**request for CEO ENDORSEMENT**

**Project Type: Medium-sized Project**

**Type of Trust Fund:** **NPIF**



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**part i: project information**

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| Project Title: Strengthening the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in the Cook Islands |
| Country(ies): | Cook Islands  | GEF Project ID:[[1]](#footnote-1) | 5613 |
| GEF Agency(ies): | UNDP | GEF Agency Project ID: | 5317 |
| Other Executing Partner(s): | The Cook Islands National Environment Service  | Submission Date: | December 11, 2014 |
| GEF Focal Area (s): | Biodiversity | Project Duration (Months) | 36 |
| Name of Parent Program (if applicable):* For SFM/REDD+ [ ]
* For SGP [ ]
* For PPP [ ]
 | N/A | Project Agency Fee ($): | 88,363 |

1. [**Focal Area Strategy framework**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/document/GEF5-Template%20Reference%20Guide%209-14-10rev11-18-2010.doc)**[[2]](#footnote-2)**

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| **Focal Area Objectives** | **Expected FA Outcomes** | **Expected FA Outputs** | **Trust Fund** | **Grant Amount** ($) | **Cofinancing**($) |
| BD-4 | Outcome 4.1: Legal and regulatory frameworks, and administrative procedures established that enable access to genetic resources and benefit sharing in accordance with the CBD provisions and the Nagoya Protocol  | Output 4.1. Access and benefit sharing agreements (number) that recognize the core ABS principles of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.  | NPIF | 930,137 | 1,499,000 |
| **Total project costs** |  | 930,137 | 1,499,000 |

1. **Project Framework**

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| **Project Objective:** To develop and implement a national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework, build national capacities and support an ABS Agreement based on Traditional Knowledge and Public-Private Partnership |
| **Project Component** | **Grant Type** | **Expected Outcomes** | **Expected Outputs** | **Trust Fund** | **Grant Amount ($)** |  **Confirmed Cofinancing****($)**  |
| 1. Strengthened National Regulatory and Institutional Framework for ABS  | TA | 1.1 Strengthened national regulatory and institutional framework for ABS:-*Nagoya Protocol ratified by Parliament*-*Strengthened national ABS and traditional knowledge regulatory framework in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol* *-Increased national and local benefits derived from existing ABS agreements* | 1.1.1 Nagoya Protocol ratified by Parliament1.1.2 Strengthened national regulatory and institutional framework on ABS1.1.3 ABS Rules and Procedures developed1.1.4 Existing ABS agreements aligned to NP and ABS national legislation | NPIF | 93,014 | 282,000 |
| 2. Capacity building and awareness raising for the implementation of the National ABS Framework | TA/INV | 2.1 Capacity Building and Awareness Raising for the Implementation of the National ABS Framework: *-Improved capacities of the Biodiversity Unit (BU), Island Future Division, the National Research Committee, Research Institutions, Private Sector and the Law Enforcement agencies for facilitating ABS agreements and handling issues under the Nagoya Protocol, indicated by: (i) Increased capacity in BU for monitoring of bio- prospecting projects; (ii) Increased capacity to add value to genetic/biological resources in the country; (iii) Improvement of the capacity of BU for negotiating ABS agreements as recorded in the UNDP ABS Capacity Scorecard* *- Enhanced understanding of the ABS regime and the value of traditional knowledge associated with genetic and biological resources for improved policy making and on the ground conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits.* | 2.2.1 Upgraded facilities and staff skills for bio-prospecting and TK (including expansion of biodiversity database, simplified procedures, public awareness materials, procedures to accredit lodgment institutions, and online processes for ABS agreements).2.2.2 Improved technical capacity for implementing ABS activities (including streamlined decision process, best practice manual, training workshop on internationally recognized certificates of compliance, technical support mechanism, training materials for government staff, and capacity-building for research institutions and the private sector).2.2.3 Increased awareness of ABS and associated national regulatory and institutional framework among a wide range of stakeholders (including awareness raising plan, video explanation, written materials, briefings and operationalization of ABS agreements).  | NPIF | 148,822 | 207,000 |
| 3. Bio-discovery and benefit-sharing Agreement based on Traditional Knowledge on Bone and Cartilage Regeneration | TA | Bio-discovery and Benefit-sharing based on the Traditional Knowledge on Bone and Cartilage Regeneration: *-Increased national and local benefits derived from the agreement between CIMTECH and Koutu Nui in genetic resources from plant extracts used for skin care products**-Effective working of a national ABS regime demonstrated by:*1. *(i) One ABS Agreement reviewed in order to ensure its alignment with the revised legislation and the Nagoya Protocol.*

*(ii) Improved extraction protocol developed for natural biologically active plant compound derived from “Au” (Hibiscus tiliaceus) to meet international standards of efficacy and safety, which has been shown to have bone and cartilage regeneration properties.*1. *(iii) Scaled up production facility to access international market for the biologically active compound*
2. *(iv) Local communities’ capacities strengthened on sustainable cultivation/ collection of Hibiscus tiliaceus*
3. *(v) Habitat of H. tiliaceus conserved through sustainable extraction practices.*
 | 3.3.1 A stronger CIMTECH and *Te Kouta Nui* ABS agreement regarding cartilage and bone regeneration (including a revised agreement, market analysis, quantification of benefits, investigation of establishing a trust fund to support *Ra’ui*)3.3.2 Application of improved extraction techniques to ‘Au’ (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) to meet international standards (including development of improved extraction protocols and process, staff training and studies on production safety and toxicological studies).3.3.3 Scale up production and undertake staff training to ensure analytical and laboratory capacities necessary to ensure consistent quality of the biologically active extract (including technology transfer to local stakeholders, installation of equipment, implementation of laboratory processes, production of prototypes, monitoring and accreditation system, and enhanced extract certification process).3.3.4 Sustainable management plan for collection of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* and improved conservation of its waterway habitats (including a wild harvest management plan and analysis of environmental assessments to contribute to a waterways strategy). | NPIF | 604,589 | 841,000 |
| Subtotal |  | 846,425 | 1,330,000 |
| Project management Cost (PMC)[[3]](#footnote-3) | NPIF | 83,712 | 169,000 |
| **Total project costs** |  | 930,137 | 1,499,000 |

1. **sources of confirmed** [**Cofinancing**](http://gefweb.org/Documents/Council_Documents/GEF_C21/C.20.6.Rev.1.pdf) **for the project by source and by name ($)**

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sources of Co-financing**  | **Name of Co-financier (source)** | **Type of Cofinancing** | **Cofinancing Amount** ($)  |
| National Government | NES | In-kind | 150,000 |
| National Government | Crown Law | In-kind | 150,000 |
| National Government | MFEM | In-kind | 50,000 |
| National Government | MCD | In-kind | 50,000 |
| National Government | OPM | In-kind | 50,000 |
| National Government | NHT | In-kind | 50,000 |
| Local Government | Island Council | In-kind | 20,000 |
| NGO | Aronga Mana | In-kind | 50,000 |
| NGO | Te Ipukarea | In-kind | 50,000 |
| Private Company | Matheson Enterprises | In-kind | 50,000 |
| Private Company | CIMTECH (Australia) | In-kind | 150,000 |
| GEF Agency | UNDP | In-kind | 50,000 |
| Private Company | Matheson Enterprises | Cash | 50,000 |
| Private Company | CIMTECH (Australia) | Cash | 579,000 |
| **Total Co-financing** | 1,499,000 |

