


TERMINAL EVALUATION REPORT

PROJECT GEF 5820

“PROMOTING THE APPLICATION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ABS IN ARGENTINA”

GEF	5820
UNDP ID	5339
Period Evaluated	November 2016
Evaluation Dates	November 2021
Country	Argentina
GEF strategic program / operational focal area	Promotion of land use strategies for the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.
Operational Program	Biodiversity
Executing agency and other project partners	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)
Other partners involved	INTA Province of Chubut
Evaluation Team	 Diego Quishpe MSc.

DECEMBER 2021

Contains the Terminal Evaluation Report - English version

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This Terminal Evaluation of the Project "Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Argentina" has been possible thanks to the support provided by the Project Coordinating Unit, the facilities provided by UNDP and key stakeholders, and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has been developed entirely virtually, covering an extensive number of interviews from different territories of the Republic of Argentina, whose valuable contributions are reflected in this report.

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
APR	Annual Project Review
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
PSC	Project Steering Committee
COFEMA	Federal Environmental Council
CDR	Combined Spending Report
PIC	Prior informed consent
DIPROY	Directorate of National Implementation Projects, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
TE	Terminal Evaluation
ERC	UNDP Evaluation Resource Center
MTR	Mid Term Review
VSSC	Vertebrate Species of Special Conservation Value
GEF	Global Environment Facility
INTA	National Institute of Agricultural Technology
I.O.	Objective Indicator (I.O. Spanish abbreviation)
I.R.	Result Indicator (I.R. Spanish abbreviation)
MAYDS	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Argentina (MAYDS. Spanish abbreviation)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MREyC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (MREyC Spanish abbreviation)
NIM	National Implementation Modality
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
PIMS	Information Management System GEF Projects in UNDP
PIR	Project Implementation Report
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
AWP	Annual Operating Plan
Prodoc	Project document
RVA	Group A rotavirus
SEPS	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure
TDRs	Terms of Reference
ToC	Theory of Change
TMA/MAT	Mutual Agreement Terms
PMU	Project Management Unit
VHH	Heavy-chain antibodies containing a single variable domain
VUB	Vrije Universiteit Brussel

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Table 1. Project Summary Table

PROJECT INFORMATION		PROJECT MILESTONES	
Project title	Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Argentina	PIF Approval Date:	May 22, 2014
UNDP Project ID (#PIMS)	5339	CEO Endorsement Date (FSP) / Approval Date (MSP):	May 20, 2016
GEF Project ID:	5820	Prodoc Signature Date:	November 21, 2016
UNDP Atlas Business Unit, Award ID, Project ID:	95752	Date Project Manager hired:	1/02/2017 and 1/09/2021
Country/countries:	Argentina	Inception Workshop Date:	November 18, 2016
Region	Latin America	Terminal Evaluation Completion Date:	December 10, 2021
Focal area:	Biodiversity	Planned Operational Closure Date:	May 21, 2022
GEF Operational Program or Strategic Priorities/Objectives:	Promotion of land use strategies for the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.		
Trust Fund:	NPIF Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund		
Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity):	Government of the Republic of Argentina		
NGOs/CBOs involvement:	Province of Chubut		

FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
PDF/PPG	at approval (US\$M)	at PDF/PPG completion (US\$M)
GEF PDF/PPG grants for project preparation.	50,000.00*	50,000
Co-financing for project preparation	N/A	N/A
Project	at CEO Endorsement (US\$M)	at TE (US\$M)
[1] UNDP contribution:	50,000.00	83,333.33
[2] Government:	2,874,186.00	1,528,315.00
[3] Other multi-/bi-laterals:		
[4] Private sector:	383,000	
[5] NGOs:		
[6] Total co-financing [1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5]:	3,307,186.00	1,611,647.91
[7] Total GEF funding:	908,904.00	**708,451.32
[8] Total Project Funding [6 + 7].	4,216,090.00	2,320,099.23

* <https://www.thegef.org/project/promoting-application-nagoya-protocol-abs>.

** Combined Expense Report (CDR) to June 2021.

1.1. Brief description of the Project

1. The main objective of the project "Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Argentina" is to *contribute to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by strengthening the national access and benefit sharing (ABS) framework and facilitating access to genetic resources of guanacos for the development of an anti-diarrheal treatment*", based on three impact indicators such as: I.O.1. The regulation of the Nagoya Protocol (Law 27246); I.O.2.- Number of regulations approved and; I.O.3.- Number of successful cases of benefits derived through inter-institutional agreements. In turn, the central objective is ABS application in the country, which is achieved through the application of three Outcomes, each composed of three result indicators, as described below:

2. **Outcome 1:** Strengthening the national ABS framework and building capacity to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, (measurable through three IR results indicators).

3. **Outcome 2:** Contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources derived from the guanaco population, (measurable through three IR results indicators).

4. **Outcome 3:** Pilot project uses genetic resources from guanacos to develop an anti-diarrheal product and demonstrates Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), including fair and equitable sharing of benefits, (measurable through three IR results indicators).

5. The project architecture described planned to achieve the goals of each activity within 36 months, substantially improving biodiversity conservation, sustainable management of a focal species (guanaco), access to genetic resources and promoting benefit-sharing criteria through the "Learning by Doing" concept. The theory of change applied to the initiative considered the measurement of change through various project management tools, highlighting the Scorecard directly linked to ABS.

6. To this end, the project was implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as the implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF); and the National Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAYDS) as executing agency, with the strategic participation of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and the province of Chubut.

1.2. Evaluation rating.

7. The following is a summary table with the main findings and ratings of the Terminal Evaluation:

Table 2. Brief summary of the evaluation results

1) Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)	Rating
M&E design at entry	5 = Satisfactory (S)
M&E Plan Implementation	4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
Overall Quality of M&E	4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
2) Executing Agency	Rating
Quality of UNDP Implementation/Oversight	5 = Satisfactory (S)
Quality of the Implementing Partner Execution	5 = Satisfactory (S)
Overall quality of Implementation/execution	5 = Satisfactory (S)
3) Assessment of Outcomes	Rating
Relevance	5 = Satisfactory (S)
Effectiveness	5 = Satisfactory (S)
Efficiency	4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
Overall Project Outcome Rating	4.5 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS)
4) Sustainability	Rating
Environmental sustainability	3 = Moderately Likely (ML)
Socio-political sustainability	3 = Moderately Likely (ML)
Institutional framework and governance sustainability	4 = Likely (L)
Financial sustainability	2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU)
Overall Likelihood of Sustainability	3 = Moderately Likely (ML)

1.2.1. Qualifications by result

Table 3. Summary rating of project results

Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, Implementation/Oversight, Execution, Relevance	Sustainability
6 = Highly Satisfactory (HS): exceeds expectations and/or no shortcomings; The project did not present deficiencies in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness or efficiency.	4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability
5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings; Minor deficiencies: There were only minor deficiencies.	3 = Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks to sustainability
4 = Moderately satisfactory (MS): more or less meets expectations and/or some shortcomings; There were moderate deficiencies.	2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks to sustainability
3 = Moderately unsatisfactory (MU): somewhat below expectations and/or significant shortcomings; The project had significant deficiencies.	
2 = Unsatisfactory (U): substantially below expectations and/or major shortcomings; There were significant shortcomings in the achievement of project objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness or efficiency.	1 = Unlikely (U): severe risks to sustainability
1 = Highly unsatisfactory (HU): severe shortcomings; The project had serious deficiencies.	

1.3. Summary of findings and conclusions

01

Project design



The project design has a clear, sequential and logical architecture between indicators, results and the central objective of the initiative. The project is in line with the global objectives of ABS and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Republic of Argentina (Law 27.246).

In the application, two indicators have been identified (I.R 2.2 and I.R 3.2) linked to the population increase of guanacos and therapeutic products derived from antibodies, respectively, which exceed the scope of the project, mainly in terms of time. The application of SMART criteria to the project indicators is adequate, with the exception of the indicated indicators, which lack robustness in measurement and temporality.

02

Project implementation



In terms of implementation, appropriate intervention strategies have been managed, considering the complexity of the issue, mainly the start-up of the project. The corporate strategies and tools implemented have been aligned with the individual goals and objectives of each Outcome, and have been supervised in the governance mechanisms of the Steering Committee and the Project Management (MAyDS).

It should be mentioned that the financial implementation of the project has been affected by situations beyond PMU's management; aspects such as monetary uncertainty, the context of political rotation and the COVID-19 pandemic, have substantially compromised the use of monetary resources and its consequent affectation to the activities. As a result, the project is in its third formal extension (30 months), incurring administrative-operational expenses to support the required deadlines. As a good practice, it is suggested to perform a cost analysis for the extended periods, as inputs to define strategies, limits, scopes (ideally in the MTRs), with a -Balancing Point- approach, considering up to what level extensions can be supported without compromising actions and project budget, a set of elements to be considered for future interventions.

03

Outcome



The three Outcomes of the project have a different progress and according to the context of the activities that could have been implemented in the life of the project; except for the indicator (I.R.2.2) of Outcome two is not likely to be achieved, the rest (8 results indicators and 3 objective indicators) have been achieved or in process. The overall analysis of the Outcomes is detailed in section 3.2.2 and the summary below;

Outcome 1 " Strengthening the national ABS framework and building capacity to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol", shows important progress and with a great national ownership, this is how the law 27.246 on the Nagoya Protocol was ratified and several mechanisms are developed for implementation at national and provincial level, progress in the measurement Scorecard linked to ABS. In addition, capacity building processes as a key axis of the Outcome is relevant and included the gender approach in decision making and women's participation.

Outcome 2 " Contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources derived from the guanaco population", the reduction of infractions in the province of Chubut has reported advances; the indicator increase of guanaco population was not directly addressed, however, a series of instruments have been developed that would support in the future (outside the time of the final evaluation) the conservation, sustainable use and increase of populations of the focal species, there are also documented efforts on the use of Scorecard at the province level.

Outcome 3 "Pilot project uses genetic resources from guanacos to develop an anti-diarrheal product and demonstrates Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), including fair and equitable sharing of benefits", shows progress in the creation of agreements on ABS that promoted the creation of the gene library, the strengthening of scientific knowledge on genetic resources has been documented and that due to their scientific characteristics are still in the process of evaluation for therapeutic use.

04

Monitoring and Evaluation



Corporate project management tools (Inception Workshop, MTR, PIR, TE): These were defined in the M&E design and plan, with their respective budgets, as described in the Prodoc document (page 70). In the case of MTR, it was not applied and although it is not mandatory for this type of project, given the circumstances of the project, it was possible to perform a cost-benefit analysis of the application of a MTR (\$27,000) versus extension costs and scenarios. In addition, as MTRs are standardized processes, they allow to guide, redefine and clarify activities, and mainly to formalize and communicate changes to the stakeholders.

Technical tools: The use of the ABS Scorecard was defined to measure the progress of the ABS theme, since it is a globally standardized instrument, its adoption from the start of the project could have had a positive impact. Its use was more evident as of 2019.

General: The project has used and strengthened adaptive, timely and appropriate management criteria, however, it cannot be a constant practice, maintaining time extensions equivalent to an additional 80% of time over that originally planned, affects the project monitoring criteria.

MAYDS Governance: Three levels of governance were defined in the Prodoc. However, the Steering Committee was active and played a strategic role during project implementation. There is a need to generate a mechanism for formality and follow-up of agreements and recommendations as a good practice in future interventions.

Monitoring by key stakeholders: the Government (MAYDS) has had a significant ownership of the project and of the topic in general. The project has adequately tuned the top-down process that requires the application of global regulations to provincial contexts, and capacity building is a valid instrument for the project's purpose.

Implementing agency follow-up: There is evidence of a strategic, advisory and adaptive role that the agency has provided to the project. This role is aligned with national needs and the vision of the institutions on the subject. There have been situations of country context (e.g. monetary uncertainty) that have affected the project, to which the agency has had to promote adaptive actions for the benefit of project implementation, as in the case of spotcheck, support for the purchase of specialized equipment, PIR from 2019, among others.

05

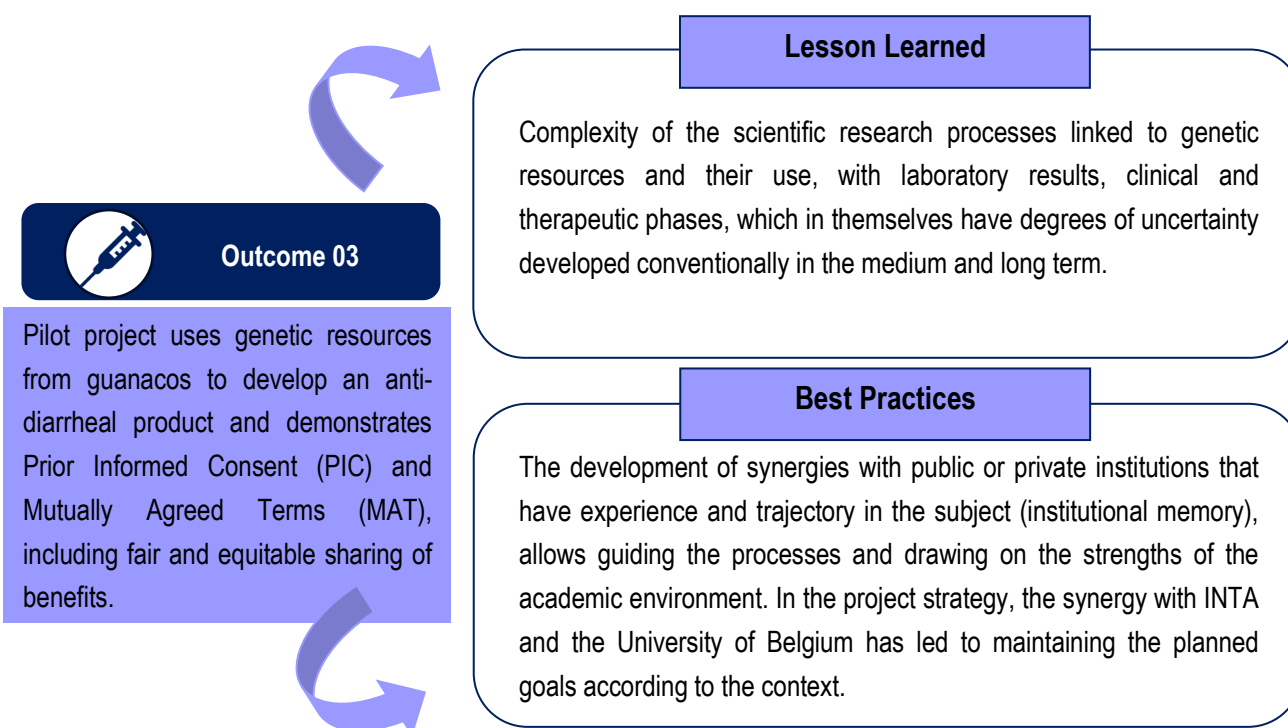
Relevance of the project



The project is relevant for the Republic of Argentina, as it has placed on the political and institutional agenda the need to address the ABS issue in the processes of biodiversity management and conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing for the utilization of genetic resources. The project's intervention strategy reflects national priorities for implementing the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and there is evidence of a high level of participation in regional initiatives and progress in the provinces of Tucumán, Córdoba, Chubut and mainly Santa Fe, with advances in contracts, certifications and regulatory instruments for implementing ABS, resulting in social, environmental and institutional benefits for the nation.

1.4. Summary of key lessons learned





1.5. Summary of recommendations

#	TE Recommendation	Entity Responsible	Time frame
A	Category 1: For the design of future projects		
A.1	The project addressed innovative and complex issues that have been included in national and provincial political and regulatory agendas. Therefore, it is recommended to give continuity to the topic through processes that reduce the gap between the approach by international cooperation and national initiative (institutionalization), without losing opportunities for new projects that meet the country's needs. In addition, it is suggested to promote replication and scaling up of successful processes (COFEMA, Santa Fé, Tucumán) at subnational levels, with the cooperation of public or private institutions that play a fundamental role in implementation and have a presence in the territory (INTA).	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS), PMU, INTA	Medium term
A.2	The scientific component and those that derive therapeutic products, due to their conditions, require long term periods, which inevitably exceed the scope of pilot projects. Therefore, it is recommended that for future initiatives, support at the program level be managed, taking advantage of previous steps developed	UNDP	

#	TE Recommendation	Entity Responsible	Time frame
	by the academic environment and that the measurement proposal has minimum SMART application criteria. In addition, it is recommended to define control points that allow reorienting, justifying or modifying activities at appropriate times (e.g., mid-term).		
A.3	The project execution circumstances are particular to each country; therefore, the support and experience of the implementing agencies is valuable in terms of processes, experience and similar initiatives with their lessons learned. Set of elements that provide inputs to be translated into the opportunity to apply the corporate tools according to the need, for the best performance of the projects. Strategic dissemination of the tools among stakeholders such as (MAYDS) and other key partners is recommended. Normally the PIRs include a section to be filled out by the GEF focal point, in the ABS project this section was not observed; however, facilitating a two-way communication is a good practice that can be applied in future initiatives.	UNDP	Medium term
B	Category 2: Follow-up strategy		
B.1	In the regulatory framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS, there are structures and mechanisms that facilitate the exchange of information such as the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), which is a tool whose function is independent of the cycle of national projects, in addition to knowledge platforms and others that are binding to the Nagoya Protocol. It is suggested that the National Authority should join and strengthen its participation in these mechanisms in order to give continuity to the issue, organically in the global context.	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAYDS)	Long term
C	Category 3. Exit strategy		
C.1	There are key activities and products that are being developed in the final phase of the project. It is recommended that the proposal for dissemination and communication be included and strengthened, with a view to strengthening knowledge, institutionalization and sustainability as pillars of the recommendation.	Project management unit	Short and medium term
D	Category 4. Final extension phase		
D.1	The Steering Committee, together with the project executing unit, must plan, approve and follow up on the exit strategy and post-closure actions (May 2022), which will substantially conclude the budget execution and promote the sustainability and dissemination aspects of the project.	Steering Committee	Medium term

2. INTRODUCTION

8. The Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the Project is carried out as part of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the GEF/UNDP portfolio, defined from the design of the Project Document (Prodoc). The independent process (TE) should be carried out prior to the final meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). It is expected that this evaluation will provide evidence of the progress of the results planned by the project, the impact achieved and sustainability in terms of the results and the key relationships derived from the implementation of the initiative, as well as issue recommendations to develop follow-up activities and future interventions in the areas of biodiversity management and conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing for the use of genetic resources.

2.1. Purpose of the evaluation

9. The Terminal Evaluation of the project "Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Argentina" follows the guidelines of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and meets the standards required for medium-sized projects (MSP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) described in the Terms of Reference (TORs).

10. The purpose of the TE is to identify the results of the project against the expectations established in the Logical Framework/Results Framework, promoting transparency and accountability through evaluation criteria based on Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Results, Sustainability, and also addresses the impact and cross-cutting aspects of equity, gender, and empowerment of the implemented actions.

11. Lessons that can improve the sustainability of project benefits, decision making and recommendations for future initiatives are also extracted. It also seeks to analyze the performance of the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project: Project Management Unit (PMU), Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS), Province of Chubut, UNDP and other key stakeholders that supported the implementation of the initiative such as provinces, academia and civil society.

2.2. Evaluation objectives

12. To evaluate the development of the central objective of the project and the progress of the implementation of the initiative "Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Argentina". As well as, the relevant aspects (programmatic-financial), challenges and lessons learned that arose in the day to day of the same, basing the process on the discernment and analysis of six complementary objectives of the evaluations detailed below:

1. Promote accountability and transparency.
2. Synthesize lessons that can help improve the selection, design and implementation of future GEF-funded initiatives supported by UNDP in order to improve the sustainability of benefits and overall UNDP programming.
3. Evaluate and document project results, as well as the contribution of these results to the achievement of GEF strategic objectives aimed at global environmental benefits.

4. Measure the degree of convergence of the project with other priorities within the UNDP country program, including poverty alleviation, strengthening resilience to climate change impacts, disaster risk and vulnerability reduction, as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights.
5. Document impacts, lessons learned, best practices and products generated in terms of project design, implementation and management, which may be of interest for replication to other projects in the country and in other parts of the world.
6. Make recommendations that can contribute to the closure of the project during the remaining time of the project, with the objective of improving the results and impacts.

2.3. Evaluation Scope and Methodology

13. The scope of this evaluation covers the period from November 2016 to November 2021 (60 months), focused on national actions and provincial derivation regarding ABS implementation in the Argentine territory, through quantitative and qualitative analysis of impact indicators (objective) and result indicators (outcome), document review and access to information through key stakeholders (interviews), consistently following the structure defined in the GEF-TE 2020 Guide, as shown in Figure 1.

14. Regarding this previous aspect (methodology), the project was evaluated using a mixed methods approach, resulting from the combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods, in a logical and temporal evaluation sequence (phases). This methodological proposal sought an active interaction between the evaluator, the PMU, the UNDP Argentina office and the parties involved, promoting timely feedback and rescue of important findings of the initiative.

15. During the evaluation process, a communicative-inclusive approach was used, characterized by the confidentiality and anonymity of the information provided, contrasted with data from programmatic documents, reports, monitoring reports, publications and financial statements (CDR) available to the evaluator. The results of this methodology lead to conclusions about the context, progress of activities, lessons learned, constraints and their impact on the achievement of the project's central objective.

