery projects. However, only half of the project countries (11 out of 22) have developed so far biodiscovery projects and support will be given by the Global ABS Project to complete the goal.
- Supported the development of 7 National Bio-prospection Strategies.
- 8 out of a target of 24 ABS Commercial agreements have been supported. This is, however, a very difficult goal to be achieved due to its relation to the low number of countries that have approved ABS legal measures (Component 1)
- 8 out of a target of 16 development of Ethical Codes of conduct have been supported.

Under this component the main challenge that has been identified is the negotiation of commercial agreements, This is, however, a very difficult goal to be achieved due to its relation to the low number of countries that have approved ABS legal measures (Component 1)

Component 3 (Strengthening the capacity of indigenous and local communities to contribute to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol):

- Development of 22 Awareness raising campaigns of Indigenous People and Local Communities, complying with the target of the Pro-Doc
- Support the development of 1 Free Prior Informed Consent (Ecuador)
- Support of 8 out of a target of 24 Bio community/ Biocultural Protocols and/or TK registries adopted by indigenous and local communities

The project will continue to support this activity throughout the remaining months to push to complete this target by the development of regional webinars.

Component 4 (Implementing a Community of Practice and South-South Cooperation Framework on ABS):

- Community of Practice on ABS implemented and operating at regional and global level was launched in February 2019.

- Launched Services Packages provided by the Global ABS Community: The Global ABS Legal clinics to provide legal advices to support IPLC in the negotiation of ABS contracts through both Global team and legal networks and the Global ABS Business Facility trying to improve the knowledge of the National Authorities on the different sectors and business models and help to connect research institutions and private sectors where no national networks exist.

The project manager made also reference to other additional activities supported or conducted by the Global ABS Project which have an important impact at regional or global levels:

- Project has given key support to Awareness Raising Campaigns on both local, regional, and global level to share experiences such as the Campaign to Celebrate the International Day of Women and Science and the Campaign to Celebrate the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the framework of the International Day of Indigenous Languages (In New York with the support of Ecuador).
- Supported the SCBD global training (Bonn, October 2019) and the Bioversity Regional Training in Latina America for CGIAR Centers (July 2019)
- 2 missions to support other ABS National Projects (Peru and Brazil)
- Supported Regional Activities to Generate Community of Practice: Workshop for Europe and CIS Region (Istanbul, April 2019), Negotiation of ABS Contracts (Dominican Republic, May 2019) and the Pan African ABS Workshop “Doing sustainable business in Africa: tools and innovations for the valorization of genetic resources to unlock the potential of Africa’s bio-economy and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs (Seychelles, July 2019)
- Supported a series of live streaming webinars on
 - Blockchain as an innovative tool to improve the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (February 2019)
 - Mainstreaming gender into ABS under the Nagoya Protocol (March 2019)
 - UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project Knowledge Café (Panama, May 2019)
 - Abs & Digital Sequence Information (Sept 2019)
 - Volunteering for the SDGs: UNV’s Support to the implementation of the UNDP GEF Global ABS Project (UNV HQ, October 2019)
 - Biocultural Community Protocols in Latin America (October 2019)
 - Biocultural Community Protocols in Africa: The experiences in Botswana and South Africa (scheduled for November 14, 2019)

The project manager then presented the project budget current status, mentioning the fact that the high budget reflected the portion from Egypt which was no longer a beneficiary of the project, resources that will not be used this year but are being moved to 2020 to develop a Blockchain pilot project and in the final Global ABS Conference therefore the corresponding budget revisions are currently being completed to conclude the year with a more realistic budget approach on funds. 2019 Expenditure is expected to be reduced to USD1,000,000 and Country Offices are expected to re-programme some funds to 2020 according to the new end date of the Project, December 2020 but at the country level August 2020 to allow time for financial and operational closures respectively.

Mr. Lago highlighted the following lessons learned (as a follow up of last year's points addressed at the previous steering committee meeting):

1. A Global project on ABS with 23 countries has a multiplier effect:
 - In particular at regional and global levels- easy to escalate activities
 - Global ABS Community
2. Challenges for a Global Project Management mentioned:
 - Financial management of the project is complex, and the financial capacities of UNDP CO vary enormously: Project will continue to provide more support to the country offices
 - Sequential end of the project (at the national level) and its team (global level) can be challenging: Ensure that all countries receive support until the end of the project through the Global ABS Community or bilateral requests
 - Consolidation and continuity of the Global ABS Community.