1. **trust fund Resources Requested by agency, Focal Area and country**1

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GEF Agency** | **Type of Trust Fund** | **Focal Area** | **Country Name/****Global** | **(in $)** |
| **Grant Amount** (a) | **Agency Fee** (b)2 | **Total** c=a+b |
| UNDP | NPIF | Biodiversity | Cook Islands | 930,137 | 88,363 | 1,018,500 |
| **Total Grant Resources** | 930,137 | 88,363 | 1,018,500 |

1  In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this
 table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

2 Indicate fees related to this project.

1. **Consultants working for technical assistance components:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component** | **Grant Amount($)** | **Cofinancing ($)** | **Project Total ($)** |
| International Consultants | 0 | 106,000 | 106,000 |
| National/Local Consultants | 131,780 | \*595,000 | 726,780 |

\*Includes cost of staff time from various Cook Island Government agencies as local consultants co-finance, plus UNDP $50,000.

1. **Does the project include a “non-grant” instrument?** No

 (If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency
 and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

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**part ii: project justification**

**A. describe any changes in alignment with the project design of the original pif[[4]](#footnote-4)**

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| **A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.**No change. |

 **A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.**

No change.

 **A.3 The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage:**

The project is in line with the endorsed UNDP Sub Regional Program Document for Pacific Island Countries 2013 – 2017, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013 – 2017 and the endorsed UNDAF Action Plan and Country Results Matrix of the Cook Islands. In particular, the project contributes to UNDAF Outcome 1 “By 2017 the most vulnerable communities across the PIC’s are more resilient and select government agencies, civil society and communities have enhanced capacity to apply integrated approaches to environmental management, climate change adaptation, mitigations and disaster risk reduction”.

**A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:**

No change.

**A.5.** [**Incremental**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/1890) **/**[**Additional cost reasoning**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/1325)**: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated** [**global environmental benefits**](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/CPE-Global_Environmental_Benefits_Assessment_Outline.pdf) **(GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:**

SECTION I, PART II *Strategy* (Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs/Activities) of the UNDP PRODOC more fully details the full suite of project outcomes, outputs and activities. The table below summarises the changes made, and the rationale for these changes, to the components and outputs in the PIF.