The conceptual phases of the methodology are:

- **16. Phase I:** Documentary analysis of information available in the project archives. The following documents were relevant for this phase: a) Project-Prodod document; b) Inception workshop; c) TORs; d) Management reports and PIR; d) Steering Committee minutes; e) Results framework matrix; f) CDR financial reports; g) Partial/final consultancy reports; h) Co-financing and budget data; i) Operational and work plans; j) Audit reports; and k) Project deliverables.

17. In this phase, the key stakeholders and institutions were identified, to later develop a schedule of interviews, outreach and a portfolio of questions to deepen the understanding of the project.

- **18. Phase II.** Execution of semi-structured interviews, after the definition of focus groups in coordination with the PMU, virtual meetings were scheduled with the identified stakeholders, with a duration of 40 to 60 minutes per interview. Due to the virtual nature of the meetings, the meetings began with general questions on roles and links of the interviewee with the project, on which the meeting and the standard questions of the TE were conducted.

19. Through this process, reflections were generated, first-hand information was gathered, as well as information on evaluation criteria, barriers, lessons learned and, finally, relevant findings for the evaluation and calculation of ratings.

- **20. Phase III.** Discussion of results, systematization, conclusions and recommendations. Two working meetings were planned: the first one presented methodological aspects, work schedule, agenda and inputs required for the TE to the stakeholders; the second one will take place at the Steering Committee meeting where the main findings of the evaluation will be presented.

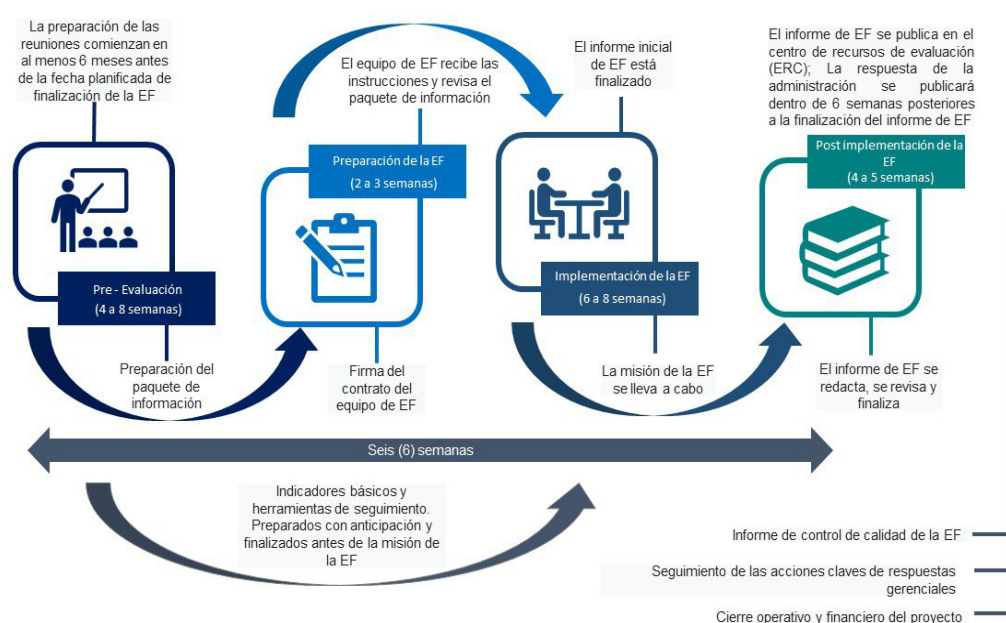


Figure 1. Concept of the Terminal Evaluation Methodology for GEF projects. Source: Prepared by evaluator

2.3.1. Data collection and analysis

21. Data collection followed the guidelines of the GEF-TE 2020 Guide, procedures focused on the collection of information on the impacts and results of the project.

22. Conceptually, the Delphi methodology was applied, Figure 2, mainly for the selection of stakeholders and the interview phase, in which the participants responded anonymously, confidentially and without interacting among themselves to the evaluation questions, based on a prospective process, with respect for the opinions and customs of the stakeholders. As a result of the interviews, experiential, narrative and

documentary (in some cases) information was collected to support the criteria, ratings and findings described in this report.



Figure 2. Delphi method. Source: Prepared by evaluator.

2.3.2. Evaluation Report

23. In accordance with the Project Evaluation Guide (GEF-TE), the evaluator reviewed and rated the quality of project implementation. The elements evaluated were: a) project relevance; b) key aspects of the project, including effectiveness and efficiency; c) project sustainability; d) results and their impact on the Outcomes described above; and e) project impact. In addition, cross-cutting issues such as gender, women's empowerment and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were addressed. The rating was based on the scales established in the guide and detailed in table 3 of this document.

24. In addition, the TE used the key analysis criteria oriented towards the sustainability of project results, lessons learned and barriers during the implementation process, as inputs for national stakeholders and future projects in the area.

25. As a result of these processes, a report was generated that structurally consists of three levels: the first covers the general summary, purpose, scope and objectives of the evaluation work, as well as the methodology used; the second level consists of chapters 2, 3 and 4 that present the results of the evaluation for each stage of the project life cycle; and the final level covers chapter 5, which corresponds to the Annexes, with information that supports the information presented in the report.

2.4. Ethics

26. This evaluation was conducted in accordance with the principles described in the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluations document, safeguarding the rights and confidentiality of interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing data collection. In addition, the process developed ensured the security of information collected before and after the assessment, as well as long-term protocols for anonymity and confidentiality of information sources, where appropriate. Likewise, the information, knowledge and data collected in the process of this terminal evaluation will only be used for the criteria and terminal evaluation, any other use will be under the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

The signed Code of Conduct form is attached as Annex 7.

2.5. Cross-cutting issues

On key cross-cutting issues such as SDGs, gender, women's empowerment, communities, during the information gathering phase, interviews and data analysis, evidence was sought on how these issues were addressed, with the objective of identifying what specific measures or strategies were taken and at what level it was possible to incorporate these issues throughout the development of the project. The main findings are detailed in the following section. 4.3.8.

2.6. Limitations

28. Due to restrictions related to the COVID - 19 pandemic, the restriction of mobility to the Republic of Argentina made it impossible to directly observe several aspects of the evaluation, mainly physical elements such as laboratories, equipment, samples, among others. On the other hand, the time availability of the different stakeholders and the lack of access to good quality internet also limited communication at the time of conducting the interviews and the alternative was to reschedule meetings with the acceptance of those involved.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1. Start up and duration of the Project

29. The project "Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Argentina" corresponds to the Fifth (5th) GEF replenishment. With the approval of the FIP and PPG in May 2016, the institutional agreements are initiated and ratified in November 2016.

30. The project formally began on November 21, 2016, with a planned duration of 36 months until November 2019. During the execution of the project, three extensions have been managed, the last and communicated during the implementation of the TE ends in May 2022. This brings the total project time to 66 months.

31. The inception workshop was executed on the same dates that the institutional arrangements were confirmed (11/17/2016) and counted with the participation of the National Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Environment of the Province of Chubut, National Institute of Agricultural Technology and the United Nations Development Program, stakeholders that later formed the Steering Committee of the project.

3.2. Development context: environmental, socioeconomic, institutional, and policy factors relevant to the Project objective and scope

32. The importance of addressing ABS in the Argentine territory lies in its high biodiversity characteristics, due to its latitudinal and altitudinal variation in climate, soil, and landscapes. The country has 18 ecoregions that include tropical forests, grasslands, steppes and marine-coastal ecosystems. These ecoregions are home to more than 120,000 biological species and it is one of the few countries of origin of South American camelids (llamas, guanacos, and vicuñas). The Patagonia region of the country is home to the largest population of wild guanacos in the world (500,000 individuals); however, guanacos (*Lama guanicoe*) in Argentina have experienced a continuous population decline due mainly to habitat fragmentation and sheep production, habitat degradation, illegal hunting, and climate change, reasons that call for action for their conservation.

33. The focal species of the project (guanaco) plays an important ecological role in the temperate ecosystems of southern South America, impacting the distribution, abundance and composition of plant communities. Sustainable management of the guanaco is a productive and economically profitable alternative, since through integrated use, various products and by-products can be obtained. It is also a Vertebrate Species of Special Conservation Value (VSSC), due to its symbolic-ritual importance for society.

34. Within the legal framework, mention may be made of Law 22,421 on Fauna Conservation and Law 22,344 approving the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

35. On November 15, 2011, Argentina became the 67th signatory country of the Nagoya Protocol and in 2012, through Resolution No. 238/2012 of the Federal Environmental Council (COFEMA), the Congress of the Nation was requested to consider the bill regarding the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol due to the strategic, local and regional value it implies, given its ecological, social and economic transcendence.

36. On November 26, 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, concluded in Nagoya, Japan, was approved by Law 27,246.

3.3. Problems that the project was intended to address

37. The problems/barriers addressed by the project are described along three key axes:

- **Barrier #1:** Weak national ABS framework, limited capacity, and lack of public support impede the application of Nagoya Protocol obligations.

- **Barrier #2:** Limited capacity to incorporate the principles of biological diversity in productive landscapes inhabited by guanacos.
- **Barrier #3:** Limited capacity to develop an anti-diarrheal tool based on guanaco genetic information.

3.4. Immediate and developmental objectives of the Project

38. In response to the barriers described above, the overall objective of the project was to contribute to the national application of the Nagoya Protocol by strengthening the ABS framework and facilitating access to genetic resources of guanacos for the development of an anti-diarrheal treatment, with the approach of 3 Objective Indicators (O.I.). The strategy for this purpose includes three (3) Outcomes that contribute to biodiversity conservation, which are: a) Strengthening of the national ABS framework and capacity building to facilitate the implementation of Law 27.246 (approval of the Nagoya Protocol); b) Contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources derived from the guanaco population; and c) pilot project that uses guanaco genetic resources to develop an anti-diarrheal product that at the procedural level includes Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT); at the same time, research will be carried out to search for antibodies (VHH) from the guanaco genetic resource, providing support to the formal documents for fair and equitable monetary and non-monetary benefit sharing between the provider and user of genetic resources.

39. The Outcomes described above (three) would be achieved through 9 Results Indicators (I.R.) and their respective targets. This set of programmatic elements in total results in 12 indicators that drive project implementation (three Objective Indicators (O.I.) and nine Outcome Indicators (I.R)).

3.5. Description of the Project's theory of change

40. The evaluator reconstructed a theory of change (ToC), considering the initial state of "business as usual" in which the Argentine Republic does not have regulations that address the Nagoya Protocol and access and benefit sharing derived from genetic resources. This assumption contrasted with the "learning by doing" proposal, which the project promoted and which includes capacity building, the generation of regulatory frameworks and the activation of a tangible example of ABS in the focal species guanacos, considering as a strategic (control point) Scorecard that made it possible to publicize the progress in strengthening regulations, conservation capacities of focal species, and the development of research on nano-antibodies and their application.

41. This reconstruction was done using the GEF Evaluation Office approach for impact probability identification based on the concepts of Theory of Change/chains, causal/impact pathways and ecosystem risk and vulnerability analysis. To do this, the evaluator identified the final project goals (objective, 3 objective indicators and risks), reviewed the results framework (outcome indicators, activities, outputs and assumptions), with this basis the impact pathways were designed in a logical way. This allows to understand the logic of each causal relationship and especially to identify complementary assumptions.

42. The reconstruction described above determined that the overall objective of the project "Contribute to the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by strengthening the national regulatory framework for access and benefit sharing (ABS)" has an umbrella role that is fed by the fulfillment of three (3) Outcomes with their respective nine results indicators (I.R.), so the analysis of the TE and the reconstruction of the Theory of Change (ToC) has an Inter-Outcome approach (mostly) and between Outcomes (complementary) with the bottom-up characteristic (I.R. bottom – I.O. up), therefore if I.R.1 is fulfilled, it is

passed to the fulfillment of Outcome 1 and achieved this continues to the objective indicator I.O.1, (logical concatenation of I.R.1, Outcome 1, I.O.1, Figure 3).

43. It is relevant that this architecture is flexible, since there is no interference between Outcomes and there is complementarity, for example: institutional regulatory strengthening (Outcome 1) does not interfere with the development of antibody research (Outcome 3) and neither does it interfere with the development of provincial regulatory bodies (Outcome 2). However, they are strongly complementary and need to be encompassed and interconnected through assumptions, without the integral approach the desired impact (objective) and the application of the ToC would not be achieved.

44. Therefore, in the conceptual analysis (Figure 4), it requires the development and achievement of inputs (purple box) and planned activities (orange boxes) to generate outputs (light blue boxes), thereby achieving results, which are measurable through indicators (IR), (green boxes). This temporal process, follows the impact chain in its respective Outcome, through the assumptions the Outcomes are integrated, for example, the development of I.R.1 Outcome 1 on: one (1) ABS regulation and its administrative process in the province of Chubut, when executed is concatenated with indicators but strongly supports (assumption) the development of I.R.4 Outcome 2 on: Change in the number of infractions related to illegal hunting in productive landscapes in the province of Chubut, but does not intervene with the development of I.R.7, Outcome 3 on Number of ABS agreements negotiated between INTA and the Province of Chubut.

45. The results are distributed between direct results, which are the changes generated as a direct effect of the appropriate use of the products, and final results, which are secondary results whose achievement requires other results (the direct results). Impact is defined as a noticeable change in the initial "business as usual" state (Outcomes 1 and 2) and the advancement of the learning-by-doing process (Outcome 3).

$$\text{Impact} = \text{Results} * (\text{Vulnerability} / \text{Coping}) \quad (1)$$

Where:

Impact: Change of initial state

Results: Achievements

Vulnerability: Interaction of external threats with project proposals.

Coping: Actions

46. The mathematical formula 1 (RIOCC, 2020) that describes the ToC, bases its analysis on the impact of the project, considering that the level of activities and products are within the influence of the project (coping), the higher (numerically) and more solid the actions implemented, the greater effect they have in reducing vulnerability. As indicated, the results can be fulfilled and have the flexibility that between Outcomes and results there is independence, therefore in the equation the results and their achievement (numerical) are independent, therefore their stability depends on the ratio (V/C), set of factors that determine the impact of the project.

47. In the case of the Nagoya ABS Project, the general objective "To contribute to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by strengthening the ABS framework and facilitating access to genetic resources of guanacos for the development of an anti-diarrheal treatment" is aligned with global ABS and biodiversity conservation efforts and requires compliance with its indicators in each of its Outcomes.

48. Analyzing the logical steps of the ToC, the evaluator located the assumptions already included in the results framework and identified other assumptions. These are organized by logical step in Table 4, where

it is mentioned whether the assumption is mainly within the control of the institutions implementing or executing the project or out of their control. This analysis of the ToC, and especially its assumptions, helps to direct the evaluation and detail the evaluation questions within each criterion.

Table 4. Logical catenation and assumptions incorporated in the Change Theory

Logical step in ToC	Assumptions (+ = under control of project organizations; - = out of their control)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current ABS framework Law 27.246 (-) • Resources: time, financial and human resources available for project management (+) • Efficient and transparent use of available resources (+) • Continued interest in collaboration among different participating institutions (+) • Co-financing (-) • Incremental demand from civil society for biodiversity use (-)
Outcome 1: Activities to Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The studies and tools generated are of high quality and applicable to the country/project context (+) • The existing standard Law 27.246 leads to updates and new standards (-) • Training results in increased capabilities (+)
Outcome 2: Activities to Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in number of guanaco infractions (-) • Increase in guanaco populations as a result of project actions (-) • Production practices are accepted and sustained (-) • Training results in increased capabilities (+)
Outcome 3: Activities to Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements between peers Chubut and INTA (+) • Preclinical studies of the antidiarrheal product VHH (+) • Transfer of technology and research on genetic resources (+)
Outcome 1: Outputs to Direct Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the national ABS framework and building capacity to facilitate the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (+) • Monitoring through the National Integrated Information System on ABS projects on genetic resources (+) • Training program with modules on bioprospecting, value chains, marketing, business plans, codes of conduct and scientific procedures with community protocols/registration of traditional knowledge developed and available (+)
Outcome 2: Outputs to Direct Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The focal species has conservation and sustainable use tools at the national and provincial level (-) • Improvement of guanaco populations through the implementation of best practices (-) • Evaluation of progress on the ABS Scorecard (+)
Outcome 3: Outputs to Direct Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural, biochemical and functional properties of identified guanaco VHH nano-antibodies (NAB) (+) • Contracts and agreements including PIC and MAT, on fair and equitable benefit sharing (-) • Number of scientific articles related to VHHs (+)

Direct results to final results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAdS commitment to give continuity to management, financing, replication and technical personnel (+) • Favorable local governance conditions (-) • Successful cases of benefits derived (-)
Final results to impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation law 27.246 and number of approved ABS standards • Conservation and management plans for the guanaco focal species • Monetary and non-monetary benefits derived from genetic resources • VHH antidiarrheal product

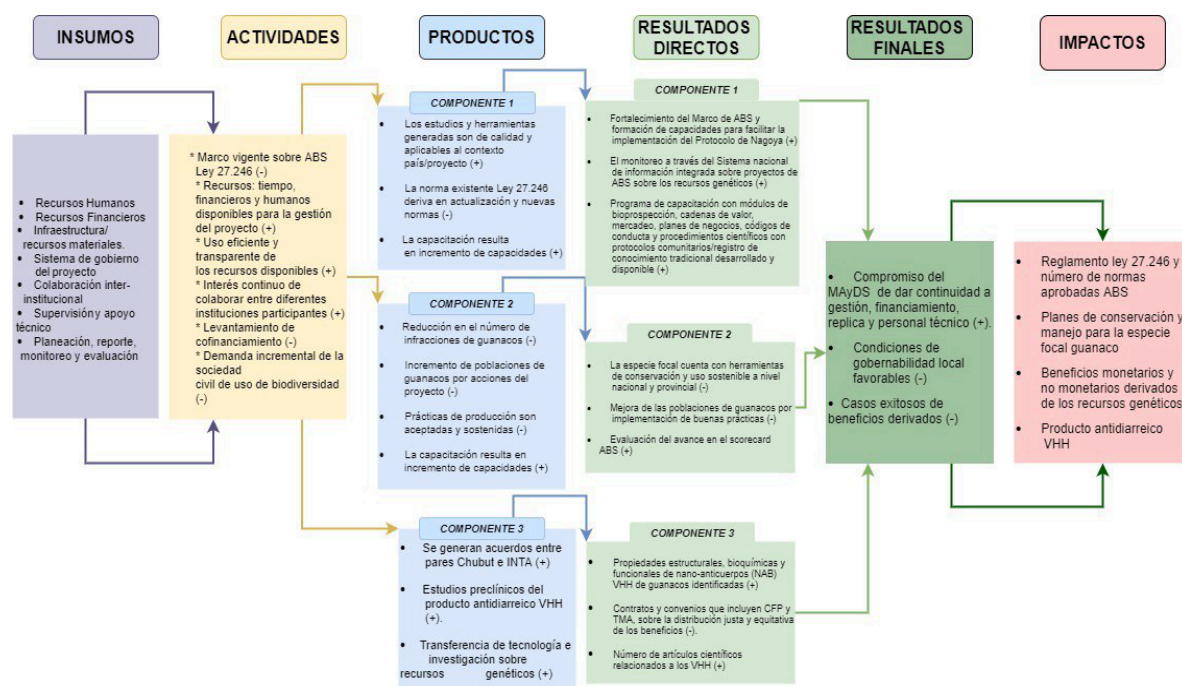


Figure 3. Flowchart of the ToC. Source: Prepared by evaluator.

3.6. Expected results

49. Outcome 1: Strengthening the national ABS framework and building capacity to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

- **Output 1.1:** Draft proposals for a national ABS framework includes the protection of traditional knowledge and ABS regulations and administrative procedures of the Chubut province.
- **Output 1.2:** 200 staff from the National or Federal Competent Authority (NCA), institutions within the Chubut province and local communities trained in ABS rules and procedures, community protocols, and traditional registries including negotiation of ABS agreements and monitoring of bioprospecting projects.
- **Output 1.3:** Training program and modules on bioprospecting, value chains, marketing, business planning, codes of conduct, and research procedures community protocols/ traditional knowledge registries developed and made available to relevant federal and state institutions. .
- **Output 1.4:** Integrated national information system for ABS projects on genetic resources and traditional knowledge linked to designated checkpoints.

- **Output 1.5:** : Campaign to raise awareness about the ABS law, the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol, and the scientific, technological, and socioeconomic benefits targeting researchers, local communities / indigenous peoples, industry, and relevant stakeholders.
- **Output 1.6:** Knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) assessment surveys targeting specific groups (e.g., researchers, local communities / indigenous peoples, industry, and relevant stakeholders) that may use or benefit from current or emerging ABS transactions are carried out to assess enhanced awareness about national ABS law, the CBD, and the Nagoya Protocol.

50. Outcome 2: Contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources derived from the guanaco population.

- **Output 2.1:** National and provincial management plans for the conservation and sustainable use of guanacos between 2013 and 2018 strengthened.
- **Output 2.2:** Management tools protocol for the shearing and herding of guanacos improves the quality of life for local communities and contributes to the conservation of guanacos and their habitat.
- **Output 2.3:** Survey protocol for the study of the sanitary status of the guanaco population in Chubut province contributes to its conservation.

51. Outcome 3: Pilot project uses genetic resources from guanacos to develop an anti-diarrheal product and demonstrates Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), including fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

- **Output 3.1:** Monetary and nonmonetary benefits derived from the use of genetic resources and their derivatives of guanacos are agreed to by INTA and government representatives of the Chubut province.
- **Product 3.2:** Structural, biochemical, and functional properties of VHH nano-antibodies (nAb) from guanacos identified and compared with the properties of llamas.
- **Product 3.3:** Pre-clinical studies using VHH expressed in baculovirus or E. coli to supplement the milk diet as a preventive strategy for diarrhea caused by RVA and/or norovirus.