Mr. Lago reported on risk management that:

- Cancellation of the project activities in Egypt in February 2019 (following a previously reported critical risk)
- Some countries are under challenging political situations that may delay the approval of ABS laws and regulations (Critical risk). Countries are ensured that strengthened technical support will continue and is ready for any opportunity to approve the legal measures now and under the project.
- The political instability of some countries or the celebration of elections are foreseen risks for the remaining months of the project.

In some cases elections had a positive effects, especially in Latin America, as this was used as an opportunity to push for approvals before elections. In general Risk Management remains moderate.

The Quality Assurance Assessment rating was Exemplary.

With regards to what is ahead in 2020, the project manager stated as challenges:

- End of the GEF Project (August-national level; December global level – Terminal Evaluation).
- Second phase? To consolidate the Global ABS Community of Services of interest for other donors as well as to complete some activities initiated in the different countries of the project will require the search for partners and further donors (other than GEF 7) at the beginning of 2020
- Launch of Pilot on blockchain (scheduled for 1st Half of 2020)
- Global ABS Conference 2020 – Objectives
 - Showcase progress of all countries covered by the project
 - Attract private sector
 - Discuss Post 2020 agenda to have substantive impact on negotiations

Mr. Lago thanked and recognized the hard work of the National teams for the continuous efforts to push the implementation of the project as well as the Global team for the support given to the countries with a very high level of commitment and delivering always good results. He also thanked the Chair as well as the Programme Unit in IRH, the Regional Technical Specialists and the UNV team, whose critical support has been key to the success of the project.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lago for a very good overview in qualitative and quantitative terms of what happened in 2019 and the views for 2020. The Chair then gave the floor to Ms. Piera Zuccherin and Mr. Fernando Lopez to address component 4 under UNV.

3. Component 4 Presentation – UNV

Ms. Zuccherin started by mentioning that Component 4 was funded by the Special Voluntary funds which ends this year (2019) and a handover will be completed for the 2020 activities to be executed completely with UNDP Global ABS Project funds. She explained that the activities for Panama, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Uruguay that will continue into 2020 will be monitored and supported in order to consolidate the implementation of the Global ABS Community and the Global Cooperation Framework on ABS. She then presented Mr. Fernando Lopez to provide brief highlights of the Component 4 Activities. Mr. Lopez began his intervention by stating that the United Nations Volunteers Component has supported the implementation of the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project in five countries in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, mobilizing a total of 13 UN Volunteers and two service contracts in Honduras, Panama, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Uruguay with a total contribution of 425,000 USD from the Special Voluntary Funds. At the regional level, this strategic and innovative partnership will reach the end of its implementation on December 31st 2019, however the program will continue to support the implementation of Component 4 of the project in order to consolidate the implementation of the Global ABS Community and global cooperation framework on ABS. As the main achievements of the period Mr. Lopez mentioned: At the regional level, the UNV Component has supported five ministries of environment in the collection and management of information related to Access and Benefit Sharing. With the support of 4 National UNVs, the component has supported the implementation of 472 Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) assessments in Panama, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Uruguay; Up to September 2019, 763 persons were informed and trained on national ABS regulations and legal frameworks, the Nagoya Protocol, keeping a special focus on IPLCs, research institutions & academia and government institutions. An important highlight is the participation of Ecuador's National UNV to participate in the 18th sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, an activity organized in collaboration with partner institutions from Ecuador and the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project; In Panama, the UNV Component supported the mobilization of a National UNV in charge of drafting the first Biocultural Community Protocol of the Community of Embera Ipeti in East Panama; In the five countries of support in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, the UNV Component has trained 199 local volunteers in national biodiversity laws, ABS legal frameworks, the Nagoya Protocol, 2030 agenda and volunteerism in order to generate a cascade effect and sustainability of the knowledge and capacities generated during the project implementation. In Ecuador, the UNV Component and the national partner institutions are developing 4 Training of Trainers modules, that will be available next year through the Global ABS Community and shared through local channels, including translated version in local dialects; During 2020, the UNV Component will continue to support the implementation of the Global ABS Community and the global cooperation framework on ABS with the support of two UNVs based in Panama and one UNV expected to be mobilized and based in the Istanbul regional hub.