|  | **PIF** | **GEF CEO ER** | **Rationale** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Components** | 1 Strengthened National Regulatory and Institutional Framework for ABS | *No change* |  |
| 2. Capacity building and awareness raising for the implementation of the National ABS Framework | *No change* |  |
| 3. Bio-discovery and benefit-sharing Agreement based on Traditional Knowledge on Bone and Cartilage Regeneration | *No change* |  |
| **Outcomes** | 1.1. Nagoya Protocol ratified by Parliament | *No change* |  |
| 1.2 Strengthened national ABS and traditional knowledge regulatory framework in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol | *No change* |  |
| 1.3 Increased national and local benefits derived from the agreement between CIMTECH and Koutu Nui[1](#_bookmark0) in genetic resources from plant extracts used for skin care products | *Increased national and local benefits derived from existing ABS agreements* | Outcome expanded to include benefits from all existing ABS Agreements. Specific benefits from the CIMTECH and Koutu Nui agreement now addressed to outcome 3.1 |
| 2.1 Improved capacities of the Biodiversity Unit (BU), Island Future Division, the National Research Committee, Research Institutions, Private Sector and the Law Enforcement agencies for facilitating ABS agreements and handling issues under the Nagoya Protocol, indicated by: (i) Increased capacity in BU for monitoring of bio- prospecting projects; (ii) Increased capacity to add value to genetic/biological resources in the country; (iii) Improvement of the capacity of BU for negotiating ABS agreements as recorded in the UNDP ABS Capacity Scorecard [baseline is to be established during the PPG]. | *No change* | Baseline established (see Annex 7.3 of project document) |
| 2.2 Enhanced understanding of the ABS regime and the value of traditional knowledge associated with genetic and biological resources for improved policy making and on the ground conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits | *No change* |  |
| 3.1 Effective working of a national ABS regime demonstrated by: One ABS Agreement reviewed in order to ensure its alignment with the revised legislation and the Nagoya Protocol. | *No change* |  |
| 3.2 Improved extraction protocol developed for natural biologically active plant compound derived from “Au” (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) to meet international standards of efficacy and safety, which has been shown to have bone and cartilage regeneration properties. | *No change* |  |
| 3.3. Scaled up production facility to access international market for the biologically active compound | *No change* |  |
| 3.4 Local communities’ capacities strengthened on sustainable cultivation/ collection of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* | *No change* |  |
| 3.5 Habitat of *H. tiliaceus* conserved through traditional conservation and sustainable extraction practices. | 3.5 Habitat of *H. tiliaceus* conserved through sustainable extraction practices. | *Hibiscus tiliaceus* is ubiquitous to Raratonga and the outer islands. It grows wild in the low lands and waterways. It is under no threat. The traditional conservation practices (ra’ui) is put in place for plants if it is in danger of going locally extinct. This is not the case for *H. tiliaceus*. However, the project will through the commercialisation of *H. tiliaceus* provide funds towards ra’ui conservation (at least 25% of income), so should the plant become locally rare and endangered, it will be included in the traditional ra’ui system and funds be availed for its conservation. |
| **Outputs** | 1.1.1 Increased knowledge in Cook Islands legislature of the potential benefits for the country of prompt ratification of the Nagoya Protocol | 1.1.1 Nagoya Protocol ratified by Parliament | In the period between approval of the PIF and implementation of the project, the Cook Islands legislature has prioritised ABS, as evidenced through the adoption of the Traditional Knowledge Act (2013). This output has been accordingly revised to focus on procedures required to support ratification of the Protocol. |
| 1.1.2 Legal framework for ABS and traditional knowledge strengthened with a national ABS Act legislated with rules and regulations, consistent with PIC, MAT and Benefit sharing provisions | 1.1.2 Strengthened national regulatory and institutional framework on ABS | Adoption of the ABS Act, including PIC, MAT and benefit-sharing provisions, is addressed in 1.1.1 (require for ratification of the Nagoya Protocol). This output has therefore been revised to focus on the consultative elements necessary to strengthen the national regulatory and institutional framework that will depend on adoption for the Act. |
| 1.1.3 An institutional framework, administrative systems, rules and procedures in place to facilitate implementation of the national ABS framework | 1.1.3 ABS Rules and Procedures developed (including rules and procedures, model agreements, and simplified procedures) | This output has been further elaborated to more specifically identify those elements that will be required to facilitate implementation of the national ABS framework. |
| 1.1.4 Monetary and non-monetary benefits derived from the use/marketing of natural extracts agreed between CIMTECH and Koutu Nui regarding skin care products derived from genetic resources.1.1.5 Existing ABS agreement between CIMTECH and Koutu Niu regarding skin care product development is reviewed and strengthened, ensuring long-term conservation of natural resources | 1.1.4 Existing ABS agreements aligned to NP and ABS national legislation | This output has been expanded to include aligning all existing ABS Agreements. Specifics for the CIMTECH and Koutu Nui agreement moved to outcome 3.1 |
| 2.1.1 Improved facility and capacity for bio-prospecting and traditional knowledge documentation, as well as training of enforcement agencies, other Government agencies, Research Institutions, Private Sector and NGOs on the Nagoya Protocol and national ABS legislation.2.1.3On-line processes in place for ABS agreements, in line with National Environment Service (NES) systems and procedures | 2.1.1 Upgraded facilities and staff skills for bio-prospecting and TK (including expansion of biodiversity database, simplified procedures, public awareness materials, procedures to accredit lodgment institutions, and online processes for ABS agreements). | These outputs have been combined to highlight that development of on-line processes is dependent on facilities and capacities to do so. This output has been further elaborated to more specifically identify those elements that will be required to improve facility and capacity of identified stakeholders. |
| 2.1.2Mechanisms and methodologies for ABS and traditional knowledge operationalised clarifying PIC rules and procedures for BU and genetic resource providers and users | 2.1.2 Improved technical capacity for implementing ABS activities (including streamlined decision process, best practice manual, training workshop on internationally recognized certificates of compliance, technical support mechanism, training materials for government staff, and capacity-building for research institutions and the private sector) | This output has been further elaborated to more specifically identify those elements that will be need to be operationalized |
| 2.1.4Awareness of the public on ABS and conservation and sustainable use of genetic/biological resources enhanced through a range of outreach activities. | 2.1.3 Increased awareness of ABS and associated national regulatory and institutional framework among a wide range of stakeholders (including awareness raising plan, video explanation, written materials, briefings and operationalization of ABS agreements). | This output has been further elaborated to more specifically identify those elements that will be required to raise awareness |
| 3.1.1 ABS agreement between CIMTECH and Koutu Niu revised in line with legal provisions in order to ensure the equitable sharing of benefits including agreement that at least 25% of community’s share is reinvested in traditional conservation practices including Ra’ui establishment and management.3.1.9 Market analysis and development (nationally and internationally) | 3.1.1 A stronger CIMTECH and *Te Kouta Nui* ABS agreement regarding cartilage and bone regeneration (including a revised agreement, market analysis, quantification of benefits, investigation of establishing a trust fund to support *Ra’ui*) | These outputs have been combined to highlight that the focus of the market analysis is on ensuring equitable sharing of benefits with the *Te Kouta Nui*.The output has then been further expanded to include quantification of benefits, and investigation of establishing a trust fund as the mechanism through which the community’s share of benefits can be reinvested in traditional conservation practices, including *Ra’ui.* |
| 3.1.2 Protocols for extraction and standardisation of active compounds from “Au” developed.3.1.3 Toxicological trials ensure safety of the extract for therapeutic applications. | 3.1.2 Application of improved extraction techniques to ‘Au’ (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) to meet international standards (including development of improved extraction protocols and process, staff training and studies on production safety and toxicological studies). | These outputs have been combined to reflect the inter-relationship of these activities.The output has then been expanded to further elaborate the activities required to develop the protocols and trials. |
| 3.1.4 Assay of the efficacy of the extract in bone defect and bone grafting studies to prove the therapeutic effect of the extract for use in therapeutic applications.3.1.5 Infrastructure and equipment to scale up production with the adequate quality control measures in place.3.1.6 Analytical and laboratory capacities are in place in order to ensure quality of the biologically active extract.3.1.8 Defined certification process for refined extract for export | 3.3 Scale up production and undertake staff training to ensure analytical and laboratory capacities necessary to ensure consistent quality of the biologically active extract (including technology transfer to local stakeholders, installation of equipment, implementation of laboratory processes, production of prototypes, monitoring and accreditation system, and enhanced extract certification process). | These outputs have been combined to reflect the inter-relationship of these activities.The output has then been expanded to further elaborate the elements of technology transfer, in addition to technical procedures. |
| 3.1.7 Guidelines and oversight of the collection and cultivation for H. tiliaceus | 3.4 Sustainable management plan for collection of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* and improved conservation of its waterway habitats (including a wild harvest management plan and analysis of environmental assessments to contribute to a waterways strategy). | *H. tiliaceus* is not considered to be under threat in the Cook Islands. It will therefore it will be sourced through a wild harvest management plan. Waterways have been identified as the key element of habitat conservation and the output has been revised to address this. |
| **Source of Co-financing** | National Environment Service 150,000 in kind | *No change* |  |
| Crown Law 150,000 in kind | *No change* |  |
| Min. of Finance & Economic Management (MFEM) 50,000 in kind | *No change* |  |
| Ministry of Cultural Development 50,000 in kind | *No change* |  |
| Office of the Prime Minister 50,000 in kind | *No change* |  |
| Natural Heritage Trust 20,000 in kind | Natural Heritage Trust 50,000 in kind | Increased in-kind contribution from NHT to off-set decrease from IC |
| Island Council 50,000 in-kind | Island Council 20,000 in-kind |
| Aronga Mana 50,000 in kind | *No change* |  |
| Te Ipukarea Society 50,000 in kind | *No change* |  |
| Matheson Enterprises Pty Ltd (Cook Islands) 50,000 grant | *No change* |  |
| Matheson Enterprises Pty Ltd (Cook Islands) 50,000 in kind | *No change* |  |
| CIMTECH Pty Ltd (Australia) 579,535 grant | *No change* |  |
| CIMTECH Pty Ltd (Australia) 150,000 in kind | *No change* |  |
| UNDP in kind | *No change* |  |
| **Indicative Co-financing by component** | Component 1 149,954 | 282,000 | Cost saving reallocations to partially address shortfall in PMC costs |
| Component 2 239,925 | 207,000 |
| Component 3 974,698 | 841,535 |
| Project Management Cost 134,958 | 169,000 |

**A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:**

The following risks and mitigation strategies were identified that are additional to those identified in the PIF:

| **Risk** | **Level** | **Mitigation Measure** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Economic success of CIMTECH activities is significantly delayed or insufficient to achieve significant dividend payments | Medium | Non-monetary benefits for the *Te Koutu Nui* are also included in the ABS agreement even if monetary benefits are not delivered. If Ta’unga do not benefit (there is potential for them to benefit indirectly through the *Te Koutu Nui*) then there may be some tensions within the Cook Islands regarding the ‘fairness and equity’ of benefit-sharing with resulting disharmony and blaming. This will be addressed by ensuring local stakeholders are made aware of the time and risks involved in reaching commercialization, and that CIMTECH do not unnecessarily raise undue expectations of large royalty or milestone payments. |
| External investment could boost R&D but impact on delivery of long-term benefits if external parties become majority shareholders | Low | The 10% shareholding of the *Te Koutu Nui* in CIMTECH provides protection for benefits to flow to the Cook Island community. |
| Competing traditional knowledge – concerns from other Pacific Island Countries relating to the presence of plants like *Hibiscus tiliaceus* in those countries | Low | Literature reviews support the claim that the traditional knowledge of bone healing is distinct to the Cook Islands, see for example ethnobotanical documentation by Art Whistler.[[5]](#footnote-5) |
| An alternative source material is easier to extract and process, competing with CIMTECH operations and not providing benefits to Cook Island peoples  | Low | No such alternative plant species is currently known. CIMTECH will remain abreast of current scientific literature to ensure no competing product is in development. |

**A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed** **initiatives**

Collaboration with the following additional GEF-financed initiative was expanded in relation to the original PIF description.