3.7. Total resources

52. According to Prodoc, the total resources allocated to the project were US\$3,833,090.00, corresponding to US\$908,904.00 from the GEF (grant) and US\$3,307,186.00 from counterparts. The updated amount of the project at the Terminal Evaluation is: US\$ 4,216,090 as shown in the following table.

Source	Type	Total, in US\$
GEF	Cash	908,904
	Co-financing	3,307,186
Province Chubut	Cash	826,250
INTA	Cash	215,000
MAYDS	Cash	1,309,811
UNDP	Cash	50,000
MAYDS	In-kind	23,125
INTA	In-kind	500,000
Vrije Universiteit Brussel	In-kind	348,000

ALGENEX Spain	In-kind	35,000
TOTAL US\$		4,216,090

3.8. Implementation stakeholders and their roles

Stakeholder	Roles and Responsibilities
National Government	
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.	It is in charge of implementing environmental policies and management in Argentina. It is the Authority of Application for the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, it is in charge of generating and consolidating a new ABS legal and policy framework at the national level based on the Nagoya Protocol. It is the National Director of the Project and is a member of the Project's Board of Directors.
National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)	INTA is a federal agency in charge of the development, adaptation and dissemination of technologies, knowledge and learning procedures for agricultural, forestry and agro-industrial activities within an ecological environment. INTA has experience in the development of llama VHH gene libraries. In addition, it will serve as a co-funder of the project.
UNDP	
UNDP Regional Office Panama	Project supervision, support in substantive reviews, PIRs, support to the Country Office.
UNDP Country Office	Supervision of the project at national level, day-to-day monitoring of the project.
Provincial Government of Chubut	
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Industry and Commerce	Key stakeholder responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of the province's natural resources, relevant in the development of regulatory frameworks for the retribution of benefits.
Directorate of Flora and Fauna and Wildlife (DFyFS)	Key stakeholder responsible for the management of animal resources and conservation of species of economic interest. Its role is relevant in the strengthening of the Provincial Guanaco Management Plan and who grants permits for research on wild flora and fauna.
Secretary of Science, Technology and Innovation (SCTI)	Key scientific role in the articulation of knowledge.
Ministry of Environment and Control of Sustainable Development (MAyDS)	Actor linked to local environmental management and environmental impact assessment. It is the focal point of the project.
Local stakeholders and interest groups	
Indigenous Peoples and Communities	These groups are important because of their close relationship with the environment, as they live in territories with natural resources of exceptional value and high biodiversity. Local and indigenous populations will benefit from the development of a product for acute gastroenteritis using guanaco VHH antibodies. In addition, they will benefit from training related to ABS implementation, biodiversity

	conservation and benefit from the sustainable use of guanaco derivatives.
Academic institutions	
Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Nano antibody research (VHH studies)
San Juan Bosco National University of Patagonia and the Patagonia National Center (CENPAT)	VHH research and support to other institutions.
Relevant institutions	
National Council of Scientific Research and Technologies (CONICET)	An important ally in the development of the project, strengthening capacities for the collection of scientific and technological information and for its direct link with national researchers.
National Agrifood Health and Quality Service through the National Directorate of Animal Health (SENASA).	Argentine governmental institution in charge of animal and plant disease control that will define management protocols for species of importance.
National Advisory Commission for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (CONADIBIO)	Inter-institutional body attached to the Biodiversity Directorate of the MAgDS, advisory role on biodiversity issues. During the life of the project, it generates consensus among the different stakeholders of society directly or indirectly involved in the conservation, use and/or access to biodiversity.
Private companies	
Alegenex Spain	Biotechnology company dedicated to the research and development of therapies for human use.

4. FINDINGS

4.1. Project design and formulation

53. The project design has a clear, sequential and logical architecture between indicators, results and the central objective. The project is consistent with the global objectives of ABS and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Republic of Argentina (Law 27.246). In addition, it is relevant for the Republic of Argentina as it managed to position ABS in the national agenda and is aligned with Resolution No. 410/19 (2019), binding processes for biodiversity conservation and ABS for the nation and its scaling up in the provinces.

54. At the design level, the project architecture consists of twelve indicators, of which three correspond to impact indicators (I.O) and nine to result indicators (I.R), all of them built under a SMART approach.

55. In the application of the SMART criteria in the TE as a feedback exercise, it has been identified that two indicators (I.R. 2.2 and I.R. 3.2), linked to the population increase of guanacos and therapeutic products derived from antibodies respectively, exceed the scope of the project and will not be achieved (in the first case) and will take more time to obtain results (second case) and their implication in the overall achievement of the project, aspects that are detailed in section 4.2. of the evaluation.

56. In this section, in the interview phase, the participants mention a good acceptance of the project since its design, which although in the beginning had to overcome the process of ignorance, currently has managed to position the issue, both at the institutional level, as well as stakeholders (beneficiaries-suppliers), which has led to an active participation of stakeholders (formal and informal), which generates a positive national ownership, with a high probability of sustainability in the socio-political sphere and that responds to two key issues: 1) high demand for ABS processes and their management, 2) the integration of the issue in the international political agenda. These are issues that the project has been able to address assertively and with solvency, providing tools to the parties to respond assertively to the challenges posed by the ABS issue.

4.1.1. Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) and Results Framework (project logic and strategy; indicators)

57. The project design has a clear, sequential and logical architecture between indicators, results and the central objective, which is aligned with the country's priorities for the integration of ABS and biodiversity management in the nation. It also has an implementation strategy that promotes synergies with experienced stakeholders for project development.

58. The project has detailed indicators at the objective/impact and results/Outcome levels, with different scopes whose detailed analysis can be found in section 4.2.

59. The project was designed to work on two fronts, one in the national context for ABS enabling conditions, and the other for capacity building at the provincial level (Chubut), thus having a broad presence in the Argentine territory.

60. The TE shows that the project has a robust design, with a relevant objective for the country, a coherent hypothesis, adequately identified barriers and a logical framework with results linked to overcoming these barriers around ABS. The evaluator constructed the Theory of Change (ToC) that implicitly underpins the project. This ToC was directly constructed with the elements of the results framework, country conditions, outputs and outcomes logically and directly planned, being the impact achieved translated into the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Argentina the basis of the ToC.

61. Thus the ToC clearly represents the logic of the project, with a final impact (non-adoption or weak ABS framework towards country adoption) that is generated by three pathways or "impact pathways" such as: (1) Strengthening the national ABS framework and building capacity to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol Law 27.246; (2) contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources derived from the guanaco population; and (3) Pilot project uses genetic resources from guanacos to develop an anti-diarrheal product and demonstrates PIC and MAT, including fair and equitable sharing of benefits, contributed to the national level implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS in Argentina.

62. During the interviews conducted, in the aspect of project formulation and design, the information provided and contrasted, makes evident the strategic nature of the proposal, since it aligns the aspects of natural resource conservation with global standards and national law 27.246, complemented with standards and conservation plans grounded in the provincial context, and the development of a tangible exercise on the use of resources of the focal species, demonstrating an integrality in the planning.

63. The effort for this purpose requires the involvement of the national authority and also the experience of institutions in the area, highlighting the quantification of actions through standardized tools such as the ABS scorecard (control point). This strategic character also corresponds to the rationality and globality that the ABS issue encompasses, hence there have been links with the global initiative, communications with other projects in the region and the team is part of various organizations such as the advisory body of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

64. The geographical presence of the project is at the national level through the development of enabling conditions for ABS and at the provincial level (Chubut) with the development of standards for the conservation of the focal species, sustainable management plans and ABS.

65. This set of elements seeks to effectively implement ABS in the nation, thereby improving a focal species and generating monetary and non-monetary benefits derived from genetic resources.

66. The programmatic structure of the project assumes a bottom-up approach to the construction of actions. In this logic, the basis for the achievement of goals is achieved through the realization of 9 products (narratives) that are monitored/achieved with the fulfillment of 9 result indicators, 3 for each Outcome (3IR/Outcome). This programmatic package (9 I.R.), when analyzed under a SMART approach (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound), in general has a robust configuration and is consistent with the defined budget. The outcome indicators are: Specific (9/9), Measurable (9/9), Relevant (9/9), Achievable (8/9 except I.R 2.2 increased guanaco population) and Temporary (7/9 except indicators I.R 2.2 and I.R 3.2 therapeutic products) the latter due to their conditions would exceed the temporality of the project. Additionally, the versatility of communication of the programmatic package is evaluated and all aspects have a good possibility of dissemination in the academic, legal (provinces) and technical (institutions) realms.

67. The overall structure of the project, with 12 indicators distributed in 3 objective (strategic) and 9 result (programmatic) indicators, is very good. As a whole and with their sequential logic, they are all clearly explained, with a defined baseline, intervention strategy and target. In the TE process, through the application of the SMART tool (described above) and in an *ex-post* scenario, it is observed that there are indicators that will not be achieved within the project timeframe (I.R 2.2 and I.R 3.2), which does not imply their lack of execution; on the contrary, they have been addressed and worked on, but clearly exceed the scope and timeframe of a project of this nature. The detailed analysis of each indicator can be found in section 4 of this evaluation.

4.1.2. Assumptions and risks

68. The risks identified in the design respond to political, social, academic and environmental issues that could impact the achievement of the project objective. However, in an *ex-post* (TE) approach, it is considered important to address risk elements linked to socioeconomic (monetary uncertainty of the region) and technological (high specialization) Outcomes that are consistent with the reality of the country and the project's subject matter. In this sense, the package of risks identified are quite consistent and include mitigation strategies, as shown below:

Table 5. Risks identified in the project design.

Risks identified	Level	Mitigation strategy identified in the Prodoc	Commentary to the TE
<p>ABS is not a priority in the political agenda of national and provincial authorities.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>To mitigate the risk, the project will highlight the benefit of the regulation of Law 27.246 of the Nagoya Protocol and its implementation (including the monetary and non-monetary benefits derived from the use of genetic resources) as a strategy to foster the development of science and technology in Argentina. This will include the development of activities to raise awareness of ABS, the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol among decision makers. In addition, the project will provide ABS-related training (e.g., processing of access requests, negotiation of ABS agreements, and monitoring and follow-up to ensure compliance) and facilitate the development of tools (e.g., an integrated national information system on genetic resources and traditional knowledge, protocols for the conservation/management of guanacos). In addition, national and provincial authorities will actively participate in the design and implementation of the project, serve as members of the project Steering Committee, and participate as members of the project's Steering Committee.</p>	<p>In the TE the risks identified in the design have three comments:</p> <p>Regarding the innovative nature of the topic, in certain cases it implies paradigm changes in the scientific sector, adjusting to global changes in conservation and including new processes in its actions. This is why this type of initiative has had and will have certain levels of resistance or disinterest in civil society. In this context, the technical team (PMU) has carried out activities to strengthen the conceptualization of ABS with the stakeholders involved and the formation of knowledge and advisory networks.</p> <p>Secondly, key stakeholders (MAYDS, UNDP) have supported the core team to keep the initiative alive, more in the form of advice and support to put the issue on the political agenda.</p> <p>Third is the automation process that seeks to generate agile processes and institutional memory. Currently, there is a System for Administration, Control and Verification of Biodiversity and its Outcomes (SACVeBio) to record the traceability of the products that make up the Biodiversity area, which in the case of the guanaco focal species has the possibility of recording authorizations for hunting or cultivation, issuing certificates of legitimate possession and issuing electronic transit documents (DTE).</p> <p>This situation as a whole evidences the mitigation of the risk as it was conceptualized in the project design.</p>
<p>Changes in local, provincial or national governmental authorities could lead to a change in ABS policies.</p>	<p>Medium / Low</p>	<p>There will be ongoing awareness and dissemination programs, providing local knowledge, ensuring the participation of institutions and organizations identified as key stakeholders. The consolidation of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms for ABS will help to avoid generating incentives contrary to the project objectives. In addition, the UNDP country office will keep the</p>	<p>This risk has prevailed throughout project management. Efforts have been made to create permanent opportunities for dialogue with key stakeholders at different hierarchical levels and with the work nucleus (PMU).</p> <p>The country context has added to the risk, so the TE considers the risk to be medium and should be considered for</p>

Risks identified	Level	Mitigation strategy identified in the Prodoc	Commentary to the TE
		different members of the local, provincial or national governments informed on the progress, results and products, through the use of different resources (e.g., the project Steering Committee, procedures for the transfer of knowledge and lessons learned, field visits, among others) in order to maintain their interest in the project and highlight its social and environmental benefits. The generation of ABS standards will also be promoted.	future interventions.
Local communities, indigenous peoples and stakeholders are not fully committed to the project's objectives.	Medium / Low	The project will coordinate efforts to ensure that ABS awareness activities integrate key stakeholders. The strengthening and adaptation of ABS-related standards (e.g., PIC, MAT, benefit sharing and protection of traditional knowledge) will further contribute to the participation of all stakeholders. In addition, the project will develop a stakeholder engagement plan to ensure that local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders are involved in all stages of the project (design, planning, implementation and evaluation) in order to promote their commitment to the project and ABS.	By focusing exclusively on scientific research and capacity building processes during project implementation, no direct exchange with communities was generated. However, in the final phase of project implementation, the project is focusing on the work in communities, traditional knowledge and genetic resources, the possible dimensions, positive or negative scenarios of the work. However, in the final phase of work with communities and ancestral knowledge it should be managed and considered for future initiatives.
Guanaco-derived VHHs do not possess more beneficial characteristics than the other alternatives.	Low	If anti-VHH antibodies obtained from guanacos have similar properties to those obtained from domestic llamas, they will also constitute an alternative treatment for acute gastroenteritis that can substitute conventional, monoclonal antibodies. The project will establish a strong cooperative relationship with the international research community (e.g., Dr. Serge Muyldermans, Department of Structural Biology, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Dr. Linda Saif, Ohio State University; and Dr. Lijuan Yuan, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech) to ensure the quality of the project's research on guanaco anti-nanobodies.	As with all scientific research, the risk derives from the uncertainty of the results and their technical complexity, which continues over time until a proven therapeutic product is obtained. The technology transfer processes remain in place, and the risk remains at a low level of incidence.
Climate Change	Low	As part of the strengthening of the National and Provincial Guanaco Management Plans, strategies will be defined to increase the resilience of	Climate change has been considered as one of the main challenges to be faced by regional, national and local governments. This reality may have an

Risks identified	Level	Mitigation strategy identified in the Prodoc	Commentary to the TE
		guanaco populations to climate change and variability.	<p>impact mainly on Outcome 2 on the conservation of the focal species, since in past years there has been evidence of damage and losses in the province of Chubut. It should be mentioned that these exogenous factors are beyond the scope of the project and that work is being done to mitigate them in the various related plans.</p> <p>The risk is external to project management and is latent to many interventions, so it should be considered in future interventions.</p>

4.1.3. Lessons from other relevant projects incorporated into project design

69. The global ABS initiative had a direct impact on the design of the project adapted to the circumstances of the nation, following the minimum requirements of the protocol and experiences developed internationally. The ABS global - ABS Argentina relationship mechanisms were characterized by three key moments, the first with the establishment of direct communication for advice, consultations and technical support in the generation of documents and products required for the project in the country context; A second moment results in the process of capacity building, although the global ABS initiative included 24 countries, during these years there was an openness to informally add the Argentine initiative to the process, including local trainings with the participation of experts from the global initiative (2019); a third moment constitutes the common spaces, same implementing agency (institutional experience), common objectives (ABS-CBD), physical and academic spaces for dialogue (Canada Committee, ABS Adhoc Advisory Body, among others).

70. The project also, the project had base elements (inputs) developed in the Global Framework on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (2012-2020).

71. It was also identified that UNDP has a portfolio of GEF projects in Argentina and Latin America related to biodiversity conservation, which provided an opportunity to extract good practices and replicate activities, reflected in the programmatic recommendations that the project implemented.

4.1.4. Planned key stakeholders participation

72. The participation of key stakeholders and their respective roles in the project was defined from the project design. In the Prodoc, there is evidence of the Stakeholder Participation Plan for project implementation, which describes the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder. It also details their experience and how they will contribute to the development of the project. The Stakeholder Participation Plan was designed with a focus on long-term sustainability, transparency and effective participation.

73. During the PPG phase, consultations were held with key project stakeholders, including meetings with authorities from the province of Chubut, INTA, MAYDS, and groups with expertise in camelid conservation and research.

74. According to the interviews conducted, the stakeholder participation plan was defined and oriented with the expectation of implementing regulations at the local level. Furthermore, two decision-making, monitoring and participation mechanisms were established through the Steering and Advisory Committees. Due to the cross-cutting nature of the issue, these elements sought to incorporate all stakeholders and potential beneficiaries in order to ensure the proper implementation of the project.

4.1.5. Planned stakeholder participation

75. Prodoc identifies possible participation and coordination links with other programs and projects, although the linkage mechanisms are not detailed in depth, it can be inferred that there were links around the theme of biodiversity conservation and the experience of implementing GEF portfolio projects, in terms of processes, management and stakeholders.

The projects identified and in place during the life of the ABS project are:

- 76. Project "Incorporation of the sustainable use of biodiversity in the production practices of small producers to protect biodiversity in forests of high conservation value in the Atlantic Forest, Yungas and Chaco ecoregions".
- 77. The project "Establishment of Incentives for the Conservation of Globally Important Ecosystem Services" seeks to establish payment mechanisms for ecosystem services to ensure the protection of Argentina's natural ecosystems and the services provided by them.
- 78. Incorporation of biodiversity conservation criteria in sectoral and cross-sectoral public policies and programs to safeguard threatened wildlife in Argentina.

4.1.6. Gender approach in Project design

79. In the framework of activities, Outcomes and budget established in the Prodoc, gender mainstreaming was not directly included. This absence in the project structure is inferred to the fact that cross-cutting aspects such as equity, gender and empowerment were not mandatory for projects financed by the GEF until July 1, 2018, being this project designed before this date, so the project's Prodoc does not have a Gender Plan. However, during project development this aspect was included, which will be addressed in section 4.3.6.

4.1.7. Social and environmental safeguards

80. The project's Prodoc presents an environmental and social analysis as an annex (SESP) to the project, which follows the guidelines established by UNDP. In these documents, it was identified that the project is of low impact and a mention is made of the environmental and social safeguards, framed in the GEF policy, which are reported and monitored in the execution and PIR reports.

81. The Social and Environmental Assessment Procedure (SESP) developed in the project design considered the principles for safeguarding the natural and social elements of the project implementation areas. The issues addressed in the SESP are: Human Rights, Gender, Environmental Sustainability, detailing in the standards of biodiversity, climate change, communities, cultural heritage, human settlements, indigenous peoples and pollution prevention. This set of elements allows for a comprehensive view of unintended impacts and how the project will deal with them, being standardized processes can be interconnected with other initiatives and territories, hence the added value of maintaining preventive character in force.

4.2. Project execution

82. This section reviews the implementation of the project, with respect to results and activities, as well as the administrative arrangements for its execution.

4.2.1. Adaptive management

83. With respect to adaptive management, it is important to mention that there were factors that affected project execution and required the application of adaptive management practices, which is a valid situation but should not be recurrent; on the contrary, actions should respond to programmatic planning (Logical Framework) and management for results (Results Framework, PIR), which are defined in the Prodoc.

84. Factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic forced all activities to be rescheduled and adapted to the country's context and guidelines, as a response measure. The project followed the institutional guidelines and promoted the creation of a virtual platform for meetings and training, which has allowed to continue the pace of work in management and activities, mainly in Outcome 1.

85. Project financial execution and adaptive management is the most recurrent outcome of this practice, due to several factors, such as inflation, exchange rate uncertainty and the devaluation of the Argentinean peso. In addition, substantial revisions and the generation of items in line with the programming of activities included an additional effort.

86. The exchange rate issue is clearly beyond the scope of the PMU and supporting institutions. As a reference, the project was designed with a reference value of 17 pesos and as of the date of the TE the index reached 94 pesos per dollar.

87. In terms of substantial revisions, it is found in the management of the stakeholders. There are four revisions and the last of these was presented in 2020 and ratified in April 2021, which affected the execution of the project in the first quarter of 2021.

88. Therefore, and in a third extension, and possible fourth substantial revision, the project technical team will need to undertake careful planning to execute the remaining grant and complete the planned activities.

89. This section of adaptive management, during the interviews, confirmed that the project has followed an adaptive management throughout its execution and although they have been able to face situations such as those described, in the sum, it represents the causality for the progress or delay or towards the execution of the project outcomes and its objectives.

90. In the closing phase, the project implementation team, the national authority and UNDP have envisioned operational mechanisms such as the signing of agreements that constitute response alternatives for the proper flow of the project and that at the time were recommended by the regional authorities (PIR 2019).

