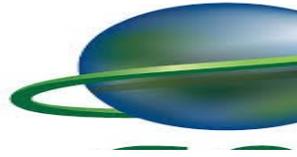


FINAL DESCRIPTIVE REPORT OF THE PROGRAM

REPORT PERIOD: FROM 10/2021 TO 04/2022

<p align="center">Program Title and Project Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program/Project Title: Development of a National Strategy and a Legal and Institutional Framework on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and Traditional Knowledge in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol • Atlas Project Award ID: 00093558 • Atlas Project ID: 00086265 • Program-Project Reference/MPTF Office: • GEF ID: 5805 • UNDP ID: 5311 • UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: Low • UNDP Gender Marker: 2 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(ies), Program Priority Area(s) / Strategic Outcomes</p> <p>Algeria</p> <p>Ecosystems, Biodiversity, Genetic Resources</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development • Other sectoral ministries (environment; fishing and fishery production; water resources and water security; foreign affairs and national community abroad; higher education and scientific research; interior, local communities and regional planning; justice; industry; pharmaceutical industry; energy and mining; culture and arts; finance; health; trade and export promotion) • Universities and Research Centers/institutes; • Private/industrial sector operators; • NGOs/CSOs; • Providers of genetic resources (populations, farmers, etc.)
<p align="center">Program/Project Budget</p> <p><i>Total approved budget as reflected in the project document:</i> \$ 7,224,320</p> <p><i>Agency(ies) Contribution</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF \$ 1,940,000 • UNDP \$ 180,000 <p><i>Government Contribution</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algeria Government (in kind) \$ 3,000,000 • Algeria Government (in cash) \$ 2,104,320 <p>TOTAL: \$ 7,224,320</p>	<p align="center">Program/Project Duration (months)</p> <p>Total Duration (months): 75 Planned start date: 12/2015 Official start date: 10/2016</p> <p>Original closing date: 12/2019</p> <p>Effective closing date: 03/2022</p> <p>Has the agency(ies) operationally shut down the program in their system(s)? Yes No Expected financial closing date: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No 09/2022</p>
<p align="center">Program Evaluation</p> <p>Evaluation Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: 12/04/2022 Assessment Report - Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<p align="center">Submitted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Names: Dr. Yousoufou CONGO/Mr. Mohamed BOUKHARI o Titles: International Consultant international, Team Leader/ National Consultant o Participating Organization (“Lead Agency”): UNDP o Address e-mail: ycongo@hotmail.com/Boukhari.m@gmail.com



Terminal Evaluation of UNDP-GEF Project “Development of a National Strategy and a Legal and Institutional Framework on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and Traditional Knowledge in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol”

Final Report

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October 22, 2021 to 12 April 12, 2022

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ACCRONYMES ET ABBREVIATIONS

APA	Access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources
CAP	Knowledge-Attitudes and Practices
CDB	Convention for Biological Diversity
CNCC	National Center for the Control and Certification of Seedlings and Seeds
CNDRB	National Biological Resource Development Center
CNIAAG	National Center for Artificial Insemination and Genetic Improvement
CNRDPA	National Fisheries and Aquaculture Research and Development Center
Copil	Project Steering Committee
CPD	Country Program Document
CRAPC	Physico-Chemical Research and Analysis Center
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CT	Traditional Knowledge
CTA	Associated Traditional Knowledge
CTP	Project Technical Committee
DGF	General Directorate of Forests
ENSA	National School of Agronomy
GEF	Global Environment Facility
INRAA	National Institute for Agronomic Research of Algeria
INRF	Forest Research Institute
ITCMI	Technical Institute for Market gardening and Industrial Crops
ITDAS	Technical Institute for the Development of Saharan Agronomy
ITELV	Technical Institute for Livestock
ITGC	Technical Institute for Field Crops
MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAPP	Action Program for the Implementation of the Country Program
PNEDD	National Action Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development
ProDoc	Project Document
PTA	Annual Work Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SNAT	National Spatial Planning Scheme
SPANB	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Strategy
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNCCC	United Nations Convention on Climate Change
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USD	United States Dollar

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Background

Approved on December 20, 2015, the UNDP-GEF Project “Development of a National Strategy and a Legal and Institutional Framework on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and Traditional Knowledge in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol” or “APA” Project was designed to be implemented for 4 years (from December 20, 2015 to December 20, 2019). This initial 4-year runtime was extended by 18 months (from December 20, 2019 to June 20, 2021) and 9 months (from June 20, 2021 to March 20, 2022) because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent health measures implemented by Algeria Government. The project has a total budget of 7,224,320 USD from which 5,104,320 USD (2,104,320 USD in cash and 3,000,000 USD in kind) is from Algeria Government and the remaining from the Global Environment Facility (1,940,000 USD) and United Nations Development Program (180,000 USD). Implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) through its General Directorate of Forests (DGF), the objective of the project is to consolidate actions for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria through the development and implementation of a National Strategy and a Legal and Institutional Framework on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and Traditional Knowledge in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol.

Evaluation Objectives

The general objective of the evaluation is to assess the achievement of the project expected results, draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from the project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. The specific objectives of the evaluation are: (i) measure the project effectiveness and the quality of the results and achievements; (ii) measure the development results for the target population, beneficiaries and participating partners; (iii) measure the project achievements; (iv) identify and assess all measures to ensure the sustainability of benefits from the project and their integration into the next phases as well as lessons learned and good practices; and (vi) make recommendations to both improve the sustainability of benefits from the project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.

Methodology

The evaluation used mixed research methods combining both quantitative research and qualitative research, and especially a document review (project documentation such as the Project Document, the project logical framework, annual reports, annual work plans, budgets and financial reports, etc.; Algeria's national sustainable development documents such as the National Action Plan for Biodiversity-SAPNB 2016-2030, the National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development-PNAEDD, the National Strategy for Ecosystem Management of Wetlands of Algeria, and the National Plan Planning-SNAT 2030; UNDP Country Program Document 2016-2020 and UNDP Action Plan for the implementation of the Country Program 2016-2020; United Nations Revised Strategic Cooperation Framework 2019-2021 and Sustainable Development Goals) and remote interviews with key informants (senior officials from sectoral ministries, UNDP Algeria, the GEF Operational Focal Point, the Project Steering Committee, the Project Technical Committee and the Project Management Unit). In total, 34 people were interviewed.

Conclusions

Table 1: Summary of the Project Evaluation and Performance

Ratings:			
1 Monitoring and evaluation	Rating	2 Implementing agency	Rating
Monitoring and evaluation design at entry	Satisfactory	Quality of UNDP implementation	Satisfactory
Monitoring and evaluation plan	Satisfactory	Quality of execution: executing agency (DGF)	Satisfactory
Overall quality of monitoring and evaluation	Satisfactory	Overall quality of Implementation/Execution	Satisfactory
3 Assessment of Outcomes		Rating	
Design	Satisfactory		
Relevance	Satisfactory		
Progress made towards the achievement of expected results/Effectiveness	Moderately satisfactory		
Efficiency	Moderately satisfactory		
Impact	Moderately satisfactory		
Sustainability	Moderately satisfactory		
Project implementation and responsive management	Satisfactory		
Gender	Satisfactory		
Overall program rating	Moderately satisfactory		

✓ *Project Design*

The project clearly addresses an institutional need and is seen by Algeria Government as a prerequisite for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. Moreover, the project design process was participatory and the main stakeholders were involved in the project. However, some key stakeholders, namely State bodies such police and customs services, the ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice claim that they were not involved in the project design.

Undisputable efforts have been made to align the project with Algeria's national sustainable development documents, namely the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity 2016-2030, the National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the National Strategy for Ecosystem Management of Wetlands of Algeria, the National Spatial Planning Scheme 2030, etc.

In addition, efforts have been made to align the project with several international strategies (Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations revised Strategic Cooperation Framework 2019-2021) and UNDP programmatic tools (Country Program Document 2016- 2020 and UNDP Action Plan for the implementation of the Country Program 2016-2020).

✓ *Project Relevance*

The project approach is relevant for several reasons, but it was significantly impacted by the problems encountered in recruiting local and international experts. Otherwise, the project is based on the analysis of the major constraints to the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological and genetic diversity and resources in Algeria and the long-term solutions to be implemented, as well as the results and lessons learned from the implementation of UNDP-GEF past projects or on-going projects whose objectives are similar or close to those of Project “APA”. Next, the project strategy is based on an approach that focuses on awareness-raising, training, and support from both relevant stakeholders and local and international expertise, although some key stakeholders interviewed are critical because the project does not adequately address beneficiaries’ needs and expectations.