*UNEP–GEF medium size project ‘Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the countries of the Pacific’:* This project will be delivered in partnership with SPREP and will cover a number of Pacific countries, including Cook Islands. This project will undertake a scoping study of the existing laws and regulations related to ABS in the countries, develop a strategy and action plan for the implementation of ABS measures, and build capacity among stakeholders with particular emphasis in the Government agencies in charge of making the protocol operational. The project will also have an emphasis of learning from other countries in their implementation of the Nagoya protocol. Strong coordination and synergy between the two projects will be implemented, with the outputs of the Cook Islands project serving as case studies, ‘lessons learned’ and best practices for the regional project.

**B. additional information not addressed at Pif stage:**

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| **B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.**

| **Component** | **Outputs** | **Stakeholders** | **Roles** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Strengthened National Regulatory and Institutional Framework for ABS | 1.1 Nagoya Protocol ratified by Parliament.1.2 Strengthened National Regulatory and Institutional Framework on ABS1.3 ABS Rules and Procedures developed.1.4 Existing ABS Agreements aligned to NP and ABS National Legislation. | 1.NES | 1. Operational oversight of the project, co-ordinate and manage consultation on Rarotonga and the outer islands. Co-ordinate and manage all stakeholders involved in the project & chair of the Steering Committee. |
| 2.Crown Law | 2.1. Provide drafting services and legal advice through duration of project. 2.2. Provide legal advice to consultation and project awareness teams. |
| 3. MFEM | 3. Financial advice and financial co-ordination services to comply with best practices. |
| 4. OPM | 4. Policy advice, island government management and Ministerial liaison.  |
| 5.NHT | 5. Biodiversity and Heritage advice, & Community liaison. Provide data on genetic resources available and endangered in the Cook Islands and any concerns, if any. Provide strategy to conserve them. |
| 6.Island Council  | 6. Convey concerns & Island specific advice. Communicate and support awareness raising on ABS. Support development of strategies for ABS process. Support consultation team on ABS while on island. Integrate ABS in Island By-laws. |
| 7. Te Koutu Nui | 7. Provide advice, enforce *Ra’ui* and enable communities to enforce on *Ra’ui* (traditional biodiversity conservation). Develop strategies for future conservation practices on specific plant resources.  |
| 8. MoCD | 8. Provide advice on culture and legal traditional knowledge protection. Provide support to ABS process development through the provision of information strategies on TK and TK holders.  |
| 9. TIS | 9. Provision of science based conservation advice. Monitors the use of genetic resources and helps with the development of strategies to conserve them. Project Steering Committee member  |
| 10. House of Ariki | 10. Advise on community based TK protection, culture and its association and link with cultural protocols. Provision of advice of the use of current cultural practices that can be better reflected in the ABS process. Provision of advice on land issues and land use. Project Steering Committee member |
| 11. Te Rito o te Vairakau Maori | 11. Advise on protection of plant species specifically those used in traditional medicine. Advise on the integration of ABS process on the treatment of traditional medicine |
| 2. Capacity building and awareness raising for the implementation of the National ABS Framework | 2.1 Upgraded facilities and staff skills for bio-prospecting and TK documentation2.2 Improved technical capacity for implementing ABS activities2.3 Increased awareness of ABS and associated national regulatory and institutional framework among a wide range of stakeholders | 1.NES | 1.Provision of best practices in awareness raising initiatives. Provision of strategies to best communicate with communities on ABS. Facilitate the development of an ABS Agreement and co-ordinate responses. Refine process and make standard system available to everyone. Facilitate in the training of outer island ABS champions.  |
| 2. Crown Law | 2. Provide legal clarification on the ABS process and its legal implications. Provide advise on the best practice on the development of ABS agreements.  |
| 3. MFEM | 3. Financial advice on the ABS process and financial implications of not complying with ABS rules.  |
| 4. OPM | 4. Explanation of the policy process towards achieving ABS and the policy implications towards various stakeholders including knowledge holders. Policy advice on national frameworks |
| 5.NHT | 5. Data to support and facilitate awareness raising  |
| 6.Island Council  | 6. Support awareness raising on their respective islands and assist with the identification and training of outer island ABS champions. Assist with identifying the best strategy for communicating with outer islands communities.  |
| 7. Aronga Mana | 7. Project support at community level to raise awareness and inform discussions |
| 8. MCD | 8. Explain cultural implications on the ABS framework and its linkage to TK holders and the likely benefits to be accrued. Partner in the development of the standard ABS agreement. Monitor the effectiveness and impact of ABS on TK holders.  |
| 9. TIS | 9. Support awareness and value of ABS framework and process. Monitor the effect of ABS on genetic resources.  |
| 10. House of Ariki | 10 Conduit for community support and concerns.  |
| 11. Kouti Nui | 11.Conduit for community support and identification of community concerns |
| 12. Te Rito o te Vairakau Maori | 12. Represent views of traditional healers. |
| 3. Bio-discovery and benefit-sharing based on the Traditional Knowledge on Bone and Cartilage | 3.1 A Stronger CIMTECH and Te Koutu Nui ABS Agreement regarding Cartilage and Bone Regeneration.3.2 Application of improved extraction techniques to ‘Au’ (*Hibuscus tiliaceus*) to meet international standards.3.3 Scale up production and undertake staff training to ensure analytical and laboratory capacities necessary to ensure consistent quality of the biologically active extract.3.4 Sustainable management plan for collection of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* and improved conservation of its waterway habitats | 1. CIMTECH & Partners | 1.1. Review agreements to identify mutual advantages & opportunities established by the Nagoya Protocol1.2. Management and production supervision1.3. Staff skills training1.4. Conduct research and development with necessary equipment provided by the project.1.5. Monitor the effectiveness of the ABS process on the production of the bone cartilage medicine.1.6. Monitor the impact of ABS processes on other associated stakeholders.  |
| 2. Te Koutu Nui | 2. Review agreements to identify mutual advantages & opportunities established by the NP |
| 3. Mathesons  | 3. Management and production supervision & staff skills training |
| 4. NES | 4.1. Establish management plan for sustainable harvesting of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* with farmers and land holders 4.2. Collaborate with Te Koutu Nui, Mathesons and CIMTECH and partners.4.3. Monitor the financial, legal and policy compliance of the ABS process and its effectiveness. Note lessons to be learnt and report to local stakeholders and UNDP. 4.4. Develop and operate the ABS agreement and evaluate its effectiveness. |
| 5. Ta’unga Vairakau | 5. Provide advice on the value and use of medicinal plants for research within the ABS framework. |
| 6. MFEM | 6. Monitor the financial compliance of the project between NES and Matheson’s Enterprises.  |