4.2.2. Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements

91. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan established in Prodoc was instrumental in ensuring stakeholder involvement in project management and decision making. Stakeholders were actively involved as follows (PIR 2021):

- 92. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS) has supported the strengthening of the ABS regulatory framework, in addition to participating in COFEMA's Biodiversity Commission and in meetings on traditional knowledge and genetic resources in the National Advisory Commission for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (CONADIBIO), which helps strengthen coordination with the competent authorities, the scientific sector, indigenous peoples and other government agencies.
- 93. The National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) has made progress in processing and analyzing the information generated on genetic resources and sustainable use of guanacos before the pandemic. Its work has been fundamental in the execution of the project and has also contributed to the creation of a gene library.
- 94. The Province of Chubut has a draft decree on ABS that will be worked on and validated during 2022. The provinces of Buenos Aires, Tucumán and Santa Fe modified their regulations, incorporating aspects on the use of genetic resources and ABS, allowing the alignment of commitments acquired in the Nagoya Protocol.
- 95. As for the private sector, ALGENEX decided not to participate as a counterpart in the project; this decision was indicated in the first review of the Prodoc and implementation agreements.
- 96. The project's Steering Committee has held annual meetings to report on the progress of project implementation and the activities to be carried out in the following year, and to provide feedback on planned activities. This has been compiled in the annual operating plans (AWP). It should be mentioned that, in Prodoc, the creation of a CAP advisory committee was defined, but it was not active.

97. The results obtained, in terms of participation in the different capacity building processes, show that there is an acquired interest on the part of national and provincial stakeholders in the use of genetic resources and ABS. They have recognized that the topic is new and not easy to understand for the general public, and therefore the increase in the demand for knowledge on ABS and their management was the central strategy of the project.

98. Participation from cross-cutting issues: although the project design did not consider gender mainstreaming, the project encouraged the participation of women and minority groups in its activities, with a spontaneous positive response from these sectors. Thus, the results obtained during the four years of the project reflect that the number of women who participated in the training and decisions on the Nagoya Protocol exceeded the number of men.

4.2.3. Project financing and co-financing

99. According to Prodoc, the allocated budget is USD \$ 908,904.00 (GEF) for the implementation period 2016-2019 and extensions. Until June 30, 2021 the project had an execution of USD \$ 708,451.32 or 78%

of the available budget, leaving approximately USD \$ 200,452.68 to be executed to the period May 2021, the detail of the financial execution is shown in the following table:

Table 6. Financial execution of ABS project

ACTIVITY	Revision D	CDR 2018	CDR 2019	CDR 2020	CDR 2021
Activity 1	\$ 88,295.00	\$ 83,719.67	\$ 78,290.45	\$ 23,964.58	\$ 5,997.94
Activity 2	\$ 19,387.00	\$ 25,755.25	\$ 1,273.31		
Activity 3	\$ 86,601.00	\$ 98,365.76	\$ 58,128.00	\$ 56,061.47	\$ 27,076.15
Activity 4 PM	\$ 13,964.00	\$ 8,471.17	\$ 13,406.11	\$ 16,347.51	\$ 3,346.95
Total	208,247.00	216,311.85	\$151,097.87	\$ 96,373.56	\$ 36,421.04

As for counterparts, both in kind and in cash, the amount committed by the project partners is USD \$ 3,309,965.00; as of the date of the evaluation, there is an advance of counterparts (INTA, Chubut) of USD \$ 1,528,315.00.

101. The implementation is under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with follow-up and monitoring in accordance with UNDP transparency and accountability standards, which includes three spot checks carried out in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 by the firm Bértora with their respective recommendations and letters to management. The project budget detailed by result is presented in the following figures.

REPORT OF PLANNED AND ACTUAL CO-FINANCE BY BUDGET LINE									
Name:									
Global co-finance									
Project title: Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Argentina									
Project number: GEF 5820 PNUD ARG/5339									
Project executing partner: National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA)									
Project reporting period:									
From:	November 2016	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
To:	November 2021	Prior Year	Cash Cofinance	In-kind Cofinance	Total for year	Cummulative			
SOURCE		Actual Total	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Actual Total
		A	B	C	D	E	F=B+D	G=C+E	H=A+G
	INTA	-	215.000	-	500.000	906.276	715.000	906.276	906.276
	Chubut Province	-	826.250	-		622.039	826.250	622.039	622.039
	MAyDS		1.309.811		23.125		1.332.936	-	-
	Vrije University		348.000				348.000	-	-
	UNDP		50.000			83.333	50.000	83.333	83.333,33
							-	-	-
TOTAL COSTS		-	2.749.061	-	523.125	1.611.648	3.272.186	1.611.648	1.611.647,91

Figure 4. Distribution of resources by activities (PRODOC, UNDP)

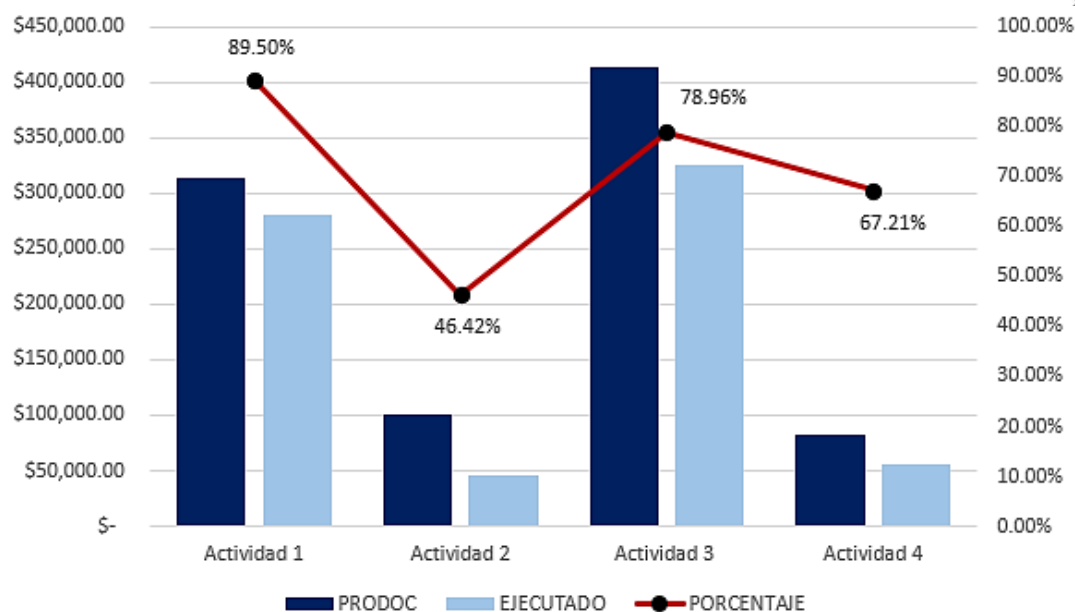


Figure 5. Budget execution by result and period (UNDP)

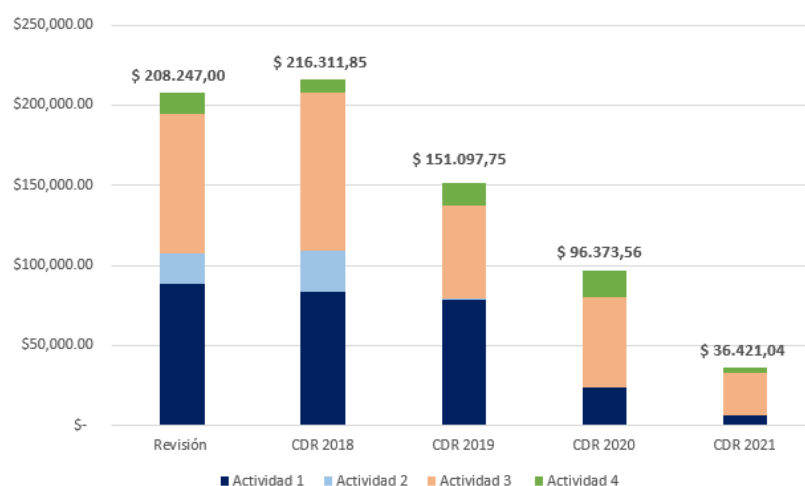


Table 7. Expenditures by Outcomes (UNDP)

Outcomes	Amount in USD
Outcome 1	280,267.64
Outcome 2	46,415.56
Outcome 3	326,232.38
Project Management	55,535.74
Total	708,451.32

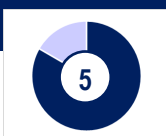
102. Annual Work Plans (AWP), execution, roles and approval: The body that leads the strategic direction has been the Steering Committee; operationally the PMU prepares the planning documents, processes, TORs, in coordination with the Cooperation Project Directorate (MAyDS). Subsequently, it coordinates with UNDP to supervise the process and concludes with the financial transfers from the agency to the suppliers. It is important to note that the project does not maintain a national bank account with MAyDS. However, it requires the allocation of budgetary space by the government for the operations and functioning of the initiative, a process defined and in accordance with the guidelines of the Republic of Argentina.

103. The project was designed with a currency valuation of 17 Argentine pesos for each U.S. dollar. At the date of the evaluation (October) the conversion rate was 94 pesos to the US dollar; this is not a minor aspect considering the purchasing power of the project. There is uncertainty for suppliers regarding the volatility of the currency, mainly for specialized imported scientific equipment located abroad. In addition, the financial resources (budgetary space) of the governmental system are in pesos.

104. In general terms, the planning tools are consistent and are duly recorded in the agency's cooperative instruments such as CDRs, substantial reviews, procurement plans and annual operating plans, to which the evaluator has had access. However, the processes applied (general account, MAyDS coordination, UNDP and exchange rate uncertainties) have generated efforts greater than those corresponding to the implementation of a medium-sized project.

4.2.4. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

RATING



M&E project design / (Satisfactory - "S")

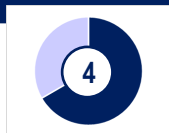


105. The project's PRODOC includes the monitoring and evaluation plan, which was conceived following the project cycle guidelines; it is a clear and consistent plan that includes indicators, means of verification, personnel in charge, budget and time allocated to project activities. It highlights the use of corporate tools such as mid-term and final evaluations, planned activities with an indicative budget of US\$80,500, which is reasonable considering the size of the project.

106. Technical monitoring is oriented to scientific research for the application of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS. It also includes implementation and governance agreements, and establishes tools such as the ABS Scorecard and quantifiable indicators.

RATING

Execution of the plan / (Moderately Satisfactory - "MS")



107. The execution of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was in charge of PMU, and the corporate instruments were used. However, the Mid-Term Evaluation, which, although defined in the Prodoc, was not implemented, since it was not mandatory (medium-sized projects), from a strategic point of view, its application should be considered by the stakeholders as a good practice.

During the first years of the project, corporate M&E tools were temporarily implemented according to the demands and needs of the project. At the end of the project, the use of the Scorecard tool for the MAYDS and the province of Chubut, which allows the evaluation of ABS progress with key stakeholders and the efforts made by them in the implementation of the project, stands out.

109. With the aforementioned, starting in 2019 with the use of PIR, reports and actions have greater alignment to the results framework. Greater use is made of corporate tools, mainly communications, risks, gender, achievements by stakeholders. Regarding the follow-up of recommendations, there is no evidence of results chains, acceptance or not of them; the recommendation to explore the inclusion of implementation partners (PIR 2019), which at the time could have improved budget execution and achievement of goals, but was not considered.

110. The development of objectives and the implementation of the project have progressed in different ways, the former being significant and with results yet to be achieved in the latter, mainly in terms of financial execution, which has an impact on a third extension of the project. It should be mentioned that the financial execution delays are due to factors beyond the control of the project coordination unit (inflation, devaluation, and monetary uncertainty), but which affect the overall performance of the initiative.

111. UNDP's participation in monitoring and guiding project execution has been dynamic and constant. This is evidenced through field visit reports and management reports, participation in substantive reviews and technical and operational support in general.

RATING

Overall Quality / (Moderately Satisfactory - "MS")

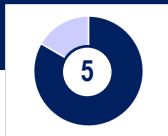


112. In terms of the overall quality of the project design, this attractive project has the participation of stakeholders with experience and relevance in the subject. The project seeks to articulate the global ABS concept and apply it in a given territory. In addition, it defines corporate governance and monitoring mechanisms of the UNDP agency.

113. The Project Implementation Unit and its conformation was a success, since they have demonstrated legal and technical leadership; and, in addition, they have achieved a great appropriation of the subject among the stakeholders involved.

114. With respect to the start-up and monitoring of the first years (2016-2017), the PIR report format was not used, thus the opportunity to guide certain actions could have been lost, since the richness of the PIR report lies in its prospective, preventive character of management and communication. However, the PMU used alternative tools and that were well adapted to the PIRs that were generated from the 2018 period onwards. On the other hand, although it is optional to carry out a mid-term evaluation in medium-sized projects, from a strategic vision, it could be considered in future interventions.

4.2.5. UNDP implementation/supervision (*) implementing partner execution (*), overall project implementation/supervision (*), coordination, and operational matters



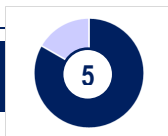
Quality of UNDP implementation/monitoring / (Satisfactory - "S")



115. The project has had adequate participation by the UNDP executing agency. The agency's support has been positive, from project design to implementation and execution. The agency's experience has allowed the project to have appropriate support for the achievement of goals and objectives. In addition, the comparative advantage of UNDP, which leads and manages several initiatives in this area in different countries, has been taken advantage of.

116. In execution, although the project was executed under the National Implementation Modality (NIM), UNDP played an important guiding and advisory role. Highly specialized processes such as the purchase of research equipment are cited. UNDP's knowledge (administrative and technical processes) has ensured that follow-up has been consistent.

117. There is also evidence of the use of available tools (Spot Check, audits, CDR, PIR), as actions that unblock and identify critical nodes and barriers. In the management of the project, this made it possible to guide actions and articulate efforts.



Quality of the implementation partner's execution / (Satisfactory - "S")



118. The operational and strategic leadership of the project was provided by the MAYDS, through the application of the NIM mechanism. The MAYDS has led the Project's Executing Unit and guided the articulation mechanisms, from a national vision to territorial stakeholders. The MAYDS, through the UEP, has also promoted cross-learning spaces that have allowed for scaling up to the provinces, a set of elements that, in the opinion of those interviewed, is positive and needs to be maintained in the medium and long term.

119. The ABS issue is expected to continue to become more widespread and the institutional response must correspond to this demand. In this sense, the strengthening of the Ministry and the vision of institutionalizing the procedures, knowledge and experiences acquired is positive, although it is unlikely that fiscal financial resources will be allocated, the management with cooperating partners is a window that the Ministry contemplates and that responds to the needs and context of the country.

Although the jurisdictional impact of the MAYDS in the provinces corresponds to national parks and protected areas, mainstreaming the issue of knowledge is considered positive and relevant.

121. Another element that has been promoted by the stakeholders and MAYDS is the permanence of the Project Executing Unit. This has made it easier to place the issue on the agenda of national and provincial institutions.

4.2.6. Risk management, including social and environmental standards (Safeguards)

In the design and proposal of the project, the social and environmental assessment of the initiative was carried out, in which the baseline for the socio-environmental conditions of the intervention areas was determined. In addition, it was concluded that planned activities and/or actions would not cause significant alterations to the environmental and social context. For the TE, the documentary information shows the updating of the risk register (SEPS), mainly in the PIR reports, addressing and identifying potential risks and mitigation measures adopted.

Table 8. Project risk management

Identified risk	Description	Measure adopted by the project	Commentary to the TE
Political instability	During the last few years, the province of Chubut has been characterized by a high complexity and rotation of authorities. This situation has been further aggravated by the pandemic and this year's legislative elections.	The project has maintained fluid and permanent communication with the authorities of the province of Chubut, which has facilitated progress in the development of a draft regulation on ABS.	High personnel turnover is a characteristic reality at the regional level. However, in the Republic of Argentina, being a federated state implies a greater impact on project management. In spite of this, the strategy adopted of having a coordinating nucleus (PMU) strengthened management and coordinated work with the authorities.
Global pandemic COVID 19	The impact of COVID-19 and the global quarantine declaration have led to mobility restrictions and difficulties in reaching the implementation provinces, which has caused delays in the implementation of activities.	The project has adopted biosecurity measures such as the use of personal protective equipment, social distancing and the development of virtual activities, in addition to strict compliance with the protocols established by local authorities and the implementing agency (UNDP).	The COVID - 19 pandemic has been a decisive factor for the progress of activities and actions in the territory. However, this threat has not been a limiting factor to generate mechanisms that allow the execution of planned goals such as: the foresight of biosafety standards, the development of virtual platforms has mainly favored the strengthening of capacities, contributing to the generation of new knowledge about this new reality.
Operational risks related to asymmetric progress in the project	The project has had irregular advances in terms of its operation, where INTA has implemented its activities much faster than the province of Chubut.	The project has addressed this risk through stakeholder meetings to minimize the impact on implementation.	The operational risk responds to the design of the project that encompasses three (3) results, the first one linked to the Nagoya Protocol regulations, (2) the conservation of focal wildlife species and (3) scientific research. These results have different characteristics and speeds of execution, added to the federalism

Identified risk	Description	Measure adopted by the project	Commentary to the TE
			of the Republic of Argentina, this affects an asymmetric progress of indicators.
Environmental risk	That the project will have a negative impact on guanaco populations through the use of their genetic resources (or their habitats).	The project is ensuring the rational use of these resources through the development of sustainable management plans for guanacos.	Environmental risk was identified in the project design as a low impact, so work has been done on mitigation tools that allow for the rational use of the focal wildlife species, developing guanaco management plans and the herding and shearing protocol. The challenge to mitigate this risk is the consensus of different stakeholders, which has been a long process and at times has been resisted by the scientific committee and some civil society stakeholders. However, the project's technical team has had the ability to bring socialized and agreed-upon processes, which are still being discussed for the benefit of sustainable laws in the long term.

4.3. Project results and impacts

4.3.1. Progress towards objective

122. The Government of Argentina has made significant efforts to address ABS and generate value to its genetic resources. Considering that the proposal has long-term characteristics, the challenge had several complexities that affected the progress of the initiative. Despite this, the support of having a consistent project design and mediating alliances with key stakeholders (e.g., INTA, VUB) made it possible to generate results, which, although asymmetric, have the expected impact on the overall product and leave on the institutional agenda the need to continue working on the ABS issue.

123. Architecture evaluated: The main objective of the project is "To contribute to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol by strengthening the ABS framework and facilitating access to genetic resources of guanacos for the development of an anti-diarrheal treatment", based on three impact indicators that consider: I.O.1) the regulation of the Nagoya Protocol (Law 27.246; I.O.2) Number of regulations approved; and I.O.3) Number of successful cases of benefits derived through inter-institutional agreements. In summary, performance is positive for the first two and the third is on the way to being achieved, as detailed in the following section:

Table 9. Progress towards objective

Indicator	Baseline	Goal at the end of the project	TE findings
Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by the Chamber of Deputies Argentina.	Approval of the Nagoya Protocol through Law 27,246.	Regulation of Law 27.246	<p>Achieved:</p> <p>The substantial reason for the objective has been achieved (ratification of Nagoya). Although it was a process prior to the intervention of the project, (law 27.246 of Nov/2015 and March/2017), this fact has allowed orienting actions in the generation of capacities, institutionalism and the promotion of norms that regulate the macro law described. The case of Ministerial Resolution N°. 410/19 is cited, which establishes the minimum guidelines for granting access authorization and the administrative procedures for users to process the Certificate of Compliance.</p> <p>The publication of National Resolution No. 410/19 stimulated the interest of the private sector and the provincial jurisdictions began to receive a greater number of consultations on the use of genetic resources, a positive situation that becomes a challenge and solvency proposals.</p> <p>All these aspects leave ABS and management on the political and institutional agenda.</p> <p>Programmatically, there are actions that continue to be developed and strengthen the evaluator's comment:</p> <p>In the next steps, capacity building continues, through agreements with a National University for the development of an asynchronous ABS course and the development of the PILC Manual on "Traditional Knowledge under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol", which are nourished by the capacities generated.</p>
Number of new administrative rules of ABS at the national and provincial levels	Zero (1)	Update of Resolution 226/10	<p>Achieved:</p> <p>The quantitative part of the goal has been achieved (normative > 0), in accordance with National Resolution No. 410/19.</p> <p>At the provincial level, there is Provincial Resolution No. 259 on ABS published on December 16, 2020 in the Province of Santa Fe, as well as the approval of ABS regulations in Tucumán, a province that currently has a Protocol for requesting access to biological resources and four ABS contracts under execution. Although these regulatory bodies were not defined in the project design, it demonstrates the adaptive management of the project, the articulation with</p>

Indicator	Baseline	Goal at the end of the project	TE findings
			<p>other stakeholders and the probability of replication of the issue.</p> <p>As for the development of the regulations in the province of Chubut, after a broad consensus phase, it is expected to be revised and approved in 2022, outside the scope of the evaluation.</p> <p>In the programmatic analysis of the evaluation, the continuity of actions proposed in the National Law on Traditional Knowledge; the Guidelines for the development of codes of conduct; and Community Protocols, which are underway, is evident.</p> <p>Set of elements that support the evaluator's criteria, which will be achieved at the close of the project.</p>
Monetary and non-monetary benefits received by the national and provincial governments, the private sector, and local communities derived from commercialization of guanaco genetic resources.	There is no current distribution of monetary and non-monetary benefits for the use of guanaco genetic resources in Argentina.	Effective distribution of monetary and non-monetary benefits derived from the utilization of the guanaco genetic resource.	<p>On track to be achieved:</p> <p>In quantitative and qualitative terms, the indicator <i>per se</i> has not been achieved (monetary and non-monetary benefits); however, it cannot be qualified as a negative progress. The qualification responds to the complex conditions of the indicator, based on the increase of populations and scientific development with clinical and therapeutic tests of antibodies, long-term conditions, which the project has positively supported in order to obtain the results of the R&D field, conditions that exceed the project's timeframe.</p> <p>As of the date of evaluation, there are two (2) agreements between the National Institute of</p>

Indicator	Baseline	Goal at the end of the project	TE findings
			<p>Agricultural Technology and the Province of Chubut and the pilot project is in the research and development stage.</p> <p>The agreements generated include the scientific development in the evaluation of guanacos as a source of gene libraries for biotechnological applications, as well as definitions on the prohibition of transferring genetic material and information to third parties, the obligation to notify the provider of the potential or actual commercial use of genetic resources.</p> <p>At the programmatic level, activities continue, including: scientific dissemination strategies, exchange of experiences and communication of academic results; continuation in the testing and characterization of nano antibodies (VP6 and VP8), laboratory tests of rotavirus neutralization, cost-benefit and possible therapeutic uses.</p> <p>Set of elements that make up the evaluator's comment.</p>

4.3.2. Progress towards expected outcomes

124. The intervention strategy of the project in performance is summarized in the definition of a strategic objective supported by three key results (I.R.) with their respective indicators (total nine I.R.), The achievement of the result indicators (I.R.) are related to: I.R. 1. development of proposals for regulatory reforms related to ABS at the national level so they will have an impact throughout Argentina; specific training actions of national scope, laying the groundwork for the improvement of ABS frameworks in all provinces; I.R.2. actions on the regulation, management, conservation and sustainable use of the focal species in the province of Chubut, as an example to be extrapolated to other provinces (ABS mechanism), as a successful model; and I.R.3 the development of an anti-diarrheal product and preclinical tests (subject to the viability of guanaco VHHs and their structural and biochemical particularities) for therapeutic purposes.