The project beneficiaries’ needs and expectations were initially identified, evaluated and validated through various national workshops. The minutes of these workshops clearly show that they were intersectoral and inclusive. However, there are a few members of the Project Steering Committee,

namely the Ministry of Finance, INRA and INRF, who claim that they have not been involved or received the project deliverables.

Gender aspects have been taken into account in the project design, but in a rather contradictory way. Indeed, no indicator of the project logical framework explicitly concerns women and no indicator is disaggregated by sex. This can be explained by the fact that the project is a project whose objective is to build the legal and institutional framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol; the legal and institutional framework to be built does not appear to be part of a discriminatory logic vis-à-vis gender. However, it appears clearly in the Project Document that the project will focus on the improvement of gender equality and women empowerment by creating new economic opportunities for the holders of genetic resources and traditional knowledge which are mostly made up of women. In contrast, it is reported in the Social and Environmental Risk Checklist that women in Algeria did not raise gender equality issues in the project. This was also confirmed by the key informants interviewed.

Finally, the project logical framework is globally relevant because most indicators with regard to the project objectives and expected results are relevant, but also end-of-project targets are "SMART", i.e., Specific, Measurable, Appropriate and Achievable over Time. However, some risks were not taken into account in the Project Document: lack of local experts and international French-speaking experts, lack of local training expertise on APA issues, insufficient decision-making representativeness, etc.

✓ *Progress made towards the Achievement of Expected Results (Effectiveness)*

There has been a tangible improvement in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Algeria and related capacities. The score calculated from the GEF Tracking Tool for biodiversity projects (especially GEF-4 and GEF-5) has changed by 62%, whereas the score of the capacity building assessment of national institutions on APA issues according to the UNDP Sheet increased by 37%.

The project performance in terms of achieving the expected results are moderately satisfactory. As of December 31, 2021, only 3 expected results out of a total of 11 expected results (i.e., approximately 27%) have been achieved, while only one expected result (i.e., approximately 9% of the total number of expected results) has been achieved at 75% and 4 other expected results (about 36% of the total number of expected results) at half. Finally, 3 other expected results were not achieved or were achieved at a rate that is difficult to quantify, due to a lack of exhaustive data.

The project activities relating to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge in Algeria have not been sufficiently consolidated. Despite the large number of expressions of interest and the development of the regulatory framework, the GEF Monitoring Tool mentions that no value chain has been completed and no APA agreement has been concluded.

More generally, the degree of achievement of the project objectives and expected results relating to Component 1 is rather average. Indeed, if the project succeeded in integrating APA issues in the national policy for biodiversity and produced legal texts on the different aspects of this component, it failed to get them adopted by the Government, despite the commendable efforts of both the Project Management Unit and UNDP. Apparently, latent resistance persists. In this regard, the testimony of the representative of the Ministry of Health is revealing. For the latter, the APA concepts are not sufficiently “chewed” and people have “difficulty assimilating them”.

As far as Component 2 is concerned, the project succeeded in improving the capacities of participating partners. However, ownership of APA concepts by beneficiaries is not complete and deserves to be further strengthened. The project has also been relatively successful in developing a collective awareness on the importance of the regulatory and institutional framework relating to APA and traditional knowledge in the Algeria context. In addition, it has planned to measure this collective awareness through a knowledge, skills and practices survey. But here too there is no proof of the completion of such a survey at the end of the project. The project has planned to involve

bioprospecting sector players in its activities. In this regard, it was successful since 5 companies and one women's cooperative are involved in a bioprospecting process in order to set up value chains.

The project was affected by multiple constraints and obstacles: the delay in the recruitment of the project staff, the problems encountered in identifying and recruiting national experts and French-speaking international experts in the field of access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the resulting benefits, the resignation of the first National Project Coordinator recruited, the resignation of the National Lawyer and the National Communication Expert, the novelty and complexity of the APA theme and lack of knowledge of stakeholders and implementing partners, lack of commitment from some participating partners at the start of the project, the Covid-19 pandemic, the death of two national consultants, the long unavailability of the Chief Technical Advisor, etc.

✓ *Project Efficiency*

Project management costs (including project staff salaries) accounted for approximately 13.8% of the total cost in 2021, compared to 25.1% in 2016, 18.9% in 2017, 2.5% in 2018, 3.3% in 2019 and 22.8% in 2020. When considering the GEF's rules stipulating that the PMC should not exceed 5% of the total budget, we can conclude that this threshold was only reached in the years 2018 and 2019.

Report of the project activities from 2016 to 2021 show an average efficiency rate (physical implementation rate/financial implementation rate) of 1.22. Unfortunately, 10% of the project activities remain to be implemented for the first quarter of 2022 (planned closure date). Given the average physical implementation rate (15% on average per year), it seems difficult to achieve these remaining activities in one quarter.

Project efficiency was positively affected by two main factors: (i) the coverage of some operating costs (especially the salary of the National Director and water and electricity costs) by the General Directorate of Forests/Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; the provision of an office, a vehicle and meetings rooms to the Project Management Unit and the requisitioning of several civil servants by the latter to support the implementation of the project; and (ii) the management of project resources according to UNDP management standards.

✓ *Project Impact*

The project impact in terms of setting up a national regulatory framework on APA and the protection of traditional knowledge to enable the application of the Nagoya Protocol as well as the conservation and valorization of genetic resources is palpable but could have been more noticeable. Indeed, the project capacity building results were not sufficient to consolidate the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria. In other words, while the project has contributed to achieving the strategic objective applicable to the GEF program, specifically the focal region objective GEF-5 BD-4 applicable to the GEF, it could have been greater if the legal and regulatory framework had been established and operationalized.

Admittedly, the project has not succeeded in significantly consolidating the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria, but it has contributed to the achievement of the results of the Country Program Implementation Action Plan (CPIP). This will make it possible to implement future strategies and plans for the sustainable management of natural and urban ecosystems based on the improvement of the level and the lifespan of the populations. As a result, the living environment and the resilience of the populations will be improved through sustainable participatory management of natural and urban ecosystems.

✓ *Project Sustainability*

The question of the sustainability of the benefits from the project in terms of setting up a national regulatory and institutional framework on APA remains unresolved. Indeed the willingness of country Government to adopt an eventually developed framework appears doubtful.

Meanwhile, the sustainability of the benefits from the project in terms of capacity building through awareness-raising and training activities for implementing partners seems to have been acquired. However, some beneficiaries are very critical: APA concepts are difficult to understand and assimilate; post-project awareness and training activities are not planned; etc. So, it is important for the project to focus on knowledge management activities to consolidate its benefits.

✓ *Project Implementation and Responsive Management*

The project was managed on the basis of the logical framework and the planning of the scheduled activities was based on the results. The Project Management Unit has regularly prepared annual work plans and annual reports and submitted them to UNDP and the GEF on time. The Project Steering Committee timely held its statutory meetings (yearly meetings) and the quorum was always reached. In other words, this project orientation and management body, i.e., the Project Steering Committee, has satisfactorily done its job.

The Project Management Unit has been able to take into account the new risks, and particularly the health crisis linked to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the project implementation and results. To deal with this new situation, some adjustments were made, for example, by postponing and/or canceling some activities (awareness-raising activities, internal meetings, stakeholder meetings, etc.) or favoring teleworking.