The identified activities of each the stakeholders, although they may appear to be separate from each other as they represent different areas of ABS, are intrinsically linked at each level and component. It is the intention of the National Environment Service (NES) to consult with each agency at the start of the Project and to further develop its consultation and engagement plan to ensure each agency is clear on the Project expectation on them and their agencies. These expectations will be compiled and documented by the NES and will be used as a monitoring mechanism. The monitoring mechanism will be two-fold. The first being the monitoring of outputs and outcomes for each component which will be used to measure and report against the achievement of each activities and components; and the second being the monitoring of financial outputs and outcomes for each component which will be used to measure the actual expenditure against each of the co-finance contributions outlined in the Project document. The Steering Committee comprising of all stakeholders identified in the table above and more will determine the level and the degree of engagement of each stakeholder. The rationale for this decision will be based on the extent in which those stakeholders are required to participate in the each of the deliveries by component. It is by no means a way to excuse them at any stage, but a means in which their expertise can be best used at the right time and place. Other local stakeholders from outside of this table will also be brought in as required (ex-officio) including the Ministry of Marine Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture where much of the region’s genetic resources are held in a laboratory in Suva, and traditional community organizations that can add value and are able to support the intent of this project. International stakeholders will also be engaged as determined by the Steering group like UNDP, SPREP, SPC, FAO - if their skills and expertise are required and such skills and expertise are not available on island. The experience and lessons learnt from this project will be made to any other countries that may be thinking of developing their own ABS process and/or making their systems NP compliant. These documentations will be deposited with UNDP and SPREP for access and use by other countries through related UNDP and SPREP development assistance projects and by direct consultation and involvement of Cook Island agencies and organisations. The participation of indigenous and traditional groups in the project will be ensured through locally based CSOs. The project coordination will ensure that the voice of indigenous and traditional groups will be duly heard and taken into consideration in the preparation of the new NBSAP. The development of ABS system in the Cook Islands is matched by comprehensive awareness-raising with the community and, in particular, with those cultural bodies associated with the retention, protection and transmission of traditional knowledge and traditional biodiversity management. As such, the project is designed to have an overall positive long-term impact on the Cook Islands natural environment and biological resources, adding value to the sustainable management of its terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and bolstering the intergenerational valuing of traditional knowledge. Specific COP guidance on the matter, linked to implementation of the Convention’s Article 8(j), will be followed.[[6]](#footnote-6) It will be necessary to maintain communication with *Te Koutu Nui* and other cultural organisations to ensure that any concerns about the utilization of traditional knowledge held by holders of the knowledge are carefully considered and addressed. In this regard the project will ensure the use of the Register of Traditional Knowledge holders and creators held by the Ministry of Culture is accessed to get accurate information of the true holder and creator of the knowledge. This has been identified as a key outcome and output from the project. The more specific guidance on priority setting provided by the outcome of the first Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol will be evaluated and taken in to account in undertaking consultation and involvement of indigenous and traditional groups. In this regard it is noted that the Constitution of the Cook Islands includes statutory recognition of the existence and the role such groups, in particular, the *House of Ariki* and the *Te Koutu Nui*. This is a reflection of the close-knit and cohesive nature of Cook Islands society where tradition and customary activities are well integrated into a contemporary society. The interest and engagement of the above listed government, non-government and cultural organisations is demonstrated in the comprehensive programme of consultations undertaken during project preparation as annexed to the Project Document and the further project consultation programme, also annexed. The Ministry of Culture and the National Environment Service already undertake regular consultations and the Project will build on these administrative arrangements. |

**B.2 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):**

*Strengthened national regulatory and institutional framework on ABS:* There are opportunities to use this specific CIMTECH ABS agreement to develop the national ABS system of the Cook Islands. The agreement highlights specific gaps in the permit system and the need to design a specific PIC process consistent with the Nagoya Protocol that clarifies who has ‘established rights’ over genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and involves these GR and TK-holders in establishing MAT. It has also come up in meetings with several government stakeholders that biodiversity conservation-oriented research is of great benefit to the Cook Islands and so streamlined permits for non-commercial research could be encouraged.

Since the development of the Biological Diversity Draft Bill 2006, other associated legislative frameworks were developed like the Traditional Knowledge Act 2013, which has prescribed systems that can be beneficial to the development of the ABS system. These systems must be adapted and integrated to ensure success in its implementation.

*Supply chain:* There are opportunities to further establish the supply chain of *Terminalia catappa*, *Vigna marina* and *Cocos nucifera*, for use in cosmetics, as well as *Hibiscus tiliaceus* for use in the R&D and subsequent potential commercial pharmaceutical for bone healing. Currently several people have part-time employment and income from the farming of these ingredients. There is potential for this to expand with further R&D on the Hibiscus plant, meaning further employment and income for these people. Although large quantities are not usually required for R&D, in the long term there is potential for this to expand if the R&D is successful.

*Technology transfer:* There are potential benefits in terms of training, technology transfer and expansion of the facility and laboratory at CIMTECH in the Cook Islands. This would include laboratory QA/QC, materials processing, fractionation, and other processes.

*Commercial opportunities:* The project will contribute to the commercial development of biotechnology from the sustainable use of biodiversity through a public private partnership that has the goal of creating the financial, technical, institutional and legal conditions to attract public and private resources for the development of companies and commercial products based on the sustainable use of biodiversity, specifically biological and genetic resources and their derivatives. It will specifically contribute to the following strategic objectives:

* + - 1. To strengthen the institutional capacity to coordinate and implement activities related to the commercial development of biotechnology through the sustainable use of biodiversity, specifically biological and genetic resources and their derivatives.
			2. To adjust and revise the legislative framework related to access to genetic resources and their derivatives.

*Conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity:* The project will provide global environmental benefits through its contribution towards conservation and sustainable management of the Cook Islands’ genetic and biological diversity that has evolved due to its remoteness, as well as promote and lead to the conservation of the traditional knowledge of the uses of these resources. Moreover, elements of Cook Island Maori culture are shared with other Pacific Island communities. This means that the success of this initiative is likely to significantly influence other small island states in their implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. To this end the Cook Islands government is willing to share its experiences with other countries in the region.

*Gender & diversity strategies:* According to the 2011 Population and Census, there were 17,794 people in the Cook Islands, and 14,998 are indigenous Cook Islands people. 74% of people live on Rarotonga (the capital of the Cook Islands) 20% reside in the southern group and 6% in the north. Women represent 50.4% of the Cook Islands population. Most islands have mixed matrilineal and patrilineal societies with women succeeding to land through both their mother and their father’s family line. In general, women in the Cook Islands, on Rarotonga and the outer islands, have social freedom and participation in household decision making. Women and girls have equal access to education, healthcare and all social services. Additionally, non-communicable diseases are a serious issue. The NCD STEPS Survey conducted in 2004 reveals that the prevalence of hypertension was 29.5% and diabetes 23.7%; 88.5% of the population is overweight and 61.4% is obese10 and 74% have low level of physical activity. An increase in female–headed households which represented 24% of the households in 2001 to 25% (1,073) of the households in 2006 with Rarotonga showing 74% (793) of this type of family arrangement -suffered elevated risk of having low incomes or being socially isolated. Most of those who receive social welfare benefits for destitution are single women heads of households with children.

Despite the comparatively high level of education and proven capacity to hold senior management level positions, women are still underrepresented in public offices6. In 2010, there were 10 female candidates that contested in the Cook Islands general election, compared to 60 male candidates, more than the female candidates who contested in the 2006 election, with 8 female candidates. Only one female candidate was successful in the 2010 elections compared to 3 female candidates in the 2006 elections.