The Chair thanked Ms. Piera and Mr. Fernando for their presentation and commended the work done by UNV to the project.

4. Presentation of the Quality Assurance Report.

The Chair gave the floor to Ms. Ekaterina Paniklova for her presentation regarding the Quality Assurance Report. Ms. Paniklova thanked Mr. Lago and Ms. Piera for the presentation of the status of the project. Regarding the Quality Assurance Report that was shared with the participants the report that was sent to the participants and initiated her presentation suggesting to be aware of the necessity that the project adheres to the quality standards of UNDP Project Management, one of them being the alignment to the strategic region, several environmental standards, take national ownership which are very strong requirements to the Project Management. Ms. Paniklova congratulated the project for obtaining a high-quality rate assessment at this time where all the main indicators have been observed and that this has been reflected in the modus operandi of the project. There is a very high-level national ownership and involvement of governments that are implementing the project despite challenges and political contexts, this approach is mainstreaming the project and is reflected in every event the project has taken. No critical elements to highlight at this point.

The chair thanked Ms. Paniklova for this presentation, congratulated Mr. Lago, and the project team as this type of positive comments are difficult to be obtained and recognized.

5. *Discussions and Inputs from Senior Beneficiaries Representatives*

The Chair thanked all the participant countries and, as previously stated, gave the floor first to Mongolia thanking them for the participation despite being late in their time zone.

Mongolia (CO)

Ms. Khishigjargal Kharkhuu, Programme Officer in charge of the ABS Project, began her presentation by mentioning that the Director of the Green Development Policy Department of the Ministry of Environment, Ms. Bulgan, who was scheduled to participate in the Board Meeting was not able to attend the meeting due to the local time of almost 10:00pm. In terms of implementation of the ABS project in Mongolia, many targets have been achieved including the drafting of the legislation on ABS, sectoral guidelines, as well as the draft Ethical Codes of Conduct for different sectors, and, especially started designing the online permit registration system. Currently they are working on the submission of the draft law to the Parliament with hopes that in the coming days they will have a discussion of the law in the Parliament. As for questions about the project, Ms. Kharkhuu expressed that she wanted more concrete information about the Blockchain technology application in ABS, Tracing of the genetic resource utilization, mentioning that this could be of interest for all countries and suggesting a webinar to be shared with all the countries.

The Chair thanked Mongolia and expressed his regards to the National Director, with apologies, as for this type of Global Projects, time difference is sometimes unavoidable.

Belarus (CO) –

The Chair gave the floor to Belarus. After a brief introduction by Mr. Ruslan Ivanovich Sheiko, Director of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of Belarus, he proceeded to give the floor Ms. Elena Makeyeva, Project Manager, Head of the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources & Benefit-Sharing, Institute of Genetics and Cytology, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Ms. Makeyeva mentioned that Belarus started Global ABS Project in March 2018 and completed all activities prior to 11 October 2019. The main outcomes for Component 1 were: a) Recommendations to improve legislation and harmonize it with the Nagoya Protocol were submitted to the National Competent Authority in Belarus – to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection – and included in the Plan for the Development of Normative Acts in 2020; b) Recommendations for the improved Code of Culture to harmonize it with the Nagoya Protocol were transferred

by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection to the Ministry of Culture; c) The national ABS procedure and access application forms, cooperation agreement in the field of collection, study, conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources and GRs transfer agreement form developed and uploaded on the ABS NCC website. Under Component 2 the main outcomes: a) An Interactive Database for Monitoring the Utilization of Genetic Resources developed and is in place, b) The ABS NCC website redesigned. c) 7 Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCC) generated by the Clearing-House of the Convention on Biological Diversity as evidence of legal GR transfers from Belarus to our foreign research partners, d) An inventory of genetic resources using advanced DNA identification techniques started. Currently, DNA barcoding of genetic resources (rare and endangered species of wild plants) is being performed and the Reference DNA Barcodes Library is being replenished, e) Regional training on the use of a DNA barcoding technique held for 40 participants from 7 CEE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and Ukraine) and, f) The concept of the Code of Ethics for providers and users of genetic resources developed and to be published on the ABS NCC. Under Component 3 the main outcomes were: a) Research to identify the holders of traditional knowledge (TK holders) associated with genetic resources is underway, b) Legal protection issues on traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources are investigated, c) 6 holders of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and Dom Travnika (the House of Herbs), the folk medicine museum, involved in the project activities related to gathering of information on Belarusian traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and raising public awareness of its importance as the national cultural heritage.