Main recommendations

Table 2: Main Recommendations

Recommendations	Addressed to:
Strategy	
For the implementation of future projects, ensure that the main risks that have arisen in the implementation of this project are taken into account in the Project Document.	GEF DGF/MADR UNDP
Progress made towards the Achievement of Expected Results (Effectiveness)	
Continue to lobby political authorities at the highest level in favor of the adoption of the regulatory and institutional framework developed.	DGF/MADR UNDP
Launch projects at the sectoral level to support the needs that have been identified during the implementation of this project, especially in terms of the conservation of genetic resources and capacity building of the various links in the value chain based on genetic resources.	GEF DGF/MADR UNDP
Efficiency	
For the implementation of future projects, we recommend that the GEF's rules be respected, namely PMCs not exceeding 5% of the project's total cost.	DGF/MADR Project Steering Committee Project Management Unit
Sustainability	
Always develop an exit strategy for the project closure.	DGF/MADR Project Steering Committee Project Management Unit
For the remaining time in the project, it's important to speed up the knowledge management interventions to preserve the benefits from the project. Obviously, the promulgation of APA texts, if done, would lead by a ripple effect to preserve, and even develop the knowledge acquired in relation to APA in Algeria.	DGF/MADR Project Steering Committee Project Management Unit

INTRODUCTION

0.1. Context and Project Description

0.1.1. Context

Algeria has one of the most important ecosystems in Africa and is home to a rich biodiversity with nearly 16,000 known species in the world present on its territory. Its marine, mountainous, forest, steppe and Saharan ecosystems include hundreds of plant species, freshwater fish species, aquatic plant species, tree species and thousands of fauna and flora species. Forest, steppe and mountainous vegetation covers millions of hectares. However, a tiny part of this rich biodiversity (i.e., less than 1%) is used by the Algerian economy.

Another relevant finding is that these ecosystems, especially those in vulnerable regions of Algeria, are degrading over decades, while the rich biodiversity is being lost, resulting in the erosion of biological and genetic diversity and ecosystem services and, ultimately, the deterioration of the livelihoods of the local populations as well as their resilience in the face of continuing environmental pressures. The main cause of the degradation of ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity in the country is therefore Algeria's high exposure to environmental risks (degradation of natural resources, low rainfall, droughts, desertification, erosion of coastal dunes, fires, etc.).

However, environmental pressures are not the only explanatory factor of the loss of biodiversity in Algeria. There are other factors that contribute to amplifying the phenomenon. These factors include demographic pressure on the land and anthropogenic pressure on natural resources. They all lead to the loss of tree, fauna and flora species as well as freshwater fish species and aquatic plant species and hence to genetic erosion.

We can therefore understand why, in the face of these various threats, Algeria had designed and implemented policies/plans and institutional measures (National Reforestation Plan; National Territorial Development Scheme; National Territorial Development Scheme Policy; National Programs for the Preservation of remarkable sites, depollution of the marine environment, reduction of the impact and pollution by hydrocarbons; etc.) and legislative measures (environmental laws, green spaces, planning for the use of coast and land, household waste management, etc.) to protect the environment. For the same purpose, the country signed various conventions such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As far as the CBD is concerned, Algeria has targeted and made significant progress in achieving the first two objectives – the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable utilization – through the strengthening and management of a network of protected areas, sustainable natural resource management practices and similar activities. The third objective of the CBD focuses on access and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The achievement of this third objective is essential for the achievement of the overall results of the CBD and it requires the development and implementation of a comprehensive national legal, regulatory and institutional framework for APA. Doing so will boost the potential that the genetic resources and traditional knowledge of Algeria possess to generate economic benefits for the country and for main stakeholders, especially the local populations, in terms of entrepreneurship, employment, technology transfer and capacity development.

Otherwise, to protect its resources from fraudulent and illegal exploitation, Algeria was one of the first countries to sign the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising therefrom. But because Algeria did not want to ratify the Nagoya Protocol without a regulatory text first, and because the GEF funds for Algeria have not been fully used, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) offered to support the design of a project for the development of a national strategy and a legal and institutional framework on the access to genetic resources. This is how the UNDP-GEF project “Development of a national strategy and a legal and institutional framework on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use and knowledge in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocol of Nagoya and Algeria” or Project “APA” was designed.

0.1.2. “APA” Project

The UNDP-GEF “APA” Project was designed to be implemented for 4 years (from December 20, 2015 to December 20, 2019). This initial 4-year runtime was extended by 18 months (from December 20, 2019 to June 20, 2021) and to another 9 months (from June 20, 2021 to March 20, 2022) because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent health measures implemented by Algeria Government. The project has a total budget of 7,224,320 USD from which 5,104,320 USD (2,104,320 USD in cash and 3,000,000 USD in kind) was from Algeria Government and the remaining from the Global Environment Facility (1,940,000 USD) and United Nations Development Program (180,000 USD). Implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) through its General Directorate of Forests (DGF), its objective was to consolidate actions for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria through the development and implementation of a national strategy and a legal and institutional framework on fair and equitable access and benefit-sharing (APA) relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol.

The project has two components as follow:

- **Component 1:** Development of a national strategy and a legal and institutional framework to enable the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol as well as the conservation and enhancement of genetic resources.
- **Component 2:** Building and strengthening national research capacities and regulatory institutions to apply ABS rules and principles.

The main project stakeholders are: sector ministries, universities and research centers/institutes, private/industrial sector operators, civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and providers of genetic resources (populations, farmers, etc.).

Table 3: Main Stakeholders and Responsibilities within the Project

Stakeholders	Description or Example	Role within the Project
General Directorate of Forests (DGF)/Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)		National project implementing Agency
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad		Institutional implementing partner. Project Coordinating and Supervising Agency
Other sectoral ministries	Various mandates at national, regional and local level related to the project (Fisheries and fish production; environment; higher education and	Institutional implementing partners

	scientific research; interior and local authorities; culture; finance; health; industries and mines; trade and export promotion)	
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	It manages a financing system intended to carry out actions for the preservation of the environment. In particular, it finances international environment conventions and country-driven initiatives that generate global benefits.	Co-financing of the project up to 1,940,000 USD
UNDP Algeria	Support Algeria Government in developing its national development strategies and policies; mobilize the government, civil society, the private sector, and UN agencies to implement these national strategies and policies, etc.	Project implementing agency. Technical and strategic project support & quality assurance. Co-financing of the project up to 180,000 USD
Universities and research centers/institutes		Technical implementing partners and beneficiaries
Private/industrial sector operators		Technical implementing partners and beneficiaries
CSOs and NGOs		Technical implementing partners and beneficiaries
Genetic resource providers		Beneficiaries

Source: Table drawn up on the basis of the Prodoc

The project management structure includes: 1. The Project Steering Committee, composed of representatives of sectoral ministries and/or their departments, UNDP Algeria and the GEF Operational Focal Point, is responsible for reviewing, approving and monitoring the project annual work plans as well as provisional budgets and strategic guidelines for the implementation of the project; 2. The Project Technical Committee, composed of representatives of sectoral ministries and national scientific research centers and institutes, is responsible for providing technical advice on the feasibility of the project, and supporting both the Project Management Unit and the Project Steering Committee; 3. The Project Management Unit, is responsible for the day-to-day management and implementation of the project.

0.2. Evaluation Objectives and Scope

The general objective of the evaluation is to assess the achievement of the project results according to what was planned in the Project Document, and to draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- Measure the project effectiveness and the quality of the results and achievements;
- Measure the development results for the target population, beneficiaries and participating partners;
- Measure the project achievements;
- Identify and assess all measures aiming to ensure the sustainability of benefits from the project and their integration into the next phases as well as lessons learned and good practices;
- Make recommendations to both improve the sustainability of benefits from the project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.

The evaluation covered all activities supported by UNDP-GEF throughout the implementation period of the project (i.e., from December 2015 to March 2022).

0.3. Methodology

The methodology has three steps:

- Document review: 1. Project documentation (Project Document, logical framework, annual work plans, annual reports, budgets and financial reports, reports of the Project Steering Committee meetings, etc.) ; 2. Algeria's national sustainable development documents (the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity 2016-2030, the National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the National Strategy for Ecosystem-Based Management of Wetlands of Algeria and the National Spatial Planning Scheme); 3. UNDP programmatic documents (Country Program Document 2016-2020 and UNDP Action Plan for the implementation of the Country-PAPP Program 2016-2020); 4. United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework (United Nations Revised Strategic Cooperation Framework 2019-2021 and Sustainable Development Goals).
- Remote individual interviews and focus groups with key informants (senior officials from sectoral ministries, the Project Steering Committee, UNDP Algeria, the GEF Operational Focal Point, the Project Management Unit (National Director, National Coordinator, Legal Expert and Communication Expert). In total, 34 people were interviewed (for more details, see Annex 5).
- Data analysis and production of the interim report and the terminal report.

0.4. Evaluation Constraints and Limitations

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and international travel constraints, the evaluation was conducted remotely by the International Consultant in coordination with the National Consultant. The data was therefore collected remotely using digital tools (Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp).