The Convention on Biological Diversity, in its preamble, recognizes “the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity” and affirms “the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for biological diversity conservation”.

Improving the economic status of women through their access to, and share of, productive resources such as land, income, financial services, training opportunities, enterprise development services and technology contributes significantly to poverty reduction, food security and the overall economic development of the country. Although Cook Islands women are now more educated, benefit from a land succession system where they can claim customary land, can access credit and employment, they do, in facts, have unequal access to productive and economic resources. With the priority given to economic development by the Government of the Cook Islands, it becomes even more important to tackle the gender inequalities in the economic sectors and create the conditions for equal opportunity for women and men.

The 2006 Census showed that a significant gender difference remained in earnings for paid employment: more women than men were in the lowest income bracket (less than NZ$5,000) and more men than women were in the highest earning groups. It is a fact that men earn more than women, confirming pay disparities, but these disparities are narrowing especially in the outer islands. In Rarotonga, women earned about 76% in 2001 to 81% in 2006, of the men’s incomes; in the Southern group, they earned 72% in 2001 to 76% in 2006; and in the Northern group, the women earned only 57% in 2001 to 76% in 2006 of men’s incomes. This shows great improvement over the last census and a mechanism to monitor pay disparities and women’s working conditions – including the measures enabling women and men to fulfill their parental responsibility need to be put in place.

An increase in female–headed households which represented 24% of the households in 2001 to 25% (1,073) of the households in 2006 with Rarotonga showing 74% (793) of this type of family arrangement -suffered elevated risk of having low incomes or being socially isolated. Most of those who receive social welfare benefits for destitution are single women heads of households with children7.

Despite the negative statistics on women, in the renewable natural resources sector in the Cook Islands, women are over-represented in the management of these resources. It is common for traditional knowledge holders of traditional medicine in the Cook Islands to be women. Traditionally, it is women’s role to be custodians of these knowledge and they are also the practitioners of these medicines (in terms of mixing and applying them). Men’s role in this sector is sometimes the gatherers of ingredients; and these are done according to the instructions of women who mix them.

Therefore, at the local level, this project is expected to have somewhat more relevance to women. Keeping this in mind, the project will pay particular attention to the participation of women through employing inclusive approaches and processes in the implementation of the planned project activities. For instance, community activities for ABS pilots and at the local levels will be gender-disaggregated using participatory approaches and benefit-sharing mechanisms will be designed to ensure that women are proportionately benefitted.

The project will employ inclusive approaches and processes in the implementation of the planned project activities. The draft ABS policy has been derived from a broad-based consultative process and the onward review and approval process will involve further consultations, which will provide opportunities to ensure that gender issues in the realm of ABS policy are adequately addressed. The Biodiversity Rules and Regulations for ABS implementation will also be derived through an extensive consultative process. The consultative process will be designed to ensure that issues related to gender and other vulnerable groups are discussed and addressed where necessary. This may involve focused group discussions or other appropriate method to capture gender issues during consultation meetings. Sensitization workshops and awareness-raising programmes will be designed to ensure that at least 50% of the target participants are women. Activities geared towards mobilizing local communities into organized groups for ABS pilots will encourage women to participate and will aim to have at least one women functionary in each local committee set up for ABS pilots. Community activities for ABS pilots at the local levels will be gender-disaggregated using participatory approaches and benefit-sharing mechanisms will be designed to ensure that women benefited equally*.*

The Monitoring and Evaluation process of the project will include an analysis of the impact of each project outcomes, the benefits and challenges of the project activities on men and women. The project will also carry out a study of gender-based behaviour and attitude towards ABS as a part of knowledge resources development.

**Global environmental benefits:** The project will contribute significantly towards conservation and sustainable management of the Cook Islands’ genetic and biological diversity which has evolved due to its remoteness, as well as promote and lead to the conservation of the traditional knowledge of the uses of these resources. The conservation of the knowledge and its promotion into modern medicinal practices will be directly linked to the conservation of the resources through the project. By developing the national ABS framework and capacity and piloting Nagoya Protocol compliant ABS agreements, the project will facilitate sustainable and most cost-effective use of biological resources and ensure that the benefits will accrue to the nation and its people. Thus, the project will play a critical role in safeguarding the country’s biological resources and their genetic diversity. The habitat[[7]](#footnote-7) of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* will be conserved through traditional conservation and sustainable extraction practices. The awareness of the traditional conservation practice of *ra’ui* (currently mostly marine/coastal areas) will be increased due to the monetary and non-monetary support from the implementation of the project to the *Koutu Nui*. This will result in more general public support and adherence to the closed area and period and the conservation of fish, cucumber and other species that were diminishing in the closed areas. The possible set-up of a *Ra’ui* Network Trust Fund to be capitalised by revenues from ABS benefit sharing will result in increased long-term sustainable financing to the *ra’ui* system in the Cook Islands.

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| **B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:**The project builds on a previous investment by CIMTECH and Matheson Enterprises, and already has a relatively advanced agreement and process in place for the continued R&D, supply of ingredients, and potential for local economic benefits (dividends to the *Te Koutu Nui*, employment for locals), and technology transfer. This means a relatively small investment by the GEF would contribute to further financial, social, institutional and environmental sustainability in the use of the genetic resource and the distribution of benefits through the value chain. GEF funding will help further the R&D, increasing the chances of further external investment from private investors, and/or the potential for R&D to be licensed, tested for clinical effectiveness and safety, and then eventually commercialised. The project also has the advantage of a second commercial product – the Te tika skin care creams – already on the market. With further marketing, this aspect of CIMTECH’s operations could expand and support its continuing R&D, and continues to provide local benefits. The sales of this product provide local jobs in sales/marketing as well as supply. They also have an existing and potential tourism benefit, having been used in boutique spas on Rarotonga.Thirdly, the project promotes a functional example of a joint public/private initiative, which permits informed, coordinated and realistic work on the development of new standards and capacity building in the Cook Islands government. With clear regulations and guidelines in the development of this partnership, it is hoped that this new venture will pave the way for other similar partnership arrangements (for non-commercial/conservation-oriented purposes as well as commercial ventures) in the Pacific.The following alternatives were considered in the cost-effectiveness analysis:* *No intervention – no investment*: Private investment would slowly continue from CIMTECH, fed by the cosmetic sales, and personal or private investments (much already made by Dr Graham Matheson and Matheson enterprises), in an attempt to commercialize a derivative product for bone regeneration. The slow development of an investment (pharmaceuticals can take 15-20 years to pass clinical trials) which does not bring short or medium term dividends would also be affected by the lack of clarity in the regulations and the ignorance of the public regarding appropriate and efficient procedures for the management of permits, licenses and contracts. The disappointment of local communities because of unmet expectations of profit and/or benefits for the *Te Koutu Nui* might increase, and the process would be at risk of failure; meaning a potential loss of income to support the charitable role of the *Te Koutu Nui* towards aged care, environmental education and enforcement of the ‘Ra’ui’. Thus failure to invest in this project would likely generate economic, social and environmental losses.
* *Capacity building in the Government without private sector support*. Despite the fact that the public sector has authority to regulate the use of biological resources, along with customary authority of the Aronga Mana (where they are able to establish clear rights), they do not have the capacity to stimulate research, development and sale of derived products. Investment in the education of public servants and the creation of new regulations would not have any effect on the generation of economic benefits from genetic resources or of community profits through the value chain. Supporting capacity building in the government without providing a situation in which to use the capacity would create a liability in the investment.
* *No investment, status quo maintained*: Without the development of a secure, legal environment defining the public and private sectors’ ‘freedom to operate’ when utilising genetic resources, it would be problematic to attract further private sector funding for operations in the Cook Islands. International reliance on IRCCs created through national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol will establish the legal provenance of genetic resources. They are the primary ‘user’ country compliance tool to check that genetic resources were lawfully obtained and used in accordance with providing countries terms and conditions. The absence of ABS laws implementing the Nagoya Protocol in the Cook Islands will hinder the conduct of future commercial and non-commercial research. It would increase commercial risk and transactions costs for the further development of existing uses of Cook Island genetic resources.
 |