In addition, 17 events were held as part of the project, including 14 National Workshops (13 for awareness raising and 1 for training) and 3 International Workshops (2 for Awareness raising and 1 for training) with a total combined number of participants of 422, out of which 280 were women (66,35%). 5 books were published and 16 other publications in periodicals and other editions, as well as booklets and leaflets as well as 2 videos, one for the Nagoya Protocol in Belarus and the other UNDP GEF Global ABS Project.

Finally, Ms. Makeyeva stated as Prospective Project Proposals: 1) Capacity building to develop and implement the national strategy for active longevity including traditional knowledge and practices in ethnomedicine and nutrition, 2) Traditional knowledge and practices as a tool for sustainable development of local communities and a driver of democratic changes and 3) Restoration of local breeds of genetically valuable agricultural animals on the verge of extinction. She concluded by mentioning the Belarus National Clearing-House as part of the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing and Checkpoint on the Utilization of Genetic Resources at the IGC NASB website address: abs.igc.by.

The Chair thanked both Ms. Makeyeva and Mr. Sheiko for briefing the board on the results of the project in Belarus.

Seychelles (CO and Government Counterpart)

Mr. Denis Matatiken, ABS Focal Point and Special Adviser to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change started his presentation by mentioning that the Pan African Workshop in Seychelles, as stated by Mr. Lago, was very beneficial to their organization in Seychelles. He mentioned that the ABS Regulation draft is being completed and that the guidelines and finalization would be validated in an upcoming workshop which is done jointly with a consultant. The forecast is to have the Regulation by next year, quarter one. Following the advice of Mr. Lago, they will try to push the approval before elections in 2020. Also in Component one, a Letter of Agreement has been finalized for the CHM and online permitting system and also with the CBD Secretariat, to try to have a system that will update the data from Seychelles to the Secretariat automatically to improve reporting system, and also for the Secretariat to be able to access the system in Seychelles. In terms of scoping studies for existing and emergent Biodiscovery partnership is ongoing, this consultancy is ending in December 2019 therefore target will be achieved. Communication and raising awareness is also on track, a contract has already been signed, the communications plan has been completed and are currently working in communications materials such as

infomercials and this should be finished by December 2019. With regards to the Bio community Cultural Protocol, this has been locally advertised but unfortunately no success, therefore it will be advertised internationally. Finally, Mr. Matatiken mentioned as a challenge the fact that the National Project Coordinator who joined the project in 2017 and her contract ends on 10 December 2019 and since the project started late, they will try to conclude project activities within the agreed end dates. The Chair thanked Seychelles for a very complete and succinct overview.

Ecuador (CO)

The Chair then gave the floor to the representative of Ecuador, Mr. Carlos Montenegro, Programme Officer at UNDP Ecuador who started his presentation by mentioning that they are pleased and proud with the progress of the project implementation, recognized the collaboration of the Global ABS Project Manager and proceeded to mention as achievements: 22 workshops (mostly in the Amazon area) for raising awareness and empowerment has been developed with the participation of more than 1.700 leaders that belongs to local communities in Ecuador, mostly in remote areas. The topics were related to principles of the Nagoya Protocol, the National Regulations related to the Organic Code of the Social Economy of Knowledge, Creativity, and Innovation - Organic Environmental Code and the Sustainable Development Goals. Five community Biocultural Protocols were developed for five indigenous nationalities of Ecuador - This work includes a guide for their application, collective rights component and a traditional knowledge protection associated with genetic resources. Also mentioned they are currently working in a proposal for a presidential decree for "Regulation for scientific research of biological resources and access to genetic resources and their derivatives" - This Regulation is in President burau, since December 2018, ready to be issued, this will be a great achievement for the project and for the country. Collaboration in the preparation for one chapter of the "Regulation of Environmental Organic Code", on "Genetic Resources and their derivatives, Biosafety and Biocommerce" which was issued on May 2019, and now is part of the national legislation law. The ABS Regime management model within the Education Secretary was design and as a result of this collaboration, a Virtual Single Window system for biodiversity research was developed (Ongoing 2019). Mr. Montenegro then mentioned the preparation of a proposal for a Regulation for the Functioning of Germplasm Banks in Ecuador - This input will be delivered to the national biodiversity institute by the end of this year. A proposal for the implementation of public policy referring to traditional knowledge and ancestral knowledge was developed for local communities in Ecuador; this is linked to genetic resources. This was delivered to the national Education Secretary on (June 2019). Research collaboration with international research centers were carried out and it resulted in the development of a scientific publication of medicinal plants of the community of San José de Payamino located in in the Amazon region. The results of this research were shared with the community through a didactic guide, in their native language, and that these publications have been done with the aim to support protection of ancestral knowledge of local communities. He finalized his presentation by stating that a training module on gender issues and genetic resources was developed based on the experiences of the project, as a guide to incorporate gender indicators in the actions of future environmental projects. The Chair thanked Ecuador for a brief and concise presentation.