0.5. Evaluation Phases and Processes

The evaluation consisted of three phases:

- ✓ **Preparation** (22/10 - 12/23/2021): document review, inception meeting (11/25/2021) and inception report writing.
- ✓ **Data collection** (12/16 - 12/28/2021): remote individual interviews and focus groups with key informants (DGF/MADR, sector ministries, UNDP Algeria, GEF Operational Focal Point, Project Steering Committee, Project Management Unit and implementing partners).
- ✓ **Data analysis and reporting** (12/20/2021 - 01/14/2022): data analysis and evaluation reports writing.

The terminal report of the evaluation is divided into two chapters. The first chapter summarizes the main findings of the evaluation, whereas the second chapter provides a set of conclusions, lessons, good/bad practices and recommendations to both improve the sustainability of benefits from the project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.

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FINDINGS

This chapter presents the overall project performance in terms of strategy, progress made towards the achievement of expected results (effectiveness), efficiency, impact, sustainability of the benefits from the project, and project implementation and responsive management. The findings are based on the results of the document review and the analysis of data collected from remote interviews with key informants.

1.1. Project Strategy

This section focuses on the project strategy, including the quality of the project design (relevance of the project approach, alignment of the project with national sustainable development strategies and policies, UNDP programmatic tools and United Nations strategic frameworks) and the project relevance (adequacy of the project specific objectives with beneficiaries' needs and expectations, relevance of the project logical framework, and gender mainstreaming in the project design and implementation).

1.1.1. Project Design***A Project clearly meeting an Institutional Need***

Algeria is a country rich in genetic resources. To protect these resources from fraudulent and illegal use, the country signed the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the resulting benefits. However, Algeria has not ratified this Protocol. The lack of a national strategy and a legal and institutional framework is seen by Algeria Government as a major risk. Indeed, this could lead to the systematic plundering of genetic resources.

In other words, the development of a national strategy and a legal and institutional framework on access to genetic resources is seen by Algeria Government as a prerequisite for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has clearly supported this approach when interviewed. Also, the representatives of State bodies, when interviewed stated: "It's the only way to preserve our genetic resources".

Clearly, the project meets a pressing institutional need.

A Participatory Design but not Inclusive enough

The project was designed through a participatory process. The different stages of this process are the following:

- Project design according to UNDP procedures. An international expert and two national experts were recruited to write the Project Document.
- Organization of concertation workshops with the different stakeholders to work on the terminal version of the Project Document, then a validation workshop. UNDP representatives interviewed are formal on this point. According to them, the points of view of key stakeholders have been taken into account in the project design. The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Project Steering Committee is also formal: "Prior to the GEF cycle, tripartite meetings with the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were organized to negotiate and implement the project".

- Organization of a project launch workshop¹. Nearly 100 persons (representatives of sectoral ministries and general directorates, representatives of State bodies, researchers, private/industrial sector operators, representatives of NGOs/SCOs, genetic resources providers, national public and private media, resource-persons, etc.)² attended this meeting.

According to the project staff, all key stakeholders have been involved in the project design. Indeed, the list of attendees of concertation workshops and the validation workshop show that key stakeholders (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Fisheries, Ministry of Water Resources and environment³, Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, etc.) attended these workshops.

However, some interviewed key stakeholders, including representatives of the General Directorate for Scientific Research and Technological Development, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Trade and Export Promotion, claim that they don't have enough information on the project, having joined the project in 2019. Some other key stakeholders, namely State bodies such police and customs services, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance claim that they were not involved in the project design.

In summary, the project was designed through a participatory process but which could have been more inclusive. A more inclusive approach of some key sector players such as State bodies, the Ministry of finance or the Ministry of Justice in the project design would have contributed to a better achievement of the project objectives and expected results, or at least to reduce resistance.

A Successful Alignment with Algeria's National Sustainable Development Strategies and Policies

The project is aligned with efforts made to update the National Strategy on Biodiversity. Indeed, the project design coincided with efforts to update the national strategy on biodiversity which was initially expected to be validated in 2015. This makes the project in perfect coherence with the *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SPANB) 2016-2030* – its objective is to promote “Biodiversity for sustainable economic and social development and adaptation to climate change” – and its 4 strategic objectives, namely: “Adapt the institutional, strategic and legislative framework in order to better support biodiversity, and more particularly to ensure the involvement of partner sectors, consistency with the international commitments of the Algeria and the mobilization of adequate funding” (Objective 1), “Develop, share and enhance knowledge and know-how, and raise awareness and communicate on the importance of biodiversity for inclusive sustainable development” (Objective 2), “Promote the conservation and restoration of biodiversity in order to sustain and develop Algeria’s natural capital” (Objective 3) and “Develop key biodiversity sectors to ensure the sustainable production of goods and services provided by natural ecosystems as a contribution to green growth in Algeria” (Objective 4).

The project also fits closely into two of the four priority objectives of the *National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development (PNAEDD)*: “Preserve natural capital and improve its productivity” (Objective 2) and “Protect the global environment” (Objective 4)⁴. In addition, the project is consistent with all the 15 specific objectives of the *National Strategy for the Ecosystemic Management of Wetlands of Algeria* whose objective is to guarantee ecosystemic management of Wetland Complexes at

¹. Workshop was organized in Algiers, on November 14 and 15, 2016.

². Inception workshop report, p. 6.

³. The Water Department is now separated from the Ministry of the Environment.

⁴. The other two objectives are: “Improve the health and quality of life of citizens” (Objective 1) and “Reduce economic losses and improve competitiveness” (Objective 3).

the national level, which can ensure the proper functioning of wetlands in order to enable them to provide ecological services for the benefit of current and future generations and for sustainable economic development, as well as better resilience to climate change.

Finally, the project is aligned with the strategic objectives of the *National Spatial Planning Scheme 2030 (SNAT)*, and especially specific objectives related to the preservation and enhancement of the ecological system as heritage. By contributing to the conservation and enhancement of genetic resources, the project is indisputably linked to the strategic orientations of the National Spatial Planning Scheme 2030.

National stakeholders interviewed are unanimous in pointing out the fact that the project is aligned with Algeria's development priorities. Concretely, they consider that the national strategy and the legal framework will allow the diversification of economic resources, the creation of jobs and income. They also claim that Algeria is a hotspot country in terms of genetic resources and has everything to gain by developing the associated value chain.

Commendable Efforts to ensure greater Harmonization with International Strategies

The project is aligned with several international strategies such as the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* – they are the international reference agenda for development actors – and especially SDG 14 (“Life Below Water”) and SDG 15 (“Life on Land”) and, to a lesser extent, SDG 1 (“No Poverty”), SDG 2 (“Zero Hunger”) and SDG 9 (“Industry, Innovation and infrastructure”). It is also consistent with United Nations Revised Strategic Cooperation Framework 2019-2021 and especially Outcome 4 (“By 2021, the living environment and the resilience of citizens are improved through sustainable participatory management of natural and urban ecosystems”)⁵.

In relation to SDG 5 (“Gender Equality”), the project as developed present some contradictions . Indeed, it does not directly aim to achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment. Rather, it aims to consolidate actions for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge through the development and implementation of a national strategy and an institutional legal framework in this regard. However, in Annex 4 of the Document Project, the project refers to gender equality and women's empowerment. This is why it would have been possible to imagine an indirect link with SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda by taking into account the fact that women in Algeria are holders of traditional knowledge. Once the legal framework has been put in place, this traditional knowledge could be valued by Algerian women. This could contribute to women’s empowerment, especially in remote areas, and make them more autonomous. However, in a practical way, the design of the project does not seem to be in close alignment with SDG 5 (“Gender Equality”).

The project is consistent with the UNDP Country Program Document (CPD) 2016-2020 and its Effects, and especially Effect 2 (“The country acquires strengthened institutions to gradually ensure access to basic services”) as well as the outputs expected from its implementation such as Output 2 (“The capacity of the main national and local actors will be strengthened to implement strategies/action plans for the sustainable management of natural and urban ecosystems for the improvement level and lifespan of citizens”) and Sub-Output 2.5 (“Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions with adequate

⁵. The other Outcomes are: Outcome 1 (By 2021, economic activity sectors implement growth strategies oriented towards economic diversification and capacity building for economic integration and job creation), Outcome 2 (By 2021, increased, inclusive and equitable access to quality social services is offered to the population), Outcome 3 (By 2021, the promotion of the status of women responds to that of the evolution of the normative and legal framework and benefits from national strategies monitored, evaluated and made visible) and Outcome 5 (By 2021, citizens benefit from a quality public service, supported by the improvement of the execution of public policies and modern and participatory management).

means to ensure the conservation, sustainable use and access to the benefits of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as their sharing, in accordance with international conventions and national legislation”). It is also consistent with the *Action Plan for the implementation of the Country Program (PAPP) 2016-2020*, and especially Output 2 (“The capacities of national and local actors are strengthened to implement sustainable management strategies/plans natural and urban ecosystems aimed at improving the resilience and living conditions of citizens”) of Pillar 1 of the PAPP (“Support for non-hydrocarbon and ecologically sustainable activities that generate income and create jobs”).