125. From the strategy described above, asymmetric progress between and among results was evidenced during the evaluation, details of which are described in this section.

Outcome 1: Strengthening the national ABS framework and building capacity to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Indicator	Baseline	Goal at the end of the project	TE findings
National and provincial regulations related to ABS	<p>National:</p> <p>a. One (1) Law 27.246</p> <p>Provincial:</p> <p>b. Zero (0) The province of Chubut lacks ABS regulations.</p>	One (1) ABS Regulation and its administrative process in the Province of Chubut	<p>On track to be achieved before project closure:</p> <p>In the analysis carried out, the regulatory basis for the nation is available through the ratification of Law 27.246, complemented by National Resolution 410/19, elements that provide minimum guidelines on access authorizations, containing prior informed consent and mutual terms and certificates of compliance, currently more than ten (10) issued, which are in the process of being published on the ABSCH platform.</p> <p>Important support advances were also generated, such as resolutions 387/2018, 375/2018 and 448/2020, which set the basis for the implementation of Nagoya, declare of interest the execution of the Project and a regional training day.</p> <p>On the other hand, there are relevant provincial efforts, and in the specific case of Chubut there is a long and consensual process to promote ABS in the territory; however, as of the date of the TE they have not yet been officially enacted.</p> <p>This background information supports the evaluation criteria issued.</p>
Capacity of MArDS and the environmental authority of Chubut Province on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing measured with UNDP's ABS Capacity Development Scorecard.	<p>a) Ability to commit: 77.77%.</p> <p>b) Abilities to generate, access and use information and knowledge: 40%.</p> <p>c) Capacities for the development of strategies, policies and legislation: 42.85%.</p> <p>d) Capacities for management and implementation: 33.33%.</p> <p>e) Monitoring and evaluation capabilities: 33.33%.</p> <p>Total: 46.51%*.</p>	<p>a) Ability to commit: +35%.</p> <p>b) Abilities to generate, access and use information and knowledge: +35%.</p> <p>c) Strategy, policy and legislation development capabilities: +35%.</p> <p>d) Capabilities for the management and implementation: +35%.</p> <p>e) Capabilities for monitoring and evaluation: +35%.</p>	<p>Achieved:</p> <p>The quantitative analysis of the ABS tools demonstrates a consistency in the progress made in the management of the issue. While adapting, updating and improving the Scorecard criteria, the work performed demonstrates progress consistent with that reviewed in the assessment.</p> <p>As of the evaluation date, the following ratings are available for the ABS matrices:</p> <p>MD&SD (2021): Total score 72% •</p> <p>MD&SD (2021): Total score 72</p> <p>• Environmental authority of the</p>

Indicator	Baseline	Goal at the end of the project	TE findings
	(*) Scorecard applied to Ex-MAyDS.	Total: X+35%.	province of Chubut (2021): Total score 53%. Set of elements that support the criterion and qualification issued.
Percentage of population of researchers, local communities, indigenous peoples, and relevant industry targeted by the campaign is aware of the national law and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Nagoya Protocol provisions related to ABS and traditional knowledge.	0%	60%	Achieved: Given the country's circumstances, the complexity of the subject had a considerable learning curve. The project strategy focused on capacity building and knowledge management. In this sense, in the opinion of all the stakeholders interviewed, it was a risky bet in terms of time, but successful in placing on the public and private agenda the need to deal with access to genetic resources and benefit sharing (Nagoya-ABS), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As of the date of the evaluation, 876 people had been trained and 526 were women. It is important to mention the direct communication between stakeholders, both from the order of provincial enforcement authorities, as well as between experiences developed in the territory, support the comment of the evaluator

Outcome 2: Contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources derived from the guanaco population.

Indicator	Baseline	Goal at the end of the project	TE findings
Change in the number of infringements related to illegal hunting in productive landscapes of the province of Chubut.	25 infractions / 81 Guanacos	20% to 25% reduction	<p>Achieved:</p> <p>The number of infractions according to documentary information has been reduced; it is inferred that this is the result of various actions that have been carried out in the province, the active participation in the update of the Guanaco Management Plan 2019 and the complement with national standards.</p> <p>As of the evaluation date, the documentary information in the Province of Chubut on the registration of infractions is as follows: Year 2016: of 44 violations observed by DFyFS, 25 involved guanacos. Year 2017: out of 42, only 17 violations involved guanacos. Year 2018: out of 41 only 11 guanacos involved. Year 2019: out of 18 violations only 13 involved guanacos.</p>
Number of guanacos in the province of Chubut.	The baseline to be completed during the first year of project: 200,000 (approximate population based on theoretical inferences).	Number of guanacos equal to or greater than baseline	<p>Risk of not being achieved until the project closes</p> <p>Due to the complexity of the indicator, which would include an <i>in-situ</i> population census and estimates of relative population abundances, the indicator <i>per se</i> is complex to implement over the life of the project, coupled with the Covid pandemic and mobility constraints.</p> <p>In this sense, the theoretical assumption is that the population has not changed and alternative tools for the conservation of the focal species have been worked on, as is the national effort to promote the National Guanaco Management Plan approved by Resolution No. 243/2019 and the binding obligations established therein.</p> <p>There is also a first draft of the guanaco health protocol that considers</p>

Indicator	Baseline	Goal at the end of the project	TE findings
			populations, sustainable use and genetic resources. With these elements and through the application of SMART, the indicator does not meet the measurement and scope criteria, so it would not have the possibility of being achieved, except for theoretical assumptions.
Capacity of local communities who reside in the production landscapes of the Chubut province to mainstream principles for the conservation and sustainable use of guanacos into production practices as measured by the UNDP's capacity development scorecard.	a) Ability to commit: 55.55%. b) Ability to generate, access and use information and knowledge: 46.6%. c) Capabilities for the strategy development, policies and legislation: 57,14% d) Capabilities for the management and implementation: 30%. e) Ability for monitoring and evaluation: 33.3% Total: 48%.	a) Ability to commit: 75%. b) Abilities to generate, access and use information and knowledge: 70%. c) Capacities for strategy, policy and legislation development: 75%. d) Capacities for management and implementation: 60%. e) Monitoring and evaluation capabilities: 60%. Total: 70%.	Achieved: Overall, the post 2018 (post PIR 1) approach to providing and assessing progress through ABS Scorecard tools is a relevant and highly positive aspect of biodiversity management. Although the overall target set was 70% this has not been achieved at the close of the TE. However, the adoption of the scorecard and its application in three reports (2014, 2017 and 2021) by the province and even reconstructing the initial baseline from 48% to 41% (real) shows the interest and progress in the territory (12 percentage points of work). The versatility and flexibility of the tool could be a key element for monitoring the adaptive capacity of the thematic and scalability in other provinces. As of the date of the evaluation, the value of the SCORECARD ABS reaches a value of 53%, leaving the challenge of increasing progress and, above all, of not having any setbacks in the management achieved.

Outcome 3: Pilot project uses genetic resources from guanacos to develop an anti-diarrheal product and demonstrates Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), including fair and equitable sharing of benefits.


Indicator	Baseline	Goal at the end of the project	TE findings
Number of ABS agreements negotiated between INTA and the Province of Chubut.	a-Zero (0). b-Zero % (0). (6500 rural dwellers, 70% male, 30% female).	a- One (1) ABS Agreement between the Province of Chubut and INTA. b- 80%.	Achieved To date there are two (2) agreements between the National Institute of Agricultural Technology and the Province of Chubut that result in non-monetary benefits for the parties involved, such as the use of a prominent species (guanaco), technology transfer, development of skills for the use of equipment and specialized technology, access to scientific information and exchange of academic information.
Number of products derived from guanaco genetic resources	Zero (0). No development current in VHHs of guanaco	Increase in the number of publications	On track to be achieved: The indicator <i>per se</i> has not been completed and responds to a long-term proposal, which includes research, testing, clinical phases and therapeutic treatment. However, positive progress has been made and there are elements such as: a) A library of virgin VHH genes, which highlights the genetic variability of guanacos and would allow multiple downstream applications. b) A specific genetic library for Rotavirus, whose VHH would allow the development of a product against infantile diarrhea. c) A VHH nanoantibody that recognizes a rotavirus protein, which, although not neutralizing, is suitable for the development of a diagnostic method for rotavirus, has been identified and characterized. The indicator applied the SMART criteria has a weakness in the time element, hence the criterion issued.


Number of technology transfer agreements signed between INTA and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) within the framework of research on guanaco genetic resources	Zero (0)	One (1): Transfer of technology (hardware, software and know-how) from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) to INTA.	<p>Achieved:</p> <p>During the evaluation, documentary information was reviewed for the implementation of the agreement between INTA - VUB within the framework of the research on guanaco VHH and its progress. There is also a proposal for Material Transfer Agreements (MTA). These elements, complemented with the institutional strength of the stakeholders involved, have allowed cross-learning between the research teams led by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).</p> <p>Set of elements that need to be specified and monitored in the extension of the project to support the criteria issued by the evaluator.</p>
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4.3.3. Relevance

RATING

Relevance / (Satisfactory - "S")



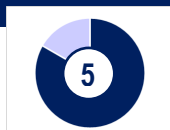


126. The project was evaluated as **Relevant** by all interviewees and is consistent with the Evaluator's comment based on the documentary information accessed. The reasons for this rating are described throughout the evaluation report, and are generally based on:

- Alignment with global ABS regulations and national scaling; assimilation of binding instruments (Scorecard, Clearing house, compliance certificates).
- The appropriation of the issue at the national and provincial levels, considering the topic as part of the work agenda.
- The enforcement of Law 27246 and Resolution 410, which provide the guidelines for actions and the continuity of the work started.
- Sustained processes of training, institutionalization and feedback (top down, bottom up).
- Massification of the demand for ABS and the need for response.
- Development of regulatory processes for the conservation and traceability of focal species.
- Development and research on genetic resources, with prominent potential uses that are considered a practical example of ABS issues.
- The interviewees (anonymity and confidentiality) mentioned that without the presence of the project, ABS would not have been consolidated in the country. It highlights the strength of the technical team that has placed on the radar of providers, benefits and institutions to work on genetic resources, regulations and benefit sharing.

4.3.4. Effectiveness and efficiency

RATING



Effectiveness / (Satisfactory - "S")



The effectiveness of the project has a rating of **Satisfactory**, which is justified by:

127. The project is aligned with UNDP's Strategic Plan and the outcomes and outputs contribute to the SDGs.

128. Regarding the degree of consistency of the planned results with the results achieved, reference is made to the three impact indicators of the project. Indicator 1: Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by the Argentine Chamber of Deputies; and Indicator 2: Number of new ABS administrative rules at the national and provincial levels; have been successfully achieved. However, Indicator 3: Monetary and non-monetary benefits received by national and provincial governments, the private sector and local communities derived from the commercialization of guanaco genetic resources, has not yet been achieved, but according to the PIR 2021 report, it is on track to be achieved, so that by the close of the project it is expected that all three impact indicators will have been achieved.

129. The project's design structure was well conceived from the outset; it has very relevant baseline information, an implementation strategy, work plan, and M&E plan. On the other hand, it is evident that the time allocated to the achievement of the indicators was underestimated, meaning lower achievements for the project. The three results proposed in the project and their indicators would lead to the successful achievement of the objective, the development of efficient management capacities providing an enabling environment for the sustainable use of genetic resources. However, the time to achieve the proposed outputs exceeded the planned duration of the project, especially the indicators linked to the number of guanacos and the final stage development of an anti-diarrheal product with the use of nano antibodies. Most of the interviewees agree that the project was ambitious from its design and underestimated the execution time. This can be evidenced by the three extensions granted to the project. But it is worth mentioning the great progress in most of the proposed indicators.

RATING

Efficiency / (Moderately Satisfactory - "MS")



Overall efficiency is Moderately Satisfactory.

The use of financial, institutional and technical resources should enable project execution, highlighting the ability to use corporate (Satisfactory), financial (Moderately Satisfactory) and M&E (Moderately Satisfactory) tools, in general giving a very positive reference to project management and stakeholders. Three elements limit the criterion of very satisfactory in this section and they are: the failure to formalize the use of corporate tools in the early years, which was corrected in a timely manner mid-term (minor limitation), operationalizing the committees defined in PRODOC (advisory committees) (minor limitation) and maintaining three extensions of the project, totaling 30 months in addition to the 36 originally planned (substantial limitation); these aspects, while limiting the criterion, do not offset the positive impacts identified by the evaluator in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and day-to-day work.

131. The allocation of financial resources and mainly their timely use was a limiting factor for the project. Although this had an impact on the low budget execution combined with the devaluation of the Argentinean currency (an external factor beyond the control of the project executing unit), for external stakeholders such as the evaluator, the translation of this into time extensions limits the issuance of a very satisfactory rating.

132. In terms of efficiency, the project has achieved close to 100% of the overall objective. Outcome 3 has presented a higher economic performance, in terms of equipment acquisition and knowledge exchange. On the other hand, Outcome 1, despite having a lower expenditure, had a greater impact and achieved its goals.

4.3.5. Overall result

133. The overall project rating is Moderately Satisfactory, which is justified by the significant progress in the development of objectives (Satisfactory), and implementation progress (Moderately Satisfactory). This last section includes the technical (satisfactory), financial (moderately unsatisfactory) and time (unsatisfactory) elements.

4.3.6. Sustainability

RATING	Environmental sustainability / (Moderately Likely - "ML")	
	<p>134. The project design proposed environmental sustainability based on the strengthening of the Provincial Guanaco Management Plan, which will allow for improved monitoring and surveillance mechanisms to reduce illegal hunting and other threats (habitat degradation, overload of sheep, among others), the development of protocols for the implementation of animal management tools for shearing and the improvement of the health situation of the species in the province of Chubut.</p> <p>135. In this regard, there were no local regulations in force at the time of the evaluation; however, the project adapted its management to the reality and context of the national territory. Two important processes related to this issue were generated. There is a national regulation on Sustainable Management of Guanaco issued in July 2019, Resolution No. 243/2019, a process in which the project contributed. This regulation has had certain questioning from the academic sector and sectors of civil society, so with the support of different stakeholders (including the project) a new proposal is being worked on that seeks to gather consensus, minimum assumptions, which will prosper in an operative, realistic and useful normative body. It is important to mention that the province of Chubut reported to join this national normative body and not to work in the local context, which may have the opportunity if the experience of the province is included and replicated to other territories.</p> <p>136. In addition, the project was to promote the sustainable management of guanaco and the development of ABS at the provincial level, taking into account criteria such as load criteria, increased guanaco abundance, fiber utilization, good practices, herding, shearing, management and use of genetic resources, elements aimed at reducing poaching and maintaining and increasing existing populations. In this regard, during the evaluation, the work developed in the "Health and epidemiological surveillance protocol to be applied to guanacos" (proposal), which includes sustainable use, populations and adequate thresholds for the rational use of the species, was evidenced. In addition, there is evidence of progress in scientific research on the species' genetic resources (antibodies), which are in progress and in the medium term will yield results that reflect benefits.</p>	

RATING

Socio-political sustainability / (Moderately Likely - "ML")

3



137. The project proposal proposed social sustainability through training processes in the Guanaco Management Plans, the ABS regime regarding the rights they have over their knowledge associated with genetic resources and the benefits (monetary and non-monetary) generated by the use of these resources. In addition, the generation of spaces for the exchange of knowledge through workshops and seminars that include the dissemination of scientific knowledge (INTA). In the evaluation and mainly in the interviews conducted, there is evidence of a solid training process, mainly related to the regulatory framework, which in turn leads to provincial development. One of the relevant aspects is the structural and systemic management of capacity building and knowledge exchange that the project has left in place.

138. On political sustainability and the criterion issued (Moderately Likely), it was constructed on the basis of high-level political interviews (MAyDS and Chubut) contrasted with documentary information, the guiding axis being: What will happen in the short term and the possibility of continuing with the actions that the project promoted? In this sense, the stakeholders interviewed commonly recognize the increasing demand for ABS knowledge, regarding genetic resources, permits, procedures, by civil society, which implies the need to respond (role of the state) to these requirements. Although the economic conditions for sustaining units that manage the issue are complex (currently), the institutional framework, the structure of MAyDS/provinces, has a good probability of being continued, being relevant to mention the commitment demonstrated by the National Project Directorate and its peers in the provincial sub-secretariats, which provided information for the TF.

RATING

Institutional framework and governance / (Likely - "L")

4



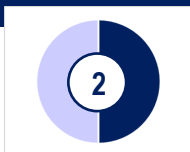
139. Institutional sustainability is related to the work of the social Outcome and the improvement of the capacity of organizations related to access to genetic resources and fair and equitable distribution of benefits, translated into the development and updating of legal tools, aligned with the Nagoya Protocol ratified by Argentina. Asymmetric progress is evidenced in this, consistent with the autonomy and political decision of each province in the country, thus Santa Fe and Tucumán stand out with the normative progress, and Chubut, although it is on the way, being the point of intervention, still does not have formal instruments.

140. On the other hand, in terms of organization, the sustainability of the project will be ensured by strengthening and developing the capacities of the national authority MAyDS, which in the evaluation has a good evolution profile due to the strong national ownership and the increasing demand for knowledge on the subject. In addition, the nation has the System for Administration, Control and Verification of Biodiversity and its Outcomes (SACVeBio), whose ultimate purpose is to record the traceability of the products that make up the Biodiversity area.

141. It is important to mention that the country is part of several bodies linked to the protocol, such as the International Advisory Committee, the knowledge platform for issuing compliance certificates, and mechanisms attached to the Clearing House ABS, elements that will continue after the life of the project and a positive element but that requires the necessary technical and financial support.

RATING

Financial Sustainability / (Moderately Unlikely - "MU")



142. Financial sustainability in the project design considered the assumptions of generating additional income for biodiversity conservation from the development of products with market value generated based on the use of the genetic resource. This Outcome is seen as less likely in the short term. Together with the country's economic situation to sustain the topic, in the evaluator's opinion, this is the outcome that requires the most attention and although there are possibilities of national assumption, it is necessary to reduce the gap between what the cooperation generates and what the nation invests to sustain the ABS, certification, traceability and institutional framework.

4.3.7. Country ownership

143. The Argentine territory is considered one of the countries with the greatest biodiversity in the world, since it has 18 natural regions that are home to more than 120 usable biological species, which is why the conservation of biodiversity is essential for the development of the territory and to promote the sustainable use of its genetic resources.

144. At the institutional level, ownership is evident, and the MAYDS has a series of programs and strategies (key instruments to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity), of national, provincial and local scope, articulating actions with the academic and technological sector, such as the National Program for the Management and Sustainable Use of Wildlife Species and the National Program for the Conservation of Threatened Species. At the provincial level and specifically in the province of Chubut, the project has an impact on the relevant focal species of Argentine Patagonia, such as the guanaco. During project implementation, several instruments of national scope have been strengthened, such as the National Guanaco Management Plan, which includes the following axes: a) capacity building for the conservation, management and sustainable use of guanacos; b) support and strengthen provincial management plans; and c) promote management through education, communication and training. The project also contributed to strengthening the province's Provincial Guanaco Management Plan.

4.3.8. Cross-cutting issues, gender equity and women's empowerment

145. The project corresponds to the fifth GEF replenishment, so the gender approach was not formally included in its design (objectives, strategic results framework, stakeholder participation plan, justification, theory of change, etc.). However, the thematic, due to the configuration of actions proposed and the country conditions and roles/institutions involved, has been quite well achieved, being necessary to include the monitoring of the work in the defined tools (PIR, final report, exit strategy).

146. It is interesting to note the configuration of the personnel hired, most of whom are women; this is especially evident during the interviews, in which the women indicated their solvency and knowledge of the project, duly aligned with the role they play. Likewise, the perception of such participation by the key stakeholders of the project can be qualified as efficient and successful, therefore, it can be concluded that the participation of women has been carried out in a fair manner, allowing them to take relevant positions and decisions.

147. Elements and products have been generated that support the affirmation of -effective application of the gender approach-, as is the case of: a) training participants (60% women); b) project executing unit (100% women); c) authorities with decision-making power in the nation and Chubut (100% women); d) INTA support team (75% women). Also, gender considerations are evidenced in the "Guide for the use of non-sexist language", the course "Empowerment of women as a key to increase their participation in decision-making spaces".