**C. describe the budgeted m &e plan:**

At the initial stage of the project, the project Monitoring and Evaluation system, composed of following components will be developed:

1. Monitoring plan, with defined benchmarks, indicators and targets, based on results and resources framework to be developed by the PM/coordinator in consultation with relevant UNDP programme staff;
2. Risk, issues and quality logs to be created by the PM and relevant program officer;
3. Quarterly project planning (with detailed activities and budget) and reporting to be conducted by the PMU;
4. Quarterly project reporting and monitoring, conducted by the PMU and the Project Board (also to include risk and issues monitoring and development of lessons learned reports);
5. Annual project planning (with general activities and budget) and reporting to be conducted by the PMU;
6. Annual project review to be conducted by the Executive Board on the basis of monitoring reports and products prepared by the project (also to include proposal for eventual changes to the project strategy or even project revision).

All main reports will be complied by the PMU and endorsed by the Project Board. Regular financial reports will be submitted to UNDP according to the UNDP financial rules and regulations. The M&E System should include standardized formats (aligned with UNDP procedures and formats) for the following documents:

* Quarterly action plan
* Quarterly progress report, including financial report, and risk monitoring report (if applicable)
* Annual action plan
* Annual report, including financial report
* Annual Project Review / Project Implementation Report (APR/PIR)
* Terminal, including lessons learned.

More detail of the timetable of M&E activities is provided below:

| **Type of M&E activity** | **Responsible Parties** | **Budget US$***Excluding project team staff time*  | **Time frame** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Inception Meeting/Workshop  | Project CoordinatorUNDP MCOUNDP GEF  | $2,000  | Within first two months of project start up  |
| Inception Report | Project TeamUNDP MCO | None  | Immediately following IW |
| Measurement of Means of Verification for Project Purpose Indicators, Project Progress and Performance (measured on an annual basis)  | Oversight by Project Coordinator Project team  | To be finalized during the inception phase and determined as part of the Annual Work Plan's preparation.  | Annually prior to ARR/PIR and to the definition of annual work plans  |
| Annual Project Review / Project Implementation Report (APR/PIR) | Project TeamUNDP-MCOUNDP-GEF | None | Annually  |
| Quarterly progress reports, including narrative and FACE Financial Reports | Project team/National Project Manager  | None | Quarterly |
| Final Evaluation | Project Coordinator and team, UNDP MCOUNDP RCUExternal Consultants (i.e. evaluation team) | Indicative cost: $19,040 | At least three months before the end of project implementation |
| Terminal Report (Lessons learned report) | Project team/National Project Manager UNDP-MCO | Printing costs only, if any.  | At least one month before the end of the project (refer to the final evaluation report) |
| Audit  | UNDP-MCOProject team Cook Islands Audit Office | $22,000 | Yearly, cumulative expenses since inception reach $300,000 |
| Field visit  | UNDP MCO UNDP RCU, Strategic Partner (as appropriate)Government representatives | GEF IA fees and TRAC  | Yearly |
| TOTAL indicative COST *Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses*  | US$43,040 |  |

**PART iII: Approval/endorsement by gef operational focal point(s) and gef agency(ies)**

1. **Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point(s) on Behalf of the Government(s): ):** (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s)](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/OFP%20Endorsement%20Letter%20Template%2011-1-11_0.doc) with this form. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter)](http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/OFP%20Endorsement%20Letter%20Template%20for%20SGP%2009-08-2010.doc). -

Operational Focal Point Endorsement Letter attached.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Position** | **Ministry** | **Date** *(MM/dd/yyyy)* |
| **Mr Vaitoti Tupa** | National GEF Operational Focal Point | National Environment Service | October 2013 |

**B. GEF agency(ies) certification**

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| --- |
| This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency Coordinator, Agency Name** | **Signature** | **Date *(Month, Day , Year)***  | **Project Contact Person** | **Telephone** | **Email Address** |
| Adrian Dinu, UNDP - GEF Executive Coordinator,  | Adriana_signature.png | December 11, 2014 | Johan Robinson, Regional Technical Advisor, EBD, UNDP | +662-3049100Extension 5102 | johan.robinson@undp.org |

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**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

| **PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOMES** | **INDICATOR** | **BASELINE** | **END OF PROJECT TARGETS** | **SOURCE OF INFORMATION** | **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Objective:**To develop and implement a national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework, build national capacities and support an ABS Agreement based on Traditional Knowledge and Public-Private Partnership | Number of ABS laws in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol  | Earlier draft Act developed in 2005 but is non-compliant with the NP | ABS Act approved by Parliament that incorporates traditional knowledge regulatory framework and is in line with NP | * Gap analysis on protection of TK in Cook Islands completed.
* Adoption of ABS Act
 | **Risks:*** Potential delays in approval of the ABS Act would not delay the development of institutional and personnel capacity
* Lack of consensus among the stakeholders during the drafting of ABS Act.