1.1.2. Project Relevance

A Suitable Approach but Compromised by the Problems Encountered in Recruiting Experts

The project is based on the analysis of constraints to the conservation and sustainable use of biological and genetic diversity and resources in Algeria and long-term solutions to be implemented. It is also based on the results and lessons learned from the implementation of UNDP-GEF past projects or on-going projects at the time, whose objectives are similar or close to those of Project “APA”. Among these projects, the two following projects can be mentioned: “Conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services of biodiversity of global importance in the cultural parks of Algeria” and “National biodiversity planning to support the implementation of the 2011-2020 strategic plan of the CBD in Algeria”.

Furthermore, the project strategy is based on a participatory approach. Above all, it seeks to raise awareness, train, support and seek the contribution of all the stakeholders, from the simple civil servant to the minister. The central assumption is that things will speed up as soon as the stakeholders take ownership of the subject (APA) and the project. The latter confirm that it took them almost two years to understand the complex concepts conveyed by the project. Thereafter, things quickened.

Finally, because it is a question of drawing up legal and regulatory texts in a new and complex field, the project strategy is based both on building the capacities of stakeholders through awareness-raising and training and on expertise, including the recruitment of local consultants and international French-speaking consultants with adequate experience and expertise. The project encountered serious problems in identifying and recruiting required consultant.

A Somewhat Inadequate Offer

All national stakeholders interviewed are aware of the constraints and challenges to the conservation and sustainable use of biological and genetic diversity and resources in Algeria. By way of illustration, the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cites the case of “Entiscan oil” whose economic spinoffs benefited Tunisians. However, the majority of them (some State bodies, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health, The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Ministry of Commerce, etc.) are critical of the project, reconning it does not meet all the beneficiaries’ needs and expectations. Moreover, according to them, the legal and regulatory texts drawn up are not mature enough.

Numerous other grievances have been listed. For instance, the representative of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research lamented that there are not enough awareness-raising activities for the scientific community. Also, according to the Director of the Center for Scientific and Technical Research on Arid Regions, the workshops organized by the project were too much theoretical. As a result, students and researchers do not understand how this will be put into practice.

For the representative of the Ministry of Health, health practitioners have not been sensitized. The representative of the Ministry of Commerce emphasizes the importance of sensitizing the fraud prevention services, the quality and consumption department, or consumer protection associations. The representatives of the Ministry of Finance consider that the project does not meet beneficiaries (tax officials, customs officers, etc.) needs and expectations. They claim they haven't been involved in the legal and regulatory texts development process, nor received the project deliverables.

However, the representative of the Ministry of the Environment and the Project Management Unit moderate these assertions. The first cites pharmaceutical companies (SAIDAL, Biopharm and Magpharm) which have been trained on issues related to the development of legal and regulatory texts, whereas the second mentions the Campus Caravane for researchers and students from different institutes (INRAA, INRF, USTHB, CRAPC, etc.) organized by the project.

It is important to notice that stakeholders' needs and expectations were identified, evaluated and validated with all the representatives of national institutions and structures that attended the project design workshops, as attested by the minutes of these meetings. In addition, the minutes of the workshops organized in the framework of the development of the legal and regulatory texts clearly show that they were intersectoral and brought together all the national institutions and structures concerned by the APA. Adding to that, the composition of the Project Steering Committee includes ministries (this the case, for example, of the Ministry of Finance or research institutes such as INRA and INRF) whose representatives claim that the project does not meet their expectations and that they have not been involved or received deliverables. Nevertheless, on page 26 of the Project Document it is explicitly stated that the representative of the Ministry of Finance is part of the Project Steering Committee. This is also the case for INRA and INRF.

However, these findings, i.e., the discrepancies in terms of needs and expectations, can be explained by three main factors:

- As mentioned above, the project was designed through a participatory process but it could have been more inclusive. In other words, the project would have benefited from including more stakeholders during the design process for better identification of all stakeholders' needs. This appears particularly necessary for the State bodies and the ministries of Justice and Finance which have sovereign capacity and missions to secure the Algerian economy, its biological resources and all the actions and transactions which are related to them, to be more involved in the project.
- Interviews with key stakeholders clearly show that there is instability in their representatives in the project's meetings and workshops. Many of these representatives claimed they were picked along the way. This may explain the lack of information and effective involvement.
- Interviews with key informants also show that many representatives attending the project's meetings and workshops did not have sufficient decision-making representativeness to engage their institutions. This could have generated unspoken words and slowed down initiatives and their induced effect: an insufficiently convincing expression of needs and expectations.

Relevance of the Project Logical Framework

The analysis of the project logical framework indicates the following:

- The project logical framework is globally relevant. Indeed, most of project indicators with regard to the project objectives and expected results (see Table 6) are relevant. This can be attested by few

examples: “The number of new APA value chains registered with government authorities and universities”, “The existence of a national political framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the conservation and enhancement of genetic resources”, “The number of potential bioprospecting projects”, etc. However, one indicator (“The number of valid expressions of interest by users and suppliers of genetic resources to develop APA agreements in Algeria”) revealed to be not so relevant. However, the relevance of this project framework does not make it enough to express interest for one would still have to make them happen! To support it, GEF follow-up report clearly mentions that “this did not result in any value stream” and “no APA agreement has been concluded at this time” despite the relatively high number of expressions of interest.

- End-of-project targets are "SMART", i.e., Specific, Measurable, Appropriate and Achievable over Time). Here again, some examples to support it: “5-10 expressions of interest in developing APA agreements have been filed with national APA authorities by users and/or providers of genetic resources”, “80% of the national stakeholders concerned are informed of the regulatory framework and institutional in terms of APA and traditional knowledge and its different dimensions”; “A national institutional legal framework with the necessary capacities and mandates has been approved, is established and is operational”; etc.
- However, some risks were not taken into account in the Project Document: lack of local consultants and international French-speaking consultants with adequate experience and expertise, lack of local training expertise on APA issues, and insufficient decision-making representativeness.

Gender Sensitivity in the Project Design and Implementation

Gender aspects have been taken into account in the project design, but in a rather contradictory way. Indeed, no indicator of the project logical framework explicitly concerns women and no indicator is disaggregated by sex (Cf. Table 6). This can be explained by the fact that the project’s main objective is to put in place the legal rules and the institutional framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol; the legal and institutional framework to be developed does not appear to be part of a discriminatory logic vis-à-vis gender. Nevertheless, in Annex 4 of the Project Document it is clearly mentioned that the project will focus on the improvement of gender equality and women empowerment by creating new economic opportunities for the holders of genetic resources and traditional knowledge which are mostly made up of women. In contrast, it is reported in the Social and Environmental Risk Checklist that women in Algeria did not raise gender equality issues in the project. This was also confirmed by key informants interviewed.

1.2. Progress made toward the Achievement of Expected Results

1.2.1. Monitoring according to the GEF Tracking Tool and UNDP Assessment Sheet

The GEF Tracking Tool for Biodiversity Projects helps identify actions to improve the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. It is currently used to measure the achievements of the project in a logic of comparative statistics. The scores at the beginning and at the end of the project for each issue are presented in the Table below. The score at the start of the project is given in the Project Document. The score at the end of the project is estimated on the basis the document review and the analysis of data collected from remote interviews with key informants.

The analysis of table 4 shows that the score according to the GEF Tracking Tool for biodiversity projects in GEF-4 and GEF-5 is estimated at 21 at the end of the project, i.e., a change of 62%. In other words, there is an undeniable improvement in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Algeria.