148. However, the limitations that the project presents in this area are a debt that needs to be solved in the future, and an effort should be made to integrate explicitly with differentiated indicators within the Nagoya Protocol projects, since in practice there may be a limited view of what gender equality and women's empowerment mean. Although the equitable participation of women is important, there are other necessary elements to consider in order to enhance the possibilities and resources of the project, such as having a strategic view that allows the empowerment of the environmental project in an intergenerational way in the women of the province of Chubut, such as contributing in the decision making on the economic distribution within the province by giving them specific commissions or specific rotating tasks that involve them in the negotiations and in a sustainable way in terms of the agreements of the Protocol.

Recommendations.

- Mainstreaming the gender approach

149. For future projects, it is suggested that external consultants and/or specialists in gender and intergenerational issues be involved so that they can integrate the approach from the outset, which will make it possible to enhance and complement the objectives so that the overall vision of the project can have a positive impact on women, men, girls, boys and diversities. It is important to include monitoring in the management and budgeting tools.

- Methodologies

150. It is proposed to use popular education methodologies duly structured and facilitated with an intergenerational gender approach. This will facilitate dialogue between the existing knowledge and wisdom of both the project and the local inhabitants. The feedback that is produced will also nourish the project with the experiences that may exist on the subject. It is proposed to work from popular education because this method recognizes people as agents with a history and knowledge, not as beings emptied of knowledge. It is precisely this dialogue of knowledge that empowers both sides of the knowledge and allows greater involvement of the individuals and provides greater guarantees for its sustainability.

- Communication

151. There are relevant elements and products generated during project management, such as the asynchronous course "Empowerment of women as a key to increasing their participation in decision-making spaces" and the "Guide to neutral language", and effective communication should be sought in terms of disseminating the results, as well as the mechanisms for application in the medium term, for which a successful communication may enable the project to become a benchmark in the subject, since in the evaluator's opinion they are innovative and in high demand in the region.

4.3.9. GEF Additionality

152. The scenario without the presence of the project ("business as usual") is characterized by zero knowledge of ABS regulations, implementation and benefits. In this sense, in the opinion of most of the

interviewees, the presence of the project is transcendental to place ABS considerations on the political and technical agenda. It can be seen that the project had an impact on critical adoption factors such as: a) support for regulatory development related to national and provincial ABS through capacity building, which translates into the possibility that public institutions act with adequate and effective procedures for the management of permits, licenses, certificates of compliance and ABS contracts; b) this in the discussion the presence and updating of management plans for guanaco populations that incorporate conservation and sustainable use; c) insertion of criteria for incentives (monetary and non-monetary benefits) for territories, providers, society derived from the use of genetic products; and d) guidelines for ABS procedures and scientific development to interact and in time for the development of genetic products and their derivatives to prosper in the context of benefit sharing and biodiversity conservation. In addition, the proposal included a "learning-by-doing" vision during its implementation (Outcome three). During the TE, based on the information collected, there is evidence of a change from business as usual (2015) to learning by doing (2021), a path underway, with positive impacts and likely to continue in the short and medium term, which translates into an effective additionality and an opportunity generated in terms of placing genetic resource management and benefit sharing on the scientific, civil and political agenda.

4.3.10. Catalytic role/ Replication effect

153. The results of the project have a high possibility of scalability and replication in the different provinces. Although the pilot intervention is located in the Province of Chubut, progress has been made at a macro level that constitutes the basis for the legal regulation and strengthening promoted by the nation and that, through articulation processes, highlights the progress made in the provinces of Santa Fe, Tucumán, Córdoba, Chubut itself, in addition to the provinces that already had progress in the regulations on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, such as Jujuy, Misiones, La Rioja, San Luis, La Pampa, Neuquén, Río Negro and Tierra del Fuego. It is important to mention the work and communication networks that the nation has promoted with the support of the UEP.

154. Consequently, there remains the task of harmonizing efforts, continuing with the processes established in ABS and especially the information management mechanisms (platforms, traceability, certifications).

155. At the international level, the articulation and replication are evident and common, mainly in soft actions (knowledge exchange), discussing the challenges and opportunities on ABS. As a result, the publications (two books) and the GEF bulletin that compiles this global context of the initiative are mentioned.

156. This set of elements constitutes fundamental lessons learned in the structuring of new initiatives.

157. Finally, the replication criteria could have a control and measurement mechanism in the nation/provinces through the Scorecard ABS tool, which was run three times by the stakeholders, which shows the versatility and adaptability of the tool. Its use would standardize the monitoring processes on genetic resources and benefit sharing, of course in coordination and complement with the national tool such as SACVeBio, the challenge is described and it is up to the national authorities to apply it effectively after the closing of the project.

4.3.11. Progress to impact

The comment for the Impact of the project is High.

158. The impact is the consequence of the interaction of the threats identified in the project with the conditions of the territory and the issue addressed by ABS. In this sense, the pillar of support for the theme is the "learning-by-doing" principle, for which the results mainly of Outcome 1 on capacity building and policy development are positive and highly valued by the stakeholders interviewed, who describe that Nagoya ABS has promoted elements of understanding, advice, reference and communication that has left in the technical, academic and institutional arena the need to increase knowledge and management on ABS. In the evaluator's opinion, a cross-learning process was generated, whose strength lies in the empowerment of stakeholders and the increasing demand from civil society sectors on the subject.

159. Regarding the "learning-by-doing" characteristic, the development of Outcomes 2 and 3, which are the application of conservation criteria and scientific research to exemplify ABS, has made reasonable progress in terms of time and availability of resources. The sum of these efforts is consistent and requires institutional leverage to last in the medium term.

At the quantitative level, the analysis of the impact indicators that make up the project's objective has the following qualification criteria: a) Ratification and regulation of the Nagoya Protocol (achieved); b) Number of standards approved (achieved), considering Santa Fe and the overall progress of the provinces and; c) Number of successful cases of benefits derived through inter-institutional agreements (on the way to being achieved), an indicator that requires a monitoring proposal due to its research, dissemination and traceability characteristics.

5. MAIN FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

5.1. Main findings

	Project design
	<p>161. The project addressed an innovative topic and its design has a clear, sequential and logical architecture between indicators, results and the central objective of the initiative. The project is in line with the global objectives of ABS and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Republic of Argentina (Law 27.246).</p> <p>162. In the application, two indicators have been identified (I.R 2.2 and I.R 3.2) linked to the population increase of guanacos and therapeutic products derived from antibodies respectively, which exceed the scope of the project, mainly in terms of time. The application of SMART criteria to the project indicators is adequate, with the exception of the indicated indicators, which lack robustness in measurement and temporality.</p> <p>It also promoted institutional strengthening so that the provinces improve their regulatory systems by integrating access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, which is a comprehensive proposal that includes learning by doing. Therefore, the intervention strategy is complemented with bio-knowledge applied to the sustainable use and management of a focal species (guanaco), plus scientific research on genetic resources.</p> <p>164. In this sense, the comment on the design is Satisfactory since the processes proposed promote consequence, consistency and clarity, thought in the control point to quantify change (theory of change) in the Scorecard instruments, which are adaptable to the provincial and national context.</p>

Project implementation

165. In terms of implementation, appropriate intervention strategies have been managed, considering the novelty of the issue, the national context and monetary uncertainty. The corporate strategies and tools implemented were sound and aligned with the individual goals and objectives of each Outcome, included cross-cutting issues (gender communications), and were supervised in the governance mechanisms of the Steering Committee and the Project Management (MAyDS).

166. In terms of effectiveness and efficiency, which is the achievement of objectives and the use of resources, there is evidence of adequate progress in terms of goals, activities and products (Satisfactory Effectiveness) and although there are limitations that the project has not been able to overcome, mainly financial and execution time (Moderately Satisfactory Efficiency). Adaptive management has led to transcendental decisions to put ABS on the agenda of people and institutions.

It should be mentioned that the financial implementation of the project has been affected by situations beyond UEP's control. The exchange rate situation, political rotation and the country's COVID-19 pandemic, have compromised the timing and use of financial resources consequently to certain activities. As a result, the project is in its third formal extension without project cost (66 months of execution).

Follow-up and Monitoring

168. Corporate project management tools: These were defined in the design and established in the Prodoc (inception workshop, MTR, PIR, TE). However, implementation was not programmatic. The case of PIRs and MTR is cited which, although defined in the Prodoc, are optional for medium-sized projects, for which a timely (2019) strategic and cost-benefit analysis could have generated benefits in project management.

169. Technical tools: The use of the ABS Scorecard was defined for measuring progress on ABS issues, as it is a globally standardized instrument. The adoption from the baseline (2015 - 48%) is a positive element. However, for the province of Chubut it had to be updated (2017 - 41%) resulting in realistic values and adjusted to the provincial situation, subsequently the evaluation of progress to the year 2021 was carried out reaching a score of 53% which, although it does not reach the goal of 70%, due to the characteristics of the subject and its impact-achievement form (medium term), it has a consistent path towards progress.

170. General: The project has used and strengthened the criteria of adaptive, timely and adequate management, however, it cannot be a constant practice, maintaining a third extension equivalent to an additional 80% of time over the originally planned, affects the project monitoring criteria.

171. MAyDS Governance: Three levels of governance were defined in Prodoc, although the Steering Committee was active and played a strategic role during project implementation, there is a need to generate mechanisms for formality and follow-up of agreements and recommendations, as a good practice in future interventions.

172. Follow-up by key stakeholders: the Government (MAyDS) has had significant ownership of the project and of the topic in general. The project has adequately tuned the top-down process that requires the application of global regulations to provincial contexts, and capacity building is a valid instrument for the project's purpose.

173. Implementing agency follow-up: There is evidence of a strategic, advisory and adaptive role that the agency has provided to the project. This role is aligned with national needs and the vision of the institutions on the subject. There have been situations of country context (e.g., monetary uncertainty) that have affected the project, to which the agency has had to promote adaptive actions for the benefit of project implementation, as in the case of spot-check, support for the purchase of specialized equipment, PIRs from 2019, among others.

Outcomes

174. The three Outcomes of the project have a different progress and according to the context of the activities that could have been implemented in the life of the project; except for indicator I.R.2.2.2 of Outcome two is not likely to be achieved, the rest (8 result indicators and 3 impact indicators) are on track to be achieved and achieved in certain cases. The overall analysis of the Outcomes is detailed in section 3.2.2 and the summary below;

Outcome 1 "Strengthening the national ABS framework and building capacity to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol", shows a relevant progress and with a great national ownership. Thus, Law 27.246 on the Nagoya Protocol was ratified and several mechanisms for implementation at the national and provincial levels and progress in the measurement of the Scorecard linked to ABS are being developed. In addition, capacity building processes as a key axis of the Outcome are relevant and include the gender approach in decision making and women's participation.

176. Outcome 2 "Contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources derived from the guanaco population", the reduction of infractions in the province of Chubut has reported progress. The guanaco population increase indicator was not directly addressed; however, a series of instruments have been developed that would support in the future (outside the time of the terminal evaluation) the conservation, sustainable use and population increase of the focal species. There are also documented efforts on the use of the Scorecard at the provincial level.

177. Outcome 3 "Pilot project uses genetic resources from guanacos to develop an anti-diarrheal product and demonstrates Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), including fair and equitable sharing of benefits". The project has made progress in generating agreements on ABS that promoted the creation of the gene library, the strengthening of scientific knowledge on genetic resources has been documented and, due to its scientific characteristics, it is still in the process of evaluation for therapeutic use.

Relevance of the project

178. The project is relevant for the Republic of Argentina; it has placed the need to address ABS in biodiversity conservation processes on the political and institutional agenda. The project's intervention strategy reflects national priorities for implementing the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and there is evidence of a high level of participation in regional initiatives and progress in the provinces of Tucumán, Córdoba, Chubut and mainly Santa Fe, with advances in contracts, certifications and regulatory instruments for the implementation of ABS, resulting in social, environmental and institutional benefits for the nation.

179. Contrast finding vs. interviews: Most of the stakeholders interviewed and under the criteria of anonymity and confidentiality, indicated that "without the presence of the project, the country would not have the

development it has achieved in ABS", which determines the evaluator's rating.

5.2. Conclusions

180. The project is relevant for the Argentine Republic and reflects national priorities for implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources. In addition, it presents socio-environmental benefits and a clear opportunity for replication and scaling up. Similarly, there is a high level of participation in regional initiatives such as the provinces of Tucumán and Santa Fe, which have made substantial progress in the implementation of ABS.

181. Key stakeholders, mainly from the national counterpart (MAyDS) and PMU should work on an "exit strategy and actions after project closure in May 2022". The actions defined and committed to in the PIR 2021 (Coordinator's comments section) should be considered as the basis for the strategy. This set of actions is strategic to consolidate what the project has achieved. This closure strategy should be planned with a 2-year work timeframe, which is shorter than the scope of the terminal evaluations, but correlates with the horizon of the approval of laws mentioned in the TE, the new proposals for GEF replenishments, meetings of the CBD convention and various mechanisms that can give continuity to the Nagoya initiative.

182. Exit strategy: a section for communication and dissemination of the project's results and progress should be consolidated and should also focus on visibility, sustainability and reference to other initiatives. The interviews conducted in the TE showed that the different stakeholders recognize the importance of the project Outcomes, however, they are not aware of the implementation process. More detail is required as replication mechanisms mainly in terms of regulations (Outcome 1) and scientific procedures (Outcome 3). One aspect that should be addressed strategically in socialization is the importance of non-monetary benefits in the access to genetic resources and value-adding elements of the guanaco, so that as research or knowledge generation processes develop, they can also evolve to the dimensioning of monetary benefits. The publication in the GEF bulletin is cited as a positive practice.

183. The national counterpart has a high degree of ownership. It must initiate a process of progress-evolution in the institutional framework, generating tools for monitoring and managing results and in fact propose new initiatives or take it on from the national level, which, although it is a challenge, the capacities are already developed and must respond to the increase in the demand for knowledge on the subject.

184. In this last period of project management, the systematization and knowledge management processes must be prioritized to maintain the institutional memory, so that it can be a reference of scalability to the provinces and can be presented as an opportunity for new initiatives.

5.3. Recommendations

#	TE Recommendations	Responsible Entity	Time frame
A	Category 1: For the design of future projects		
A.1	The project addressed innovative and complex issues, which have managed to be included in national political and regulatory agendas. Therefore, it is recommended to give continuity to the topic through processes that reduce the gap between the approach by international cooperation and	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS), PMU, INTA	Medium term

	national initiative (institutionalization), without losing opportunities for new projects that meet the needs of the country. In addition, it is suggested to promote replication and scaling up of successful processes (Santa Fe, Tucumán) at subnational levels, with the cooperation of public or private institutions that play a fundamental role in implementation and have a presence in the territory (INTA).		
A.2	The scientific results and those that derive in therapeutic products, due to their conditions, require long term periods, which inevitably exceed the scope of pilot projects. Therefore, it is recommended that for future initiatives, support at the program level should be managed, taking advantage of previous steps developed by the academic environment and that the measurement proposal should have minimum SMART application criteria. In addition, it is recommended to define control points that allow reorienting, justifying or modifying activities at appropriate times (e.g., mid-term).	UNDP	
A.3	The project execution circumstances are particular to each country; therefore, the support and experience of the implementing agencies is valuable in terms of processes, experience and similar initiatives with their lessons learned. The set of elements that provide inputs to be translated into the opportunity to apply the corporate tools according to the need, for the best performance of the projects.	UNDP	Medium term
B	Category 2: Follow-up strategy		
B.1	In the regulatory framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and ABS, there are structures and mechanisms that facilitate the exchange of information such as the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), which is a tool whose function is independent of the cycle of national projects, in addition to knowledge platforms and others that are binding to the Nagoya Protocol. Therefore, it is suggested that the National Authority join and strengthen its participation in these mechanisms in order to give continuity to the issue, in an organic manner in the global context.	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MAyDS)	Long term
C	Category 3. Exit strategy		
C.1	There are key activities and products that are being developed in the final phase of the project. Therefore, it is recommended to include and strengthen the proposal for dissemination and communication, promoting the strengthening of knowledge, institutionalization and sustainability as pillars of the recommendation.	Project executing unit	Short and medium term
D	Category 4. Final extension phase		
D.1	The Steering Committee, together with the project executing unit, must plan, approve and follow up on the exit strategy, which substantially concludes the budget execution and	CD	Medium term

	promotes the sustainability and dissemination aspects of the project.		
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185. The role of the Steering Committee (SC), Executive Committee (EC) and Project Advisory Committee (PAC), with the exception of the SC, was not consolidated, although they were described in PRODOC, roles that responded to a logic of governance and two-way support. The evaluation shows the loss of opportunities to join efforts. It is recommended the effective use and greater frequency of spaces for meetings, discussion and feedback between governance and governance bodies.

186. It is recommended that the value of the key points in the management of GEF projects be weighted: Inception workshop, PIR and terminal evaluation. It is suggested that these activities play a greater role in the management of GEF portfolio projects. In the case of the Inception workshop, if necessary, external stakeholders should be involved to support strategic planning and definition of objectives; the use of PIR to monitor progress and establish control points for project indicators based on the context and reality of the territories to promote actions to improve implementation; and terminal evaluations with recommendations that transcend to other levels. In general, the use of management responses derived from each of these processes is recommended.

187. Project extensions are exceptional actions, under this consideration, it is recommended that the stakeholders and led by UNDP, review the agreements and progress of this third extension, which will essentially allow transcending the results and positioning the work developed. There are key activities and products that are being developed in the final phase of the project, so it is recommended to include and strengthen the proposal for dissemination and communication, promoting the strengthening of knowledge, institutionalization and sustainability as pillars of the recommendation.

188. It is a good idea to have a project coordinator who combines legal and technical strength, who is included in the management of the ministry and provides advice to the provinces in the context of the project for the development of their regulations. The project during these months of extension should seek a mechanism to translate this advisory role into an institutional role. It is also necessary for the group of stakeholders to strengthen the aspects of benefits that are currently considered or oriented to monetary benefits, one of these aspects is the non-monetary benefits, access and transfer of information as value adds to the topic of resources and biodiversity conservation.

5.4. Lessons learned

Outcome 1: Strengthening the national ABS framework and building capacity to facilitate implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Lesson learned:

Federal territory with jurisdictional, political and administrative autonomy for the management of natural resources (except national parks) with different economic contexts and political rotation in provinces and nation, requires differentiated approaches, one strategic for replication and scope at the national level and another that adjusts to the local biophysical and political context (Chubut). It highlights the relevance of consolidated and constant governance mechanisms (MAYDS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, INTA, UNDP) for resilience and adaptation to the changes described.

Good practice:

Institutional (national) leadership with operational support from UNDP and support to the core group (PMU) based on communication, meetings, reports, exchange of experiences and direct platform support, has mitigated the impact of the context.

Outcome 2: Contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources derived from the guanaco population.

Lesson learned:

There is resistance from the academic and scientific sector, the private sector (livestock producers) and sectors of civil society to regulatory norms on the focal species Guanaco. In the country, since 2006 there have been regulations related to the conservation and management of the guanaco population, and in 2019 new guidelines on the species were enacted, which have been delayed due to the context described above.

Good practice:

Dialogues, consultations and consensus-building strategies *ex-post* update, for the acceptance of binding regulations. The project has developed a strong technical and legal capacity to accompany national processes such as the one described. The formation of the multidisciplinary team with these characteristics is a wise move to mitigate the described context.

Outcome 3: Pilot project uses genetic resources from guanacos to develop an anti-diarrheal product and demonstrates Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), including fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

Lesson learned:

Complexity of the scientific research processes linked to genetic resources and their use, with laboratory results, clinical and therapeutic phases, which in themselves have degrees of uncertainty developed conventionally in the medium and long term.

Good practice:

The development of synergies with public or private institutions that have experience and trajectory in the subject (institutional memory) allows guiding the processes and drawing on the strengths of the academic environment; in the project strategy, the synergy with INTA and the University of Belgium has led to maintaining the planned goals according to the context.

189. Since the ratification of the regulations related to the Nagoya Protocol and ABC, the nation and the provinces have taken an active role of great relevance in the implementation of the issue. At this point, the strategic management of the PMU has made it possible to achieve substantial results, mainly by strengthening the concept of access and benefit sharing.

190. The most important lesson learned is the availability of corporate tools in project management from the start of projects, although some of these are optional according to the size of the projects, when a cost-benefit analysis is performed and applied at the right time, it results in marginal costs versus the benefits of guidance, feedback, minor changes and consolidation of results.

191. Reaching agreements among stakeholders that generally did not consider the procedures and redistribution of benefits is a noteworthy practice. Although the work has not been easy, having the openness to discuss and reach consensus is evidence of an opportunity for improvement, together with the current high demand for knowledge of ABS regulations, for which the institutions must prepare themselves and respond with solvency.

It is considered a good practice to strengthen local stakeholders (top-down) and direct communication mechanisms (bottom-up), which include simple aspects such as working groups in networks, and facilitate communication between stakeholders who demand information on the subject. Evolving to a local platform as a first step, aligned with the global level determined by the protocol, has a good prospect of success after project closure.