Honduras (CO and Government counterpart)-

The Chair gave the floor then to Honduras, represented by Ms. Marle Aguilar, Counterpart Environmental Analyst from the Ministry of Environment. Ms. Aguilar started her presentation by summarizing the workshops and meetings held since 2017 by the project, such as Workshop on Biodiversity and Intellectual Property with the support of WIPO and the national Department of Intellectual property, Supported 1st National Bio-diversity Congress, First ABS course: For the Establishing measures to implement the Nagoya Protocol and CHM Honduras support as Honduras was granted a recognition by the Biodiversity Convention during the last COP in Egypt. She also stated as achievements for 2018 the development and support of the ABS Regulation Proposal & Administrative Technical Manual of Roles and Institutional Functions, ABS Awareness & communication Plan

(document), National: Regional and local Workshops for Capacity building, First National Biocultural Forum and 5 Radio spots developed; 2 recorded in indigenous language (Miskitu & Garifuna), Social media Visual publication and the conformation of Bio-diversity Volunteers NET with the cooperation of UNV. For 2019, Ms. Aguilar mentioned as achievements the ABS Awareness Plan (document), Agreement with the National Autonomous University of Honduras for the development of a Biodiscovery Project with the Faculty of Chemistry-UNAH, Working on and supporting National Biodiversity Policy and the Wetland & marine coastal zones Policy to include ABS measures and the 2nd National Biodiversity Congress. Finally, Ms. Aguilar mentioned as challenges for Honduras the Social and political aspects as strikes and migratory mobilization, the closing of the National University a situation that may make it difficult to monitor the research and that the political will is maintained to approve the ABS Regulation under the General Environment Law, in a preliminary way, through a Ministerial Agreement, which would later become a Legislative Agreement.

This concluded the project board members participation.

6. Concluding remarks

The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Lago to address the comments made by the countries during their presentations. Mr. Lago, in regard to the question from Mongolia regarding Blockchain, expressed that, when the ABS Community was launched in February, the first activity was a Blockchain webinar, with experts from MIT and others, and that this recording is available. And with the Blockchain Pilot project it is expected that training would be conducted, and Capacity Building will be covered by the project. Mr. Lago proceeded to thank all the countries for their presentations with a special thank to Mr. Makeyeva from Belarus, where the project activities have been concluded and as part of the feedback from the Closing Workshop, he is announcing that the website has been improved in terms of language availability and invited all the colleagues to join and test the site and welcome their comments.

Mr. Lago concluded by thanking the colleagues from UNV whose participation, on the corporate side of funds ends in 2019 but will continue at a project level in 2020 for their hard work and looked forward for their continuous support.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lago for addressing the questions, and also thanked all the participating countries congratulating them on their respective progress and success towards the implementation of the project. He also mentioned that the link to the Blockchain webinar recording was now in the comments box of the skype transmission for those who wish to access it. Exhorted the colleagues to join the ABS Community and to give feedback to Mr. Lago about it.

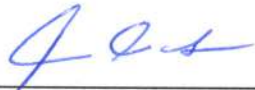
The Chair expressed that based on the documentation provided and the presentations made that as a board the progress report for 2019, the results framework as well as the quality assurance report can be approved and endorsed as well as the workplan for 2020 can be provisionally approved and endorsed mentioning that the budget always require a final review to make sure all is in line with UNDP guidelines and a final communication for approval would be shared soon.