Table 4: Score according to the GEF Tracking Tool for Biodiversity Projects in GEF-4 and GEF-5. The scores are described in the rating criteria column

Problem	Score at the start of the project	Estimated score at the end of the project	Rating criteria
<i>Ability to ratify and implement basic measures of the NP</i>			
1) Has the country carried out an inventory and assessment on APA issues including the legal framework and institutional capacity to develop and implement the Nagoya Protocol?	2	3	0: The country has not carried out an inventory and assessment of legal or institutional capacity on APA. 1: The country has carried out an assessment of the legal and institutional framework. 2: The country has carried out an assessment of the legal and institutional capacity. 3: Country has completed the assessment and stocktaking and used them to advance the national APA agenda.
2) Has the country signed and ratified the Nagoya Protocol?	1	1	0: The country has neither signed nor ratified the Nagoya Protocol. 1: The country has not signed the Nagoya Protocol. 2: The country has acceded to the Nagoya Protocol (signature and ratification). 3: The country is preparing an action plan for the implementation of the basic measures of the Nagoya Protocol.
3) Is there a national legal and regulatory framework governing APA?	1	2	0: The legal and regulatory framework has not been developed. 1: The country has developed a legal framework on APA. 2: The country has a legal framework ready to be approved by the legislator. 3: The country has a legal and regulatory framework that is in full force and ready to be linked to the administrative system.
4) Is there a communication and public awareness plan to explain the Nagoya Protocol, including challenges and opportunities for users and providers of genetic resources?	1	2	0: There is little or no official information on APA or the Nagoya Protocol that is available to the general public. 1: Information on APA and the Nagoya Protocol is available to specialized audiences. 2: Information on APA and the Nagoya Protocol is widely available and a communication and awareness campaign is designed. 3: A formal communication and outreach program is fully developed and operational.
<i>Ability to administer Nagoya Protocol measures</i>			
5) Does the country have a National Focal Point and a designated competent national authority and does it have the capacity to facilitate the implementation and administer the protocol?	2	3	0: The country has no National Focal Point or competent authority. 1: National Focal Point and Competent Authorities designated but not operational. 2: The structure of the administrative systems, including the National Focal Point and the competent authority is under development. 3: Competent national authorities have the necessary human and technical resources to administer the implementation of the NP.
6) Are there clear administrative procedures for users and providers of genetic resources to develop and implement APA agreements respecting prior informed consent (PIC), agreed terms of mutual agreement (CCCA) and benefit sharing (PA)?	1	2	0: The country does not have administrative procedures to develop and implement APA agreements respecting the CPCC, CCCA and PA. 1: The country develops administrative procedures for users and providers to enter into APA agreements under the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol. 2: The country has sufficient administrative procedures to facilitate APA agreements, but have

			not been deployed by administrators. 3: The country has all the administrative procedures available to develop APA agreements.
7) Is there an authority to monitor compliance with the protocol and the use of genetic resources, including the designation of one or more control points and to direct the benefits towards conservation and use? sustainability of biodiversity?	n/a	n/a	0: Monitoring systems are in place, including designated control points. 1: There are designated control points, but no monitoring systems in place. 2: Points and monitoring controls, administration-related systems are ready to use. 3: There is a maximum to monitor compliance with the NP, including benefits directed towards the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources/
<i>Capacity of countries to develop their endogenous research capacities and add value to their own genetic resources</i>			
8) Is there institutional capacity to carry out research and development related to resource valuation?	2	2	0: There are no research and development capacities related to the valorization of genetic resources. 1: Institutional capacity to conduct research and development is being developed. 2: Basic institutional capacities (i.e., laboratories and research centers) are used at least in the initial stages of R&D. 3: The country has advanced research and development capabilities and is committed to technology transfer with partner institutions.
9) Is there capacity for identification of commercial value of genetic resources, and to develop, update and maintain databases on genetic?	1	1	0: There is no institutional or human capacity to participate in identifying the potential commercial value of genetic resources. No databases available. 1: It is the basic capacity to participate in the identification of the commercial value of genetic resources, including test databases. 2: There is surge capacity to work on identifying the commercial value of genetic resources, including basic databases. 3: There is full capacity for identifying the commercial value of genetic resources and databases are operational.
<i>The capacity needs and priorities of indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders</i>			
10) Do local people have the information to understand the challenges and opportunities that the NP has to offer and to actively participate in APA agreements?	0	2	0: Local people do not have the information to understand the challenges and opportunities that the NP has to offer and to actively enter into APA agreements. 1: Local people have the documentation needed to understand the NP, but have not used it to enter into APA agreements. 2: Local people have the necessary information and are being trained on the challenges and opportunities that the NP has to offer. There are no APA agreements yet. 3: Local populations have the necessary information and training on the NP and are engaged in the development of APA agreements.
11) Are there standard contractual clauses for obtaining prior informed consent (PIC) for the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge (ATK)?	0	1	0: There are no model contractual clauses for obtaining prior informed consent (PIC) for the use of genetic resources and ATK. 1: Contractual models to obtain CPCC for the use of genetic resources and ATK are being developed for at least some ILCs. 2: The contractual models are being tested on pilot projects on APA agreements. 3: Contract templates are widely available and used in APA agreements.
12) Are there minimum requirements for CCCAs to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising	1	1	0: There are no requirements for CCCA to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from

from the use of GR ATK?			the use of TK. 1: Requirements for CCCAs associated with TCs are under development. 2: Requirements for CCCAs are tested with pilot projects on APA agreements. 3: Requirements are widely used and are in conjunction with CPCC clauses and benefit sharing.
13) Are there model contractual clauses for benefit sharing arising from the use of GR CTAs?	1	1	0: There are no model contractual clauses for benefit sharing arising from the use of GR ATK. 1: Contractual benefit-sharing models are under development. 2: The contractual models are currently being tested on pilot projects on APA agreements. 3: Model contracts are widely available and used in ABS agreements in conjunction with CPCC and CCCA clauses.
TOTAL SCORE	13	21	

Source: Authors

The score according to UNDP Assessment Sheet for the APA capacity building of national institutions is presented in Table 5. It shows a positive evolution of the capacities of Algerian institutions in terms of APA. The score increased from 11 to 15 points (an increase of 37%).

Table 5: Assessment score of the APA capacity building of national institutions according to UNDP Assessment Sheet. Scores are described in the evaluation sheet column.

Strategic Support Sector	Problem	Evaluation Sheet	Initial Evaluation	Final Evaluation
1. Ability to conceptualize and formulate policies, laws, strategies and programs	Access and Benefit Sharing (APA) agenda is effectively debated/top-up.	0 - There is hardly any APA agenda; 1 - There are a few people or institutions actively pursuing an APA agenda, but they have little effect or influence; 2 - There are a number of people or institutions competent in ABS that drive the APA agenda, but are not enough; 3 - There are an adequate number of strong and influential measures to effectively drive an APA program upwards.	1	2
	There is a legally designated institution responsible for APA with the capacity to develop a national APA legal framework (i.e., laws, policies and/or regulations)	0 - There is no institution responsible for APA; 1 - The institution has financial resources, but is limited in staff and expertise; 2 - The institution has financial and staff resources, but limited expertise; 3 - The institution has sufficient financial resources, staff and expertise.	0	0
2. Ability to implement policies, laws, strategies and programs	There is a legally designated APA institution responsible for APA that can facilitate the implementation of the national APA legal framework.	0 - The institution does not have the financial resources, staff and planning/management skills; 1 - The institution has financial resources, but is limited in staffing and planning/management skills; 2 - The institution has financial resources and staff, but little planning/management skills; 3 - The institution has sufficient financial resources, staff and planning/management skills.	-	0
	The APA institution is effectively run.	0 - The APA institution has a total absence of leadership; 1 - The APA institution has weak leadership and provides little guidance; 2 - The APA institution has a fairly strong leadership, but it still needs improvement; 3 - The APA institution is effectively managed.	-	0
	Human resources for APA management are well qualified and motivated.	0 - Human resources are poorly qualified and not motivated; 1 - The qualification of human resources is unequal, some are very qualified, but many are generally not motivated; 2 - Human resources in general considerably lack qualified people, but they have a lot of motivation, or those who	2	3