6. Annexes

Annex 1. Consulting Terms of Reference

Annex 2. Management response matrix

Annex 3. GEF funding and co-financing for UNDP-supported projects

Annex 4. List of persons interviewed

Annex 5. List of documents reviewed

Annex 6. Matrix of evaluation questions

Annex 7. UNDP Code of Conduct for TE Evaluators/Consultants

Annex 1. Consulting Terms of Reference

ANEXO I

TERMINOS DE REFERENCIA

CONSULTORIA: EVALUACION FINAL “Promoviendo la aplicación del Protocolo de Nagoya sobre ABS en Argentina”

1.INTRODUCCIÓN

De acuerdo con las políticas y procedimientos de M&E del PNUD y el FMAM, todos los grandes proyectos- y aquellos medianos-de PNUD, financiados por el GEF, requieren pasar por una Evaluación Final (EF) al término del proyecto. Estos Términos de Referencia (TdR) establecen las expectativas para la EF del proyecto, implementado a través de *PNUD/Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible*. El proyecto fue aprobado por el GEF en Mayo 20, 2019, y el documento de proyecto local se firmó en noviembre 21, 2016. El proceso de EF debe seguir la orientación descrita en el documento ‘*Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*’ (<http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/UNDP-GEF-TE-Guide.pdf>).

2.OBJETO DE LA CONSULTORIA

El informe de EF evaluará los resultados del proyecto frente a lo que se esperaba lograr, y proveerá las lecciones que podrán tanto mejorar la sostenibilidad de los beneficios de este proyecto, como ayudar a mejorar la programación general del PNUD. El informe EF promueve la rendición de cuentas y la transparencia, y evalúa el alcance de los logros del proyecto.

La evaluación final se realiza en función de la finalización del plazo del Proyecto y se encuentra contemplada tanto en el Plan de Evaluación del PNUD Argentina como en los planes de evaluación del GEF.

3.ALCANCE/ ACTIVIDADES DE LA CONSULTORIA

La EF evaluará el desempeño del proyecto frente a las expectativas establecidas en el Marco lógico / Marco de resultados del proyecto (véase el Anexo A de TdR). La EF evaluará los resultados de acuerdo con los criterios establecidos en la Guía para las EF de los proyectos implementados por el PNUD y financiados por el FMAM

(<http://web.undp.org/evaluation/documents/guidance/GEF/UNDP-GEF-TE-Guide.pdf>).

La sección de Resultados del informe de EF cubrirá los temas enumerados a continuación. Un resumen completo del contenido del informe EF se proporciona en el Anexo C de los TdR.

El asterisco “(*)” indica criterios por para los que se requiere una calificación.

Hallazgos

i. Diseño/Formulación del Proyecto

- Prioridades nacionales y motivaciones del país
- Teoría del cambio
- Igualdad de género y empoderamiento de las mujeres.
- Estándares sociales y ambientales (salvaguardas)
- Análisis del marco de resultados: lógica del proyecto y estrategia, indicadores
- Supuestos y riesgos

- Lecciones de otros proyectos relevantes (por ejemplo, la misma área focal) incorporados en el diseño del proyecto
- Participación planificada de las contrapartes
- Vínculos entre el proyecto y otras intervenciones dentro del sector.
- Arreglos de gestión

ii. Implementación del Proyecto

- Gestión adaptativa (cambios en el diseño del proyecto y los resultados del proyecto durante la implementación)
- Participación real de las partes interesadas y acuerdos de cooperación
- Financiación y cofinanciación del proyecto
- Monitoreo y evaluación: diseño en la entrada (*), implementación (*) y evaluación general de M&E (*)
- Agencia implementadora (PNUD) (*) y agencia ejecutora (*), supervisión/implementación y ejecución general del proyecto (*)
- Gestión de riesgos, incluidos los estándares sociales y ambientales (salvaguardas)

iii. Resultados del Proyecto

- Evaluar el logro de los resultados con respecto a los indicadores informando sobre el nivel de progreso para cada objetivo e indicador de resultados al momento de la EF y anotar los logros finales
- Relevancia (*), Efectividad (*), Eficiencia (*) y resultado general del proyecto (*)
- Sostenibilidad: financiera (*), sociopolítica (*), marco institucional y gobernanza (*), ambiental (*), probabilidad general de sostenibilidad (*)
- Apropiación del país
- Igualdad de género y empoderamiento de las mujeres.
- Cuestiones transversales (reducción de la pobreza, gobernanza mejorada, mitigación y adaptación al cambio climático, prevención de desastres y recuperación, derechos humanos, desarrollo de capacidades, cooperación Sur-Sur, gestión del conocimiento, voluntariado, etc., según corresponda)
- Adicionalidad del FMAM
- Rol catalítico / efecto de replicación
- Progreso al impacto

Principales hallazgos, conclusiones, recomendaciones y lecciones aprendidas

- El EF incluirá un resumen de los principales hallazgos del informe de EF. Los resultados deben presentarse como declaraciones de hechos que se basan en el análisis de los datos.
- La sección sobre conclusiones se redactará a la luz de los hallazgos. Las conclusiones deben ser declaraciones integrales y equilibradas que estén bien fundamentadas por la evidencia y estén lógicamente conectadas con los hallazgos de EF. Deben resaltar las fortalezas, debilidades y resultados del proyecto, responder a preguntas clave de evaluación y proporcionar información sobre la identificación y / o soluciones a problemas o cuestiones importantes pertinentes a los beneficiarios del proyecto, el PNUD y el FMAM, incluidas las cuestiones relacionadas con el género igualdad y empoderamiento de la mujer.
- Las recomendaciones deben proporcionar recomendaciones concretas, prácticas, factibles y específicas dirigidas a los usuarios previstos de la evaluación sobre qué acciones tomar y qué decisiones tomar. Las recomendaciones deben estar específicamente respaldadas por la evidencia y vinculadas a los hallazgos y conclusiones en torno a las preguntas clave abordadas por la evaluación.
- La EF también debe incluir lecciones que puedan extraerse de la evaluación, incluidas las mejores prácticas para abordar cuestiones relacionadas con la relevancia, el rendimiento y el éxito que pueden proporcionar el conocimiento obtenido de la circunstancia particular (métodos

programáticos y de evaluación utilizados, asociaciones, apalancamiento financiero, etc.) que son aplicables a otras intervenciones del FMAM y el PNUD. Cuando sea posible, el equipo de EF debe incluir ejemplos de buenas prácticas en el diseño e implementación de proyectos.

- Es importante que las conclusiones, recomendaciones y lecciones aprendidas del informe de EF incorporen la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres.

La EF incluirá una Tabla de Calificación de la Evaluación, como se muestra a continuación:

TdR Tabla 2: Tabla de Calificación de Evaluación para (título del proyecto)

Monitoreo & Evaluación (M&E)	Calificación ¹
Diseño de entrada M&E	
Implementación de plan de M&E	
Calidad general de M&E	
Implementación & Ejecución	Calificación
Calidad de la implementación / supervisión del PNUD	
Calidad de la ejecución del socio implementador	
Calidad general de la implementación / ejecución	
Evaluación de resultados	Calificación
Relevancia	
Efectividad	
Eficiencia	
Calificación general del resultado del proyecto	
Sustentabilidad	Calificación
Recursos Financieros	
Sociopolítico / económico	
Marco institucional y gobernanza	
Ambiental	
Probabilidad general de sostenibilidad	

¹ Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, Implementation/Oversight & Execution, Relevance are rated on a 6-point scale: 6=Highly Satisfactory (HS), 5=Satisfactory (S), 4=Moderately Satisfactory (MS), 3=Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), 2=Unsatisfactory (U), 1=Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability is rated on a 4-point scale: 4=Likely (L), 3=Moderately Likely (ML), 2=Moderately Unlikely (MU), 1=Unlikely (U)

Al momento de realizar la evaluación, es importante tomar en consideración los impactos sobre el logro del objetivo que pueden/pudieron representar la reprogramación y reestructuración en modalidad remota de ciertas actividades.

1. 4-CRONOGRAMA ACTIVIDADES

La duración total de la EF será de aproximadamente dos meses. El cronograma tentativo de la EF será como sigue:

Cronograma	Actividad
Mediados de agosto	Final del proceso de aplicación
1 semana después de cerrado el proceso de aplicación	Selección del equipo de EF
1 semana después de firmado el contrato	Periodo de preparación para el equipo de EF (entrega de documentos)
Semana 2 y 3 después de firmado el contrato	Revisión de los documentos y preparación del Informe inicial de EF.
Semana 4	Finalización y validación del Informe inicial de EF; fecha más tardía para el inicio de la misión para la EF
Semana 5 y 6	Desarrollo de la EF: entrevistas virtuales con las contrapartes, etc.
Semana 7	Preparación del borrador del Informe de EF
Semana 8	Socialización del borrador del Informe de EF para recabar comentarios
Semana 9	Incorporación de comentarios al borrador del Informe de EF, con registro de auditoría y finalización del Informe de Evaluación
Semana 9	Preparación y emisión de la respuesta gerencial
Semana 9	Taller virtual final con las contrapartes (opcional)
Máximo 1 de octubre	Fecha esperada para la versión final de la EF completa

Cabe destacar que las actividades presentadas anteriormente corresponden a un cronograma en el caso que pudieran realizarse visitas de campo. La situación actual indica que muy probablemente la EF se lleve adelante de forma remota y virtual, sin incluir una misión en el terreno dado el impacto del Covid-19 en Argentina para la fecha estimada de la EF.

Si las restricciones a la pandemia no permitieran las misiones en campo, se deberán realizar esas actividades de forma remota. En este caso, se tendrán en consideración posibles retrasos, conforme lo consideren válidos la coordinación del proyecto, el oficial del proyecto y/o el RTA.

Nota: flexibilidad y posibles retrasos deben incluirse en el plazo para la evaluación, con un tiempo adicional para implementar evaluaciones virtualmente, reconociendo posibles retrasos en el acceso a grupos de partes interesadas debido a COVID-19. Se dará especial consideración a la entrega de resultados y productos de la evaluación si la misma se retrasara de cualquier manera debido a COVID-19.

2. 5. CRONOGRAMA DE ENTREGABLES

#	Producto	Descripción	Plazo	Responsabilidades
1	Informe inicial de EF	El equipo de EF clarifica objetivos, la metodología y la duración de la EF	No más tarde de 2 semanas antes de iniciar las entrevistas virtuales	El equipo de EF envía el Informe inicial a la unidad encargada y a la gerencia del proyecto
2	Presentación	Hallazgos iniciales	Fin de la ronda de entrevistas virtuales por parte del Equipo de EF:	El equipo de EF presenta a la unidad encargada y a la gerencia del proyecto
3	Borrador del Informe final de EF	Borrador final del Informe con anexos (utilizando las directrices sobre el contenido del informe en los TdR del Anexo C)	Dentro de las 3 semanas de finalización de la Misión virtual del Equipo de EF y de las entrevistas virtuales:	El equipo de EF envía a la unidad encargada, es revisado por RTA, la Coordinación del Proyecto, FMAM, OFP
4	Informe* final de la EF + Registros de Auditoría	Informe final revisado y registros de auditoría de la EF en el que la EF detalla cómo se han abordado (y cómo no) todos los comentarios recibidos en el Informe final de EF (Ver modelo en los TdR del Anexo H)	Dentro de la semana en la que se reciben comentarios sobre el borrador de informe:	El equipo de EF envía ambos documentos a la unidad encargada

*Todos los informes finales de EF pasarán por una evaluación de calidad por la Oficina de Evaluación Independiente (OEI) del PNUD. Los detalles de la evaluación de calidad de la OEI de evaluaciones descentralizadas se pueden encontrar en la Sección 6 de las Directrices de evaluación del PNUD.²

3. CALENDARIO DE PAGOS

- Pago del 20% tras la entrega satisfactoria del Informe final de inicio de EF y la aprobación de la Unidad Adjudicadora. Estimado a los 10 días de firmado el contrato
- Pago del 40% tras la entrega satisfactoria del borrador del informe EF a la Unidad Adjudicadora. Estimado a los 20 días de firmado el contrato
- Pago del 40% tras la entrega satisfactoria del informe final de EF y la aprobación de la Unidad de puesta en marcha y RTA (a través de las firmas en el Formulario de autorización de informe de EF) y la entrega del registro de auditoría de EF completo. Estimado a los 40 días de firmado el contrato.

² Access at: <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/section-6.shtml>

Criterios para la emisión del pago final del 40%³:

- El informe final de EF incluye todos los requisitos descritos en los TdR de EF y está de acuerdo con la guía de EF.
- El registro de auditoría incluye respuestas y justificación para cada comentario enumerado.

De acuerdo con las reglamentaciones financieras del PNUD, cuando la Oficina País y/o el consultor determinaran que un producto o servicio no podrá completarse satisfactoriamente debido al impacto de la pandemia por el COVID-19 y las limitaciones de la evaluación, ese producto o servicio no será abonado.

Debido a la situación actual de COVID-19 y sus implicaciones, se podría considerar un pago parcial si el consultor invirtió tiempo en la entrega, pero no pudo completar un/os productos debido a circunstancias que estén fuera del control del consultor.

PERFIL PROFESIONAL REQUERIDO PARA ESTA CONSULTORÍA

Líder de equipo

- Profesional universitario con especialización y experiencia de 8 años o más en monitoreo y evaluación (MyE) de programas/proyectos complejos: manejo del enfoque de marco lógico y otros enfoques de planificación estratégica; métodos y enfoques de MyE, tanto cuantitativos como cualitativos y participativos; planificación, diseño e implementación de sistemas de MyE; y capacitación en desarrollo e implementación de MyE. Conocimiento de políticas públicas en Argentina es deseable, con vinculación a temas de gestión institucional y financiamiento de proyectos por las agencias de cooperación bilaterales o multilaterales.
- Preferentemente con conocimientos de los procedimientos vinculados a la gestión y seguimiento de Proyectos PNUD-FMAM.
- Experiencia en proyectos relacionados la implementación de mecanismos de ABS
- Conocimiento de legislación relativa a marcos de ABS, PIC&MAT
- Experiencia en análisis institucional y de actores.
- Experiencia en trabajo con equipos multidisciplinarios y relación con un amplio espectro de actores sociales.

³ La Unidad Adjudicadora está obligada a emitir pagos al equipo de EF tan pronto como se cumplan los términos de los TdR. Si hay una discusión en curso sobre la calidad e integridad de los resultados finales que no se pueden resolver entre la Unidad de Comisionamiento y el equipo de EF, se consultará al Asesor Regional de M&E y a la Dirección del Fondo Vertical. Si es necesario, se notificará también a la alta gerencia de la Unidad de Comisionamiento, a la Unidad de Servicios de Adquisiciones y a la Oficina de Soporte Legal para que se pueda tomar una decisión sobre si se debe retener o no el pago de cualquier monto que pueda deberse al evaluador (es), suspender o rescindir el contrato y / o eliminar al contratista individual de las listas aplicables. Consulte la Política de contrato individual del PNUD para obtener más detalles:
https://poppp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Individual%20Contract_Individual%20Contract%20Policy.docx&action=default

- Excelentes habilidades analíticas y de redacción.
- Dominio tanto oral como escrito de inglés y español.

4. 7. PREPARACIÓN DE LA EF

La responsabilidad principal de administrar la EF reside en la Oficina de País de PNUD en Argentina. La Oficina de País liderará el proceso de selección y contratación de los evaluadores y asegurará la provisión oportuna de viáticos y arreglos de viaje dentro del país para el equipo de EF en caso de corresponder. El equipo de proyecto será responsable de establecer contactos con el equipo de EF para proporcionar todos los documentos relevantes, establecer entrevistas con las partes interesadas y organizar visitas de campo.

En virtud del impacto del Covid19 y las restricciones actuales para el traslado tanto internacional como local, la evaluación se desarrollará de forma remota, a través de plataformas digitales de acuerdo a lo indicado por la Oficina Regional de Panamá y en línea con lo establecido y autorizado en las guías de implementación de evaluaciones del GEF.

5. 8. ENFOQUE Y METODOLOGÍA DE LA EF

El informe de EF deberá proporcionar información basada en evidencia que sea creíble, confiable y útil. El equipo de EF revisará todas las fuentes de información relevantes, incluidos los documentos preparados durante la fase de preparación (por ejemplo, PIF, Plan de Iniciación del PNUD, Procedimientos de Evaluación Social y Ambiental del PNUD / SESP), el Documento del Proyecto, informes del proyecto incluyendo los PIRs anuales, revisiones presupuestarias del proyecto, informes de lecciones aprendidas, documentos legales y estratégicos nacionales, y cualquier otro material que el equipo considere útil para esta evaluación basada en evidencia. El equipo de EF revisará la línea de base y los Indicadores principales/Herramientas de seguimiento del área focal intermedia del FMAM remitidos al FMAM en las etapas de aprobación del CEO y de medio término y los Indicadores principales/Herramientas de seguimiento finales que deben completarse antes de que comience el trabajo de campo de la EF.

Se espera que el equipo de EF tenga un enfoque participativo y consultivo que garantice una estrecha colaboración con el equipo del proyecto, las contrapartes gubernamentales (el punto focal operativo del FMAM), los socios implementadores, la oficina país del PNUD, el asesor técnico regional, los beneficiarios directos y otras partes interesadas.

La participación de las partes interesadas es vital para una EF exitosa. La participación de las partes interesadas debe incluir entrevistas con las partes interesadas que tienen responsabilidades de proyecto, que incluyen, entre otras, representantes del Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nación, representantes gubernamentales a nivel provincial, beneficiarios y distintos stakeholders vinculados al proyecto.

Se deberá evaluar la necesidad de realizar misiones de campo, salvaguardando la seguridad del equipo de EF y de las partes interesadas. Si fuera posible; en caso de que las restricciones de movilidad debidas a la pandemia por COVID-19 disminuyeran, se espera que el equipo de EF lleve a cabo misiones de campo a los sitios específicos de intervención identificados en el documento de proyecto. En el caso de que no se den las condiciones adecuadas, el equipo de EF deberá buscar las mejores alternativas para recolectar toda la información necesaria para asegurar llevar a cabo la EF con éxito, para lo cual el equipo del proyecto proveerá la lista de contactos detallada (teléfonos y direcciones de correo electrónico).

El diseño y la metodología específicos para la EF deben surgir de las consultas entre el equipo de EF y las partes antes mencionadas sobre lo que es apropiado y factible para cumplir con el propósito y los objetivos de la EF y responder a las preguntas de evaluación, dadas las limitaciones de presupuesto, tiempo y datos. El equipo de EF debe utilizar metodologías y herramientas con perspectiva de género y garantizar que la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de las mujeres, así como otros temas transversales y ODS se incorporen al informe de EF.

El enfoque metodológico final, que incluye el cronograma de entrevistas, las visitas de campo y los datos que se utilizarán en la evaluación, se debe describir claramente en el Informe de inicio de EF y se debe debatir y acordar completamente entre el PNUD, las partes interesadas y el equipo de EF.

Cabe destacar que, para la EF se deberá tomar en consideración la reprogramación de actividades debido a los retrasos ocasionados por las restricciones de movilidad por la pandemia por el COVID-19. Asimismo, notar que algunas actividades pueden ser reestructuradas para ser llevadas a cabo de forma remota.

El informe final debe describir el enfoque completo de EF y la justificación del enfoque, haciendo explícitos los supuestos, desafíos, fortalezas y debilidades subyacentes sobre los métodos y el enfoque de la evaluación.

6. 9. COMPORTAMIENTO ÉTICO DEL EVALUADOR

El equipo de EF estará sujeto a los más altos estándares éticos y debe firmar un código de conducta al aceptar la asignación. Esta evaluación se llevará a cabo en conformidad con los principios descritos en las "Directrices éticas para la evaluación" de UNEG. El evaluador debe salvaguardar los derechos y la confidencialidad de los proveedores de información, los entrevistados y las partes interesadas a través de medidas para garantizar el cumplimiento de los códigos legales y otros códigos relevantes que rigen la recopilación de datos y la presentación de informes. El evaluador también debe garantizar la seguridad de la información recopilada antes y después de la evaluación y los protocolos para garantizar el anonimato y la confidencialidad de las fuentes de información donde se espera. El conocimiento de la información y los datos recopilados en el proceso de evaluación también deben usarse únicamente para la evaluación y no para otros usos sin la autorización expresa del PNUD y sus socios.

7. ANEXOS DEL TDR

- TdR Anexo A: Lógica del Proyecto/ Marco de Resultados
- TdR Anexo B: Paquete de informaciones del proyecto a ser revisados por el equipo de EF
- TdR Anexo C: Contenido del Informe de EF
- TdR Anexo D: Modelo de matriz de criterios de evaluación
- TdR Anexo E: Código UNEG de conducta para evaluadores
- TdR Anexo F: Escalas de calificación para la EF
- TdR Anexo G: Formulario de autorización del Informe de EF
- TdR Anexo H: Registro de auditor de la EF

8. CONSIDERACIONES ADICIONALES DEBIDAS A LA PANDEMIA POR EL COVID-19

A partir del 11 de marzo de 2020, la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) declaró al COVID-19 una pandemia mundial a medida que el nuevo coronavirus se propagó rápidamente a todas las regiones del mundo. Los viajes al país han estado restringidos desde 12/03/2020 y los viajes dentro del país también están restringidos, de acuerdo a las zonas y fases establecidas por decreto. Si no es posible viajar hacia o dentro del país para la evaluación, entonces el equipo de evaluación deberá desarrollar una metodología tomando en consideración la realización de la evaluación de forma virtual y remota, incluyendo el uso de métodos de entrevista remota y revisiones de gabinete extendidas, análisis de datos, encuestas y cuestionarios de evaluación. Esto debe detallarse en el informe inicial y acordarse previamente con el Gerente de Evaluación.