**Assumptions:*** The Government of Cook Islands is fully committed to the conservation and sustainable use of the country’s biological resources and the introduction of a national framework for ABS.
 |
| Level of institutional and personnel capacity for implementation of the national ABS framework measured by the UNDP/GEF ABS Capacity Development Score[[8]](#footnote-8) | 43 out of a possible 75 = 57% | Improved institutional and personnel capacity indicated by an increase of at least 15% over the UNDP/GEF ABS Capacity Development Scorecard baseline score | * Periodic progress report
* Project evaluation report
* Training reports
* Completion of Scorecard at midterm and end of project
 |
| **Outcome 1**Strengthened National Regulatory and Institutional Framework for ABS | **Outputs:** * 1. Nagoya Protocol ratified by Parliament.
	2. Strengthened National Regulatory and Institutional Framework on ABS
	3. ABS Rules and Procedures developed.
	4. Existing AS Agreements aligned to NP and ABS National Legislation.
 |
| Nagoya Protocol is ratified  | Signatory to Nagoya Protocol | The Cook Island is a party to the Nagoya Protocol | Deposit of ratification | **Assumptions:*** External political circumstances does not prevent appointment
* NES and not different agency will ultimately be mandated to carry out the coordination and management of ABS activities
 |
| Operational national ABS institutional framework indicated by:* ABS National Focal Point is established
* National agency mandated to coordinate ABS activities
* An institutional framework, administrative systems, rules and procedures in place to facilitate implementation of the national ABS framework
 | * Temporary ICNP National Focal Point nominated
* OPM coordinates ABS activities
* Draft rules and procedures being used in an *ad hoc* manner
 | * Permanent ABS National Focal Point nominated to CBD
* National Environment Services mandated to coordinate ABS activities
* Formalised ABS rules and procedures in place
 | * Publication of NFP by CBD through ABS CHM
* Parliamentary mandate enacted
* Documentation of rules and procedures
 |
|  Percentage of ABS agreements aligned to NP and ABS National Legislation requirements  | 0, not yet identified | 100% ABS Agreements identified and aligned to NP and ABS National Legislation | * Documentation on existing agreements
* Documentation on revised agreements
 |
| **Outcome 2**Capacity building and awareness raising for the implementation of the National ABS Framework | **Outputs:** * 1. Upgraded facilities and staff skills for bio-prospecting and TK documentation
	2. Improved technical capacity for implementing ABS activities
	3. Increased awareness of ABS and associated national regulatory and institutional framework among a wide range of stakeholders
 |
| Cook Islands biodiversity database expanded with information regarding traditional uses of plants and other organisms (number of records) | Information held on 4,500 existing species | Information on traditional uses of plants included in the database | * Entries into the Cook Islands Biodiversity Database
 | **Risks:**- ‘Brain drain’: migration of people from the outer islands to Rarotonga and from Rarotonga abroad-Lack of practice may lead to los of knowledge**Assumptions:*** TK holders give permission to include information in database
* Staff turn-over will be low
* ABS system is reflected, integrated and acknowledged in associated policies, enhancing ownership of ABS
 |
| Improved facility and capacity for partners indicated by:* Number of Government staff with knowledge and facility to monitor bio-prospecting projects and documentation
* Streamlined Government decision process to create IRCCs
* Number of research institution and private sector people with knowledge on ABS and on responsibility, operation and opportunities regarding ABS
 | * 30 government staff have knowledge on ABS legislation, rules and procedures.
* No streamlined decision process
* Less than 5 people from research institutions and private sector have knowledge
 | * At least 30 government staff have knowledge and capacity to monitor bio-prospecting projects and documentation
* IRCC created
* At least 5 people from research institutions and private sector have participated in two workshops
 | * Periodic progress reports
* Project evaluation reports
* Official correspondence/government circulars
 |
| No. of stakeholders reached by the ABS awareness campaign  | 11 stakeholders | 23 stakeholders reached by the ABS awareness campaign | * Campaign meetings, television advertisement and promotions.
 |
| Enhanced understanding of the ABS regime and the value of traditional knowledge associated with genetic and biological resources for improved policy making and on-the-ground conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits.  | Limited awareness of stakeholders | Increased awareness of stakeholders | * Baseline survey and end of project survey
 |
| **Outcome 3**Bio-discovery and benefit-sharing based on the Traditional Knowledge on Bone and Cartilage Regeneration | **Outputs:** * 1. A Stronger CIMTECH and Te Koutu Nui ABS Agreement regarding Cartilage and Bone Regeneration.
	2. Application of improved extraction techniques to ‘Au’ (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) to meet international standards.
	3. Scale up production and undertake staff training to ensure analytical and laboratory capacities necessary to ensure consistent quality of the biologically active extract.
	4. Sustainable management plan for collection of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* and improved conservation of its waterway habitats
 |
| Strengthened ABS agreement between CIMTECH and *Te Koutu Nui* | Exiting agreement has not been reviewed with NP compliance in mind | Revised agreement compliant with NP (e.g. including specifying monetary and non-monetary benefits) | * New agreement signed
 | **Assumptions:*** Revised agreement and conditions can be reached between CIMTECH and *Te Koutu Nui*
* Commercial success of the venture
* Business plan is implemented
* People comply with and respect the accreditation and standardization process in place
 |
| Monetary and non-monetary benefits received by State and local communities from CIMTECH-*Te Koutu Nui* ABS Agreement | State: $0; non-monetary benefits include increased certification and regulatory skills Communities: $0; provides some local employment (3 – 4 local people employed) | To be determined during the first months of project implementationWill include as a minimum 25% of income to support ra’ui (biodiversity conservation and sustainable use) and increase in employment | * ABS agreement, payment record
 |
| Safety protocols for Au extraction and standardization developed | Only basic passive and active safety and quality assurance based on common sense and workplace good design | Safety protocols created and introduced based on production safety, toxicological and efficacy component assurance studies | * Study reports
* Material Safety Data Sheet used and accepted internationally
 |
| Accreditation and extract certification achieved | Basic quality monitoring undertaken and current extract non-compliant for certain export objectives | New quality standards meet Good Laboratory Practice and NP and Industry-compliance certification processes achieved | * Accreditation and Certification compliance records
 |
| Volume of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* harvested in a sustainable manner as indicated by a wild harvest management plan | Limited harvesting undertaken | At least 50 Kg of *Hibiscus* *tiliaceus* plant materials harvested during project period (target (maximum annual harvest) will be determined by the wild harvest management plan)  | * Wild harvest management plan
* Site inspection
* Environmental assessments for land clearing
 |

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (**from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

N/A

 **Annex C: status of implementation of project preparation activities and the use of funds[[9]](#footnote-9)**

A. provide detailed funding amount of the ppg activities financing status in the table below:

|  |
| --- |
| PPG Grant Approved at PIF: **$28,767** |
| ***Project Preparation Activities Implemented*** | ***GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount ($)*** |
| ***Budgeted Amount*** | ***Amount Spent To date*** | ***Amount Committed*** |
| Component A - Technical review | 15,000 | 0 | 15,000 |
| Component B - Institutional arrangements, monitoring and evaluation | 7,000 | 0 | 7,000 |
| Component C - Financial planning and co-financing investments | 4,000 | 0 | 4,000 |
| Component D - Validation workshop | 2,767 | 1,241 | 1,526 |
| **Total** | 28,767 | 1,241 | 27,526 |

**annex D: calendar of expected reflows (**if non-grant instrument is used**)**

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A

1. Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Refer to the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/3624) when completing Table A. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.
 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Whistler, A. (1994) Polynesia Herbal Medicine, [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. See e.g. [www.cbd.int/traditional](http://www.cbd.int/traditional). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Habitat refers not only to the geographical occurrence of the species, but also to the areas that provide vital ecosystem services e.g. water provision from upstream catchments (as specie grows on river banks). *Hibiscus tiliaceus*’s biogeographic distribution covers the regions of Eastern and Northern Australia, Oceania, Maldives and Southeast Asia, including the Cook Islands. Since the Cook Islands is one of the countries of origin of H. tiliaceus, this project is eligible under the mandate of the Nagoya Protocol. In the Cook Islands, the coverage of H. tiliaceus is most of the coastal regions of the large islands, and the banks of almost all the rivers. The plant is one of the most prevalent in the Cook Islands. Its conservation status is secure. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. See Annex 7.3 for the UNDP/GEF ABS Capacity Development Scorecard [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)