		are motivated are not sufficiently qualified; 3 - Human resources are well qualified and motivated.		
	The APA institution is controlled and accountable to the public.	0 - The APA institution is not held accountable and is not controlled; 1 - The APA institution is sometimes audited without being held publicly accountable; 2 - The APA institution is regularly audited and there is some degree of public accountability, but the system is fully transparent; 3 - The APA institution is strongly fully audited, and reports publicly.	-	-
	Application of APA regulations	0 - Non application of the regulations; 1 - Some regulations exist, but they are largely ineffective; 2 - APA regulations are regularly applied, but not fully effective; 3 - APA regulations are strongly and effectively enforced.	n/a	n/a
	Individuals are able to advance and develop professionally.	0 - There are no career paths developed and no training is provided; 1 - Career paths are weak and training opportunities are scarce and not transparently managed; 2 - Clear career paths, developed and training available; However, the human resources management of the performance measurement system was insufficient; 3 - Individuals are able to advance and develop professionally.	-	-
	Individuals are suitably qualified for their jobs.	0 - The skills of the individuals do not correspond to the requirements of the job; 1 - People have skills or poor in their job; 2 - Individuals are reasonably qualified, but could still improve their skills for an optimal match with job requirements; 3 - Individuals are qualified for their jobs.	-	-
	Individuals are highly motivated;	0 - No motivation; 1 - Uneven motivation, but some are more than others; 2 - Many individuals are motivated but not all; 3 - People are highly motivated.	2	3
	There are appropriate training, mentoring and learning mechanisms in place to maintain a continuous flow of new employees.	0 - No mechanisms exist; 1 - Some mechanisms exist, but are unable to develop sufficiently and are unable to provide the full range of skills needed; 2 - There are general mechanisms to train qualified professionals, but either not enough of them or unable to cover the full range of skills required; 3 - Mechanisms exist to develop a sufficient number of the full range of highly qualified APA professionals.	-	-
3. Ability to engage and build consensus among all stakeholders	ABS holds political commitment	0 - There is no political will from all, or worse, the prevailing political will is contrary to the interests of APA; 1 - Some political will exists, but it is not strong enough to make a difference; 2 - reasonable political will exists, but is not always strong enough to fully support APA; 3 - There are very high levels of political will to support APA.	2	2
	Degree of public support for APA issues	0 - The public has little interest in APA and there is no significant lobby for APA; 1 - It has limited support for APA; 2 - There is public support for APA and there are various pressure groups strongly pushing them; 3 - There is huge public support in the country for APA.	0	1
	The APA institution is oriented towards its objective	0 - ABS institution is not defined; 1 - The institution of APA is poorly defined and is generally not known and disseminated at the international level; 2 - The APA institution is well defined and disseminated internationally but is not fully integrated; 3 - The institution of APA is completely internationally	-	0

		diffused and integrated.		
	The APA institution can facilitate the partnerships needed to achieve its objectives	0 - There is no institution in APA works little; 1 - The APA institution has facilitated some partnerships, but significant gaps remain and existing partnerships have few results; 2 - The APA institution has facilitated many partnerships with a wide range of national and local bodies, the private sector and NGOs, but there are gaps and partnerships, are not always effective and do not allow always effectively achieving APA objectives; 3 - The APA institution has facilitated effective partnerships with national and local agencies, the private sector and NGOs to enable the achievement of APA objectives in an efficient and effective manner.	-	0
4. Ability to mobilize information and knowledge	The ABS institution has the information it needs to enforce the national APA legal framework/policy and facilitate ABS offerings.	0 - The information is practically missing; 1 - The APA institution has access to some information, but it is of poor quality, is of limited use, or is very difficult to access; 2 - The APA institution has access to a lot of information which is mostly of good quality, but there are still gaps in quality, coverage and availability; 3 - The APA institution has the information it needs to enforce the national legal framework/policy and facilitate APA offers.	-	-
	Members of the APA institution work effectively together as a team.	0 - People work in isolation and do not interact; 1 - Individuals interact in a limited way and sometimes as a team but this is rarely effective and functional; 2 - Individuals regularly interact and form teams, but these are not always fully effective or functional; 3 - Individuals interact effectively and form functional teams.	-	-
5. Ability to monitor, evaluate, report and learn	There is a legally designated institution responsible for ABS and updating the national framework on APA	0 - The institution does not have the financial resources, personnel, and expertise; 1 - The institution has financial resources, but is limited in staff and expertise; 2 - The institution has financial resources and personnel, but the expertise is limited; 3 - The institution has sufficient financial resources, staff and expertise.	-	-
	APA policy or law is continually reviewed and updated	0 - There is no policy or law or the law is outdated and not regularly reviewed; 1 - Policy or law is only a review at irregular intervals; 2 - Policy or law is reviewed regularly, but not annually; 3 - Policy or law are reviewed annually.	1	1
	Civil society monitors APA projects	0 - There is no dialogue at all; 1 - There is an ongoing dialogue, but not in the general public and limited to specialized circles; 2 - There is a reasonable public dialogue but some issues remain taboo; 3 - There is an open and transparent public dialogue on the status of APA projects.	1	1
	Institutions adapt and respond effectively to promoting implementation of the national APA framework (laws, policies and/or regulations).	0 - There is no implementation of the national ABS framework at present; 1 - Institutions change only very slowly; 2 - Institutions tend to adapt in response to change, but are not always very effective or lag behind; 3 - Institutions adapt strongly, respond effectively and immediately to change.	2	2
	The APA institution has effective internal mechanisms for monitoring, evaluating, reporting and learning on APA projects.	0 - There are no monitoring, evaluation, reporting or learning mechanisms; 1 - There are some monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanisms, but they are limited and weak; 2 - Reasonable mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning are in place but are not as strong or comprehensive as they could be; 3 - Institutions have effective internal monitoring,	-	-

		evaluation, reporting and learning mechanisms.		
	People who are members of APA institutions have a capacity to adapt and continue to learn.	0 - There is no performance measurement or adaptive feedback. 1 - Performance is inconsistent and poorly measured and there is little use of feedback. 2 - It is important to measure performance and feedback, but it is not as thorough or comprehensive as it could be. 3 - Performance is actually measured and adaptive feedback is used	-	-
SCORE TOTAL			11	15

Source: Authors

1.2.1. Level of Achievement of Expected Results

The level of achievement of the project objectives and expected results is assessed by assigning a “Score” of TE (Very high: achievement rate $\geq 100\%$), E (high: $75\% \leq$ achievement rate $< 100\%$), M (average: $40\% \leq$ achievement rate $< 75\%$), F-N (low or zero: $0\% <$ achievement rate ≤ 40) or NP (the elements available do not quantify the level of achievement of the result).

The results in terms of achieving the project objectives and expected results are moderately satisfactory (Cf. table below). As of December 31, 2021, 3 expected results out of a total number of 11 expected results (i.e., approximately 27%) have been achieved, whereas only one expected result (i.e., approximately 9% of the total number of expected results) has been achieved at 75% and 4 other expected results (about 36% of the total number of expected results) at half. Finally, 3 other expected results were not achieved or were achieved at a rate that is difficult to quantify, due to a lack of exhaustive data.

Table 6: Level of Achievement of the Expected Results as of 12/31/2021

Objectives/Components/Effects	Indicators	Indicator Value				Score				
		Baseline	Objectives: end of the project	Level of Achievement	Target hit (%)	TE	E	M	F-N	NP
Objective of the project: Consolidate actions for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria through the development and implementation of a national strategy and a legal and institutional framework on access and fair sharing and Equitable Benefits relating to the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.	Number of new APA value chains registered with government authorities and universities	None with the government, to be defined with the universities	5 new APA agreements registered with government authorities or universities	No new APA agreement has been registered with the authorities or universities	0%					
	Number of valid expressions of interest by 1/ users and 2/ suppliers, local populations, associations, genetic resource companies to develop APA agreements in Algeria	Low-to-moderate level of interest and no expression of interest listed;	5-10 expressions of interest in developing APA agreements have been filed with APA authorities by GR users and/or providers	At least 8 expressions of interest in developing APA agreements were expressed by national and international users and providers	100%					
	Mechanisms for sharing monetary and non-monetary benefits produced by APA agreements and mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and people	None	At least 5 formal structures for benefit sharing are reflected in the national framework and have been established	No structure However, the project developed a diagnostic study and made recommendations to build on existing structures	0%					
	UNDP IRRF sub-indicator 2.5.1.A.1.1: Extent to which legal frameworks are in place for the conservation, sustainable use, and/or access and benefit-sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems	The Biological Resources Act 2014 is formally passed, but a comprehensive legal framework is not present due to a lack of implementing regulations.	A comprehensive and coherent national legal framework for ABS and the protection of TK has been approved, is established and operational.	A comprehensive and coherent national legal framework for APA and TK protection has been developed and approved by all stakeholders, but has not been adopted and promulgated by the Government.	50%					
Component/Effect 1: Develop a national policy, legal and institutional framework	Existence of a national policy framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the conservation and enhancement of genetic resources	No government-approved national policy	NBSAP 2.0 with APA aspects adopted by the government and used to guide interventions	APA elements were introduced in NBSAP Goal 21.	100%					
	Existence of a national legal framework (defined and put in place) for the implementation of	The Biological Resources Act 2004 is formally passed, but a	A national legal framework with the necessary capacities and	The implementing texts of the law on biological resources have been drawn	50%					