Si toda o parte de la evaluación se deberá llevar a cabo virtualmente, se debe tener en cuenta la disponibilidad de las partes interesadas, y la capacidad o la voluntad de ser entrevistados de forma remota. Adicionalmente, tomar en consideración que la accesibilidad a Internet/computadora podría representar un inconveniente, puesto que muchas contrapartes del gobierno y nacionales pueden estar trabajando desde sus hogares. Estas limitaciones deben reflejarse en el informe de evaluación.

Si no es posible una recopilación de datos/misión de campo, se pueden realizar entrevistas remotas por teléfono o en línea (skype, zoom, etc.). Los consultores internacionales pueden trabajar de forma remota con el apoyo del evaluador nacional en el campo si fuera seguro para ellos operar y viajar. No se debe poner en peligro a los interesados, consultores o personal del PNUD y la seguridad es la prioridad clave.

Se puede considerar una breve misión de validación si se confirma que es segura para el personal, consultores, partes interesadas y si tal misión es posible dentro del cronograma de evaluación. Igualmente, se pueden contratar consultores nacionales calificados e independientes para llevar a cabo la evaluación y las entrevistas en el país siempre que sea seguro hacerlo.

Annex 2. Management response matrix

Key issues and recommendations	Management response	Monitoring				
	Answer	Key actions	Term	Responsible unit (s)	State	Comments
1. The stakeholders, mainly from the national counterpart (MAyDS) y PMU must work on an "exit strategy and post-closure actions for the project in May 2022". The actions defined and committed to in the PIR 2021 (Coordinator's comments section) should be considered as the basis of the strategy, this set of strategic resulting actions to consolidate what the project has achieved, this closure strategy should be planned with a term of work of 2 years, time less than the scope of the terminal evaluations, but that correlates with the horizon of approvals of laws mentioned in the TE, the new proposals for GEF repositories, meeting of the CBD convention and various mechanisms that can give continuation of the Nagoya initiative.			2 years	MAyDS, PMU support Steering Committee and provinces with different progress in their regulatory frameworks.		
2. The exit strategy must consolidate a section for communication and dissemination of the results and progress of the project. Focused on visibility,	Inclusion in the MAyDS communication strategy (web page,		To May 2022	MAyDS and the provinces		

<p>sustainability and reference.</p> <p>From the interviews carried out in the TE, the different stakeholders recognize the importance of the Outcomes of the project, however, they are unaware of its development, they require greater detail as replication mechanisms, mainly in normative issues (C1) and scientific procedures (C3). Publication in the GEF bulletin is cited as a positive practice.</p>	<p>press releases, internal Cabinet meetings, workshops, etc.).</p>					
<p>3. It is recommended that UNDP promote the institutionalized use of corporate tools (Startup Workshop, PIR, TE, Harmonized Method for Cash Transfers, Financing Authorization Form and Expenditure Certificate, DC record) between project management and its stakeholders, and follow up on agreements and recommendations, so as not to lose the temporary opportunity of these documents, which strategically describe the day-to-day of the project, this process must be led by the national agency considering the low turnover of personnel and experience in the country.</p>			Perman ent	UNDP		

4. In the case of medium-sized projects, the application of the mid-term review is not mandatory, however, a cost-benefit analysis must be carried out to have these processes that allow feedback and guide the management and results of the projects. They consider in terms of cost that they should not exceed 2% of the project and their benefits are absolutely superior.			Suggestion for small and medium portfolio projects	UNDP		
5. In general, in the PIR progress reports, ensure the regular participation of all the stakeholders, both in terms of information and comments. In particular, the MAYDS enter the information in the section that corresponds to the Executing Entity as part of the Prodoc implementation arrangements. After, ensure the dissemination of key aspects, whose follow-up should be included in the meetings of the Steering Committees.			Annual	DC		
6. In this last period of project management, prioritize the processes of systematization and knowledge management , which maintain the institutional memory of the project, an example of replication to other provinces and opportunities for new initiatives.			Closing report PMU	PMU		

7. The role of the steering committee and the advisory/consultative committee, described in the Prodoc, respond to a two-way logic of governance and support, from what the project does to strategic decisions. The Prodoc recommends constant participation and a greater number of meetings, however, in the evaluation the role and temporality of the National DC is evident. The effective use and increase of meetings to promote discussion and feedback is recommended.			Annual DC Interann ual CC	UNDP, PMU		
8. In the extension to May 2022, promote the described governance recommendations, which allow demonstrating strict compliance with deadlines and resources. Since a final PIR period is not reached, it is considered pertinent to generate the end-of-management report that is put to the consideration of the DC, which establishes the follow-up to the recommendations of this evaluation.			Quarterl y	PMU DC		
9. It is convenient to consider more realistic demands of the projects that are financed . Proponents face the challenge of setting ambitious goals to make projects attractive. However, this				UNDP		

puts the achievement of results at risk or implies an extension of successive deadlines. Therefore, the relevance of corporate tools mainly mid-term.						
10. Determine a monitoring and follow-up system for the commitments and counterparts established in the project documents, both in terms of governance, financial and institutional counterparts.				MAYDS		
11. Follow up and monitor actions related to regulations in the provinces , since several are in the approval phase and could not be documented in this evaluation, the results of which are encouraging (Santa Fe, Córdoba and Tucumán), which constitute lessons for the country context.	To be defined within the Exit Strategy of the Project.			PMU		
12. Follow up on scientific research actions (Outcome 3) in which National Institute of Agricultural Technology leads the process. The evaluation showed that the process of the clinical and laboratory phase continues, processes that will require the application of the Nagoya regulations for the following steps and, in turn, there is an opportunity to disseminate results, under the learning-by-doing approach, which translates into implementing regulations through a case study			Annual	National Institute of Agricultural Technology		

"nano-antibodies, focal species guanacos and access to genetic resources", which results in comprehensive learning of the topic of interest to other sectors and territories.						
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Annex 3. GEF funding and co-financing for UNDP-supported projects

Name:		Global co-finance							
Project title:		Promoting the application of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Argentina							
Project number:		GEF 5820 PNUD ARG/5339							
Project executing partner:		National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA)							
Project reporting period:		US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
From:	November 2016	Prior Year	Cash Cofinance		In-kind Cofinance		Total for year		Cummulative
To:	November 2021	Actual Total	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Actual Total
SOURCE		A	B	C	D	E	F=B+D	G=C+E	H=A+G
	INTA	-	215,000	-	500,000	906,276	715,000	906,276	906,276
	Chubut Province	-	826,250	-		622,039	826,250	622,039	622,039
	MAYDS		1,309,811		23,125		1,332,936	-	-
	Vrije University		348,000				348,000	-	-
	UNDP		50,000				50,000	83,333	83,333
							-	-	-
TOTAL COSTS		-	2,749,061	-	523,125	1,611,648	3,272,186	1,611,648	1,611,648

Annex 4. List of stakeholders interviewed

MAYDS authorities	Function	Contact
Florencia Gómez	National Director of the project - Secretariat of Environmental Policy in Natural Resources	jbrito@ambiente.gob.ar (mail de su secretaria)
UEP project	Function	Contact
Micaela Bonafina	Project Coordinator (until 08/30/21)	mabonafina@ambiente.gob.ar
María Julieta Ansaldi	Coordinator	mjansaldi@ambiente.gob.ar
Viviana Figueroa	Community consultant	vivianafig20@gmail.com
Cancillería	Relationship with the project	Contacto
Puglisi Alejandro	Coordination- DIPROY - Foreign Ministry	afp@mrecic.gov.ar
UNDP	Relationship with the project	Contact
Matías Mottet	Project officer - UNDP	matias.mottet@undp.org
María Eugenia Di Paola	Director - Environment - UNDP	maria.eugenia.di.paola@undp.org
Alexandra Fischer	UNDP Regional Panama	alexandra.fischer@undp.org
Alejandro Laago	UNDP	alejandro.lago@undp.org
Santiago Carrizosa	UNDP	santiago.carrizosa@undp.org
INTA	Relationship with the project	Contact
Viviana Parreño	Pilot project manager - INTA	parreno.viviana@inta.gob.ar
Andrés Wigdorovitz	Pilot project manager - INTA	wigdorovitz.andres@inta.gob.ar
Matías Adúriz	INTA	matiasaduriz@hotmail.com
Marina Bok	INTA	bok.marina@inta.gob.ar
Gisela Marcoppido	INTA	marcoppido.gisela@inta.gob.ar
Chubut Province	Relationship with the project	Contact
Carolina Humpreys	Operational focal point of the project - Ministry of Environment and Control of Sustainable Development (MAYDS)	chubutgestionambiental@gmail.com
Ana Marino	Operational focal point of the project - MAYDS	anaemario@hotmail.com
Paola Rivero	MAYDS technique	psrivero@hotmail.com (licencia hasta el 18/10)
Mariano Gutiérrez	Local consultant and liaison with MAYDS - Chubut	mariano_gutierrez@yahoo.com

Alan Jones	Wild Fauna and Flora Department Technician	dfyfschubut@gmail.com // dfyfsfiscalizacion@gmail.com
Comisión Nacional Asesora para la Conservación y Utilización Sostenible de la Diversidad Biológica (CONADIBIO)		
ANC representative	Function	Contact
Pablo Sirosky	Fauna Santa Fe Directorate (first regulation aligned to the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol)	cocokaima@hotmail.com
Lucía Chust	Directorate of Conservation Administration of National Parks	lchust@apn.gob.ar
Paola Favre	Directorate of Conservation Administration of National Parks	pfavre@apn.gob.ar
Julieta Loi	Productive Development Ministry. Territorial planning of native forests Tucumán	julietaloi.jl@gmail.com
Victoria Arcamone	Directorate of Natural Resources Management Jurisdiction - Secretary of the Environment- Córdoba	victoriaarcamone@hotmail.com

Annex 5. List of documents reviewed

Basic Project Documents

- PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
- Project Document PRODOC
- CEO endorsement
- Annual Work Plans

Project management documents

- Inception Report
- Annual Reports to PNUD (2017 y 2018)
- Project Implementación Reviews (2019, 2020 y 2021)
- Quarterly Operational Reports (2018, 2019, 2020 y 2021)
- Audit Reports (2019 y 2020)
- Due diligence Spot check (2017, 2018, 2019 y 2020)
- In-kind contributions INTA, Chubut.
- Advisory Committee documents (2017, 2018, 2019 y 2020)
- Mission trips (2017, 2018, 2020 y 2021)
- Social and Environmental Screening Template
- Substantive reviews A, B, C y D
- Contacts of the Project Management Unit

Project Products

- Law 27.246 República de Argentina
- Proposed guidelines for Codes of Conduct
- Manual for Indigenous communities and ABS 2020
- Scorecard Chubut Reports (2015, 2017, 2021)
- Scorecard Nación Reports (2015, 2017, 2021)
- Report and registration of trained people
- Memories - Jornada Plan de Manejo Guanacos 2017
- Resolution 410-19 Articulado y anexos para aplicación de Nagoya y la República de Argentina
- Resolution 259, ABS Provincia de Santa Fé
- Resolution 259, Pautas mínimas para la autorización de acceso para recursos genéticos con fines comerciales.
- Draft Sanitary Protocol Guanacos 2021
- Compilation of regulations on research permits and access to genetic resources by jurisdiction 2019
- Pilot project reports and missions (confidential)
- Law Proposal ABS CHUBUT 2021
- Proposed Decree Chubut 2021

- Biological Material Transfer Agreement between Chubut – INTA y adenda (2017)
- Poster and scientific dissemination workshops on VHH antibodies of guanacos
- Inclusive language guide
- Documents of the workshop and asynchronous course Empowerment of Women increases their participation in decision-making spaces
- Documents of the Sistema de Administración, Control y Verificación de la Biodiversidad y sus Outcomees (SACVeBio)

Annex 6. Matrix of evaluation questions

EVALUATION – QUESTIONS	1. INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
Initial question: Please indicate your role and relationship with the project?		
According to the initial response, the interview was conducted and the corresponding question was chosen from the described portfolio.		
Relevance:		
How does the project relate to the objectives of the GEF focal area?	PRODOC ARG/14/G55 Alignment level with focal area of GEF (BD) and SDG ScoreCard ABS achievement and possible contributions to TT	- Contrast PRODOC and progress reports with GEF policy and strategy documents · Interviews with the UNDP Country Program Officer, Project Coordinator
How does the project relate to national and local environment and development priorities?	· Level of alignment with national and local environmental programs	Contrast PRODOC and progress reports with GEF policy and strategy documents · Interviews with MAYDS, Provinces, UNDP Program Officer, PMU
What extent is the project consistent with the GEF operational programs or strategic priorities upon which the project was funded?	Level of alignment with the UNDP Country Program and synergies with global ABS	Regional UNDP Interview Contrast with the TE of ABS Global described by the interviewee

Could the theme have been developed without the presence of the ABS project?	Degree of knowledge of ScoreCard and SACVeBio	Scorecard score reports
Are you familiar with GEF tools such as Scorecard ABS?	Degree of knowledge of ScoreCard and SACVeBio	Scorecard score reports
What practices developed by any of the activities have contributed or can contribute to strengthening the others in the framework of the project?	Adaptive management measures reported in response to changes in context.	product review Literature review on the context PMU Interviews
Does the project complement other strategies or projects applied in the same territory and thematic area?	Qualitative identification of initiatives	Interviews with PMU and government authorities Contrast Prodoc with context information
Effectiveness:		
What extent were the objectives of the Project achieved?	Number of indicators achieved	Progress Reports/PIR
What extent were the expected results of the Project intervention achieved?	Number of products, achieved within the established time	Tangible products (studies, documents, publications, etc.)
What positive aspects as lessons learned has the project left and that may be relevant for the evaluation?	Level of project knowledge	Interviews with key stakeholders, quantification of answers
What aspects do you consider to be barriers or limitations for the execution of the project?	Level of project knowledge	Interviews with key stakeholders, quantification of answers
Do the institutional ones incorporate expected results and objectives of the project?	Number of instruments generated and adopted	Tangible products

What were the internal and external factors that have influenced the achievement or not of the results?	Level of project knowledge	PMU Interview
What way have the instances that make up the Project contributed to increasing the visibility of the actions?	Declaration of contribution and interest of local actors in activities and products	Project products and communications
Do you know the coordination spaces established for this project?	Level of ownership of the initiative	Contrast background information and minutes of the national committees
Efficiency:		
Was the project implemented efficiently in accordance with international and national norms and standards?	Compliance with standards of transparency and use of funds Progress of achievements in the logical framework of results	Audit reports
Have the resources been used properly?	Progress of achievements in the logical framework of results	Qualification of indicators and achievements of the logical framework
What extent were the project outputs achieved with these resources?	Quality of the products in terms of academic quality, feasibility, effectiveness (of training), scope (of communication)	Tangible products (studies, documents, publications, etc.)
Have the budgets and schedules initially established in the document been respected?	Financial execution by Outcome	Substantial revisions A and D
Are possible sources of co-financing, as well as leveraged and associated financing, identified?	Counterparty report and allocation detail	Counterpart cards
How do you value the time resource in the execution of the project? Was it adequate?	Increased knowledge of ABS	Delphi Interviews
Is due diligence demonstrated in the management of funds, including regular audits?	Due diligence reporting	Spotcheck Reports
Is the existing team at the national, provincial, local level adequate for managing the project?	Progress of compliance with the M&E plan	Contrast Prodoc structure of PMU, achievements and consideration of external
In general, what is the cost-effectiveness ratio of the project in terms of the resources invested and the results achieved?	Number of products	Contrast report reports with the Prodoc
Do you know the corporate tools for the GEF project cycle, what advantages and disadvantages do you know for the ABS theme and the country context?	Increased ABS knowledge	Categorized interviews with the Province of Chubut and PMU, advance scorecard
Sustainability		

What extent are their risks - economic, institutional, social or environmental possibilities to sustain the results of the project in the medium and long term?	Key factors (social, political) that positively or negatively affect the results (in relation to the assumptions and risks manifested and permanence in time of the topic	Interviews with MAYDS, PMU and UNDP.
Does it recognize risks of a social, environmental or economic nature that could dilute the theme, management or results of the project in the short or long term?	Evaluation of risks to the design, execution and annual reports.	Documentary information Interviews with MAYDS, PMU and UNDP.
What extent has a sustainability strategy been implemented or developed, including capacity building of national and local partners?	National stakeholders are aware of and actively participate in the implementation of sustainability actions	Sustainability strategy
Are the beneficiaries and institutions committed to continue working on the objectives of the project once it ends?	Local stakeholders have the capacity and interest to continue actions started with the project	Documentation of activities of key stakeholders
What has been the degree of participation and appropriation of the objectives and results by the beneficiary population in the different phases of the project?	Level of knowledge and participation of actors in participating in actions to achieve results, and formal agreements	PMU interviews, provinces, regulatory documents
What has been the support and participation of the institutions involved?	Level of knowledge and participation of actors in participating in actions to achieve results, and formal agreements	PMU interviews, provinces, regulatory documents
Has there been institutional strengthening?	Number of people reached	Process records and reports
Are the costs for the maintenance and follow-up of the actions carried out suitable for the local context? Is it possible that they will be assumed by the key actors and beneficiaries?	Allocation of technical, institutional financial resources	Interviews with government stakeholders
What institutions of the national government would assume functions assumed by the project today? Is it already established?	Degree of appropriation of the initiative	Interviews with government stakeholders
Are the financial gaps to deal with these issues between what the cooperation and the nation contribute significant, moderate or null?	Management level for replication and continuity	Interviews with government stakeholders UNDP PO
Do you know about the articulation with global ABS mechanisms such as Clearing House, knowledge platform, compliance certificates? Do you consider they will continue after the project and how?	Degree of connection with other similar initiatives	ABS Global Interview UNDP
Do you know of new national initiatives or cooperation that are being developed on the ABS issue?	Degree of connection with other similar initiatives	Interviews with high-level government stakeholders
Impact:		
Are there signs that the project has contributed to ABS, are there clear mechanisms that have been adopted by local and national authorities?	Progress of the objective indicators IO 1 and IO3	Results framework evaluation
What impact has the project had in terms of social, environmental and conservation?	Degree of knowledge of results	Interviews project reports

Do you know results and Outcomes of the project? Do you know about the results communication strategy, does it exist?	Degree of knowledge of results	PMU interview, provinces, INTA
What key results has the project generated (i.e. significant improvements in the state of natural resources, substantive progress in achieving these impacts)?	Progress of the logical results framework	Products achieved
What extent does the theory of change presented in the outcome statement reflect an appropriate and relevant vision on which to base initiatives?	Evaluation of the impact, vulnerability and actions carried out	Logical framework evaluation objective indicators section
What are the factors, internal and external to the project, that determine progress from end results to impact?	Number of factors	Interviews with key actors
Gender equality and empowerment of women		
How did the project contribute to cross-cutting issues of gender, women's empowerment and communities?	Adoption of the approach and possibility of scalability	Products that implicitly include the approach Number of formal gender documents
What has been the impact of the project in terms of gender, participation and decision?	Participation percentage	Participation record
Were the mentioned processes planned or spontaneous, as adapted to the context of the project? Does the ABS theme have a niche for cross-cutting themes?	Degree of adoption of the subject	Perception consulted to all interviewees
The participation of communities due to the link with the ABS theme as you describe it? Do you know of regulatory bodies on prior informed consent, participation and communities?	Level of alignment with national and international standards	Formal documents Context information Interview with the Gender and Communities Specialist
Monitoring and evaluation		
There is an M&E plan in the design (results framework, indicators, measurement and reporting plan, use of evaluations) suitable for the project and the country context.	Quality of indicators (SMART), Feasibility of the M&E plan	ML Advance Interviews with UEP and UNDP
Was the M&E system operational and functional during project implementation, in facilitating timely tracking of results and progress towards results and objectives (measurement of indicators, current reporting, use for adaptive management)?	Compliance with indicator measurement in relation to data requirements # examples of adaptive management based on monitoring and evaluation	Substantial revisions Interviews with UEP and UNDP
Were PIR reports, progress reports and other means of communication on project implementation adequate and of good quality?	Degree of acceptance of corporate tools and follow-up of recommendations	PIR

Annex 7. UNDP Code of Conduct for EF Evaluators/Consultants

The evaluators/consultants:

1. They must present complete and fair information in their evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses, in such a way that the decisions or actions carried out are well founded.
2. They must disclose the full set of findings along with information on their limitations and make it available to all those affected by the evaluation who have an express right to receive the results.
3. They must protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice time, limit time demands, and respect people's right not to get involved. Assessors must respect the right of individuals to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced back to its source. Assessors are not required to assess individual persons, but are required to balance the assessment of management functions with this general principle.
4. On occasion, conducting assessments will uncover evidence of crime. Such cases should be discreetly reported to the appropriate investigative body. Assessors should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is even the slightest doubt as to whether and how these issues should be communicated.
5. They must be sensitive to beliefs, uses and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relationships with all interested parties. In line with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to issues of discrimination and gender equality. They must avoid offending the dignity and self-esteem of those with whom they come into contact during the evaluation. Knowing that there is potential for the evaluation to negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate the purpose of the evaluation and its results in a way that clearly respects the dignity and self-esteem of those involved.
6. They are responsible for their performance and (the) product(s) they generate. They are responsible for a clear, precise and balanced written or oral presentation, as well as the limitations, conclusions and recommendations of the study.
7. They should apply sound accounting procedures and be prudent in the use of evaluation resources.

TE Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the UN System Code of Conduct for Evaluators:

Consultant Name: **Diego Gonzalo Quishpe Landeta**

Name of the Consulting Organization (when necessary): _____

I affirm that I have received, understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluators.

Signed in **Quito, Ecuador**. a **December 30, 2021**

Signature: _____