The Chair thanked all for the great work, for their commitment in this ABS project and reflected his hopes for the ABS work to continue beyond the conclusion of this project.

7. Project Board decision

- The 2019 Annual Progress Report alongside the Results Framework and Quality Assurance Report are approved and endorsed
- The global Annual Work Plan for 2019 and Results Framework was interim approved

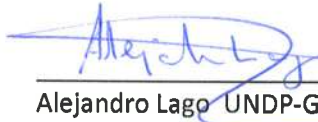
Prepared by:



03-Mar-2020

Jose Antonio Rayos, UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project Associate

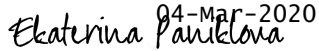
Cleared by:



03-Mar-2020

Alejandro Lago UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project Manager

Cleared by:



04-Mar-2020

Ekaterina Paniklova, Senior Programme Coordinator, Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS

Approved by:



05-Mar-2020

Gerd Trogemann, Manager, Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS, Chair of the Project Board

Agenda

Time	Session
16:00-16:05	<p>General opening and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson: Gerd Trogemann, Manager- UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
16:05-16:20	<p>Presentation & Discussion on 2019 Progress and 2020 Workplan (documents 2, 3, 4 and 5)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress Review and Challenges ahead: Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Plans for the pilot on blockchain technology (1st semester 2020)</i> - <i>Plans for the Global ABS Conference 2020 (Sept. 2020 Jordan)</i> - <i>Proposal for a second phase of the Global ABS Project</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alejandro Lago, Manager- UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project 2. Project Component 4: Implementing a Community of Practice and South-South Cooperation Framework on ABS – UNV Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hilda Paparoni – UNV Regional Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean – Fernando Lopez – UNV Regional Coordination Officer, Global ABS Project
16:20-16:25	<p>Presentation of the Quality Assurance Report (document 6)</p> <p>Ekaterina Paniklova, Senior Programme Coordinator, UNDP IRH</p>

16:25-16:50	<p><i>Discussions and Inputs from Project Board Members – Estimated 2 to 3 minutes per speaker</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mongolia (CO) • India (NC-NBA) • Seychelles (CO) • South Africa (NC-Department of Environmental Affairs) • Belarus (NC – Institute of Genetics & Cytology, NASB) • Ecuador (CO) • Honduras (CO)
16:50-17:00	<i>Recommendations and conclusions</i>

Participants

Institution/Country	Name and Title
<i>Project Board</i>	
UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub Representative	Gerd Trogemann Manager Istanbul Regional Hub/Executive – Chairperson
UNV Representative	Hilda Paparoni – Regional Manager (TBC), Piera Zuccherin (TBC), Fernando Lopez, Agustina Rato UNV Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Representing the RBA region	
Seychelles representative	Mr. Dennis Matatiken (Ministry of Environment) and Ms. Annike Faure - (UNDP Seychelles)
South Africa representative	
Representing the RBAP region	
Mongolia Representative	Ms. Tumen Bulgan (ABS National Focal Point, Ministry of Environment and Tourism)
India Representative	
Representing the RBEC region	
Belarus representative	Mr. Ruslan Ivanovich Sheiko - Director of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology (Implementing Partner) Ms. Elena Nikolayevna Makeyeva – Project Manager-
Representing the RBLAC region	
Ecuador representative	Carlos Montenegro – UNDP Ecuador Programme Officer – Environment and Energy Area

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Honduras representative	Ms. Marle Aguilar (ABS National Focal Point) and Mr. Alexis Irias (UNDP Honduras)
From UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project	
Alejandro Lago	Project Manager
Fouad Bergigui	Regional Project Specialist for Africa
Claudio Chiarolla	Regional Project Specialist
Anthony Foronda	Regional Project Advisor for Asia Pacific
Fernando Lopez (UNV)	UNV Regional Technical Specialist
Handan Bezci	Project Finance Associate
Jose Antonio Rayos	Project Associate
Agustina Rato	Communications Specialist -UNV
Other Participants	
Ekaterina Paniklova	Senior Programme Coordinator, Team Leader of ICOST, Quality Assurance, UNDP IRH

List of documents

1- Agenda
2- Project Progress Report
3- Project Results Framework for 2019
4- Project Annual Work Plan for 2020
5- Project presentation for the Steering Committee
6- Quality Assurance Report