	the Nagoya Protocol and the development of genetic resources	comprehensive legal framework is not present due to a lack of implementing regulations	mandates has been approved, is established and is operational	up and validated with the stakeholders but have not yet been adopted by the Government and are not operational.						
	Existence of an institutional framework with (formal) mechanisms for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the valorization of genetic resources	The Biological Resources Act 2004 is formally passed, but a comprehensive legal framework is not present due to a lack of regulations	A national institutional framework with the necessary capacities and mandates has been approved, is established and is operational	An institutional framework and intersectoral coordination have been proposed by the project through texts but have not yet been adopted and by the Government and are not operational.	50%					
	Existence of an effective financial mechanism for access and benefit-sharing, and an APA-type agreement	No mechanism	An effective access and benefit-sharing mechanism, and a model APA agreement developed	An effective access and benefit-sharing mechanism, and an APA type agreement n 'has been developed. However, a study on the existing financial mechanisms in the sectors having a relationship with biological resources was carried out as well as a comparative study on the mechanisms set up in other countries for APA. The draft financial mechanism and related draft text was developed in 2021.	0%					

Component/Effect 2: Building and strengthening the capacities of national institutions;	Capacity change within relevant agencies and by other stakeholders on the provisions and key obligations of the NP and the scope of its application is measured by the APA Tracking Tool	UNDP APA Tracking Tool: 13	Improvement of at least 50% in the capacity of existing and/or new national bodies competent and concerned with APA. An inventory of institutions and entities that will be impacted by APA regulations has been carried out.	The implementation of an APA communication, education and awareness strategy and action plan has been developed and launched. The estimate of capacity building of national institutions through the UNDP scorecard is 16 points, an improvement of 45% compared to the baseline of 11 points;	75%						
	A percentage of researchers, authorities and other industry stakeholders, representatives of the populations are aware of the regulatory and institutional framework relating to ABS and TC and its different dimensions	None	80% of relevant national stakeholders are aware of the regulatory and institutional framework for APA and traditional knowledge and its different dimensions	This action can be considered achieved for the researchers for the simple reason that they actively participated from start to finish in its development and adoption. However, this is only partially so for the industry and the representatives of the population. For the local authorities this is not proven. The absence of a KAP study at the end of the project led to the consideration of an estimate based on interviews carried out with the stakeholders.	50%						
	Number of potential bioprospecting projects	None	At least 50% improvement in the capacity of existing and/or new national bodies competent and concerned with APA.	5 Algerian companies and a women's cooperative are involved in a bio-prospecting process in order to set up value chains based on 5 genetic resources.	100%						

Source: Table drawn up on the basis of the Project Document and project annual reports

1.2.2. Main Achievements

The project success in terms of achievement of its objective indicators is somewhat mixed. Indeed, the project has clearly succeeded in generating a significant number of expressions of interest from potential users. This is for example the case of the General Directorate of Scientific and Technological Research for PRIMA research projects, University of M'sila research project on medicinal plants, PRIMA research projects or the partnership research project between CRAPC and a Japanese laboratory on microorganisms. Nevertheless, despite this significant number of expressions of interest and the development of the regulatory framework, the GEF Monitoring Tool mentions that no value chain has been completed and no APA agreement has been concluded.

The project also helped develop a comprehensive and coherent national legal and regulatory framework for APA and the protection of traditional knowledge. Unfortunately, this legal and regulatory framework has not been adopted and promulgated by Algeria's Government. Moreover, it does not reflect formal structures for benefit sharing. Finally, the project failed to register new APA agreements with authorities or universities/research centers. In other words, actions for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria, through the chosen strategy, have not been sufficiently consolidated.

The project's strategy to achieve its general objective was based on two components. The first component sought to develop a national policy and a legal and institutional framework. The second component sought to develop and strengthen the technical capacities of national institutions concerned by APA.

For the first component, i.e., the development of a national policy and a legal and institutional framework, the project relied on a four-point action plan:

- The existence of a national policy framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This implies integrating APA into the national NBSAP 2.0 policy (National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity 2016-2030).
- The existence of a legal framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This leads to producing a national legal framework on APA and the protection of traditional knowledge that is approved, established and operational.
- The existence of an institutional mechanism for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. In other words, a legal framework with institutional mechanisms, that clearly designates the institutions and their mandates to implement the national APA strategy. This legal framework must be approved, established and operational.
- The existence of an effective mechanism for access and benefit-sharing. This presupposes a financial mechanism to receive and share the benefits arising from the application of the national APA strategy and the protection of traditional knowledge, and implemented by the mandated institutions.

The project succeeded in placing APA and the protection of traditional knowledge at the center of the national strategy. Thus, APA issues were introduced in objective 21 of the 2016-2030 NBSAP. The 2016-2030 NBSAP was adopted by Algeria's Government and used to guide public interventions.

The Project Management Unit has also put in a hard work on the development and implementation of a national legal framework for APA. In the framework of the development of a national strategy and a legal and institutional tool to enable the application of the Nagoya Protocol as well as the conservation and development of genetic resources, in 2017-2018, the project analyzed the national legislative and regulatory framework in relation to APA and recommendations for compliance with APA and the Nagoya Protocol, as well as existing policies and instruments in relation to APA (especially RG and CTA). In 2019, it drafted the regulatory texts and proposed their integration into an institutional framework inspired by the African Union Guidelines on the NP. These achievements contributed to those of Result 1 (A National Legislation on APA and CTA is developed and adopted) and Result 2 (A National Institutional Framework on APA and CTA was set up) of the project.

The development of the national legal framework is a significant achievement given the issues encountered by the project. Interviews with key stakeholders have shown that the identification and recruitment of French-speaking legal experts in the field of genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the resulting benefits has been very challenging due to the scarcity of supply available.

In addition, the project logical framework clearly assumes the adoption and promulgation of legal and regulatory texts by the Government. Neither the former nor the latter condition was met, which explains the estimated achievement rate of only 50%.

However, this does not mean that the Project Management Unit has not worked in this way. UNDP representatives indicated that recourse to very high-level advocacy and the intervention of UNDP Resident Representative with these bodies has been permanent. They even stated that they have used more informal methods, such as the network for contacts.

Another important achievement was the development of an institutional and cross-sectoral coordination framework. Legislative and regulatory texts have been drafted for competent national authorities and an intersectoral coordination mechanism on APA was set up (activity carried out in 2019-2021). For instance, this was the case for the Decree on the composition, attribution and functioning of the National Organ of Biological Resources made up of a board of directors and a scientific and technical committee, and the modification of the presidential decree on the high council of environment and sustainable development to integrate APA issues. This achievement is important insofar as the task has proven to be particularly delicate, without forgetting the Covid-19 pandemic and the tragedy it has brought, particularly the death of some consultants recruited. Interviews with stakeholders revealed that just for the legal text on the national institution in charge of the enforcement of the strategy on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of their benefits, it took two years of exchanges between the Ministry of the Environment and the General Directorate of Forests to draft it (done in 2021). However, it is still awaiting signature by the Ministry of the Environment.

In the same way as for the legal framework, the logical framework requires the validation and the promulgation of the regulatory texts by Algeria Government. Something that is not achieved, hence the estimated rather poor achievement rate of 50%.

For the development of an effective financial benefit-sharing mechanism, several studies were carried out: a diagnostic study of competent national authorities in GR and CTA (activity carried out in 2017-2019), a comparative study on ANCs in other countries having similarities with the Algerian context (activity carried out in 2018), a comparative study of APA financial mechanisms instituted in other countries (activity carried out in 2020), and the design of the draft of a financial mechanism (activity carried out in 2020-2021).

In summary, by combining these findings, it appears that the achievement of the project objective related to Component 1 is rather average. Indeed, if the project succeeded in integrating APA in the national policy for biodiversity and produced legal and regulatory texts, it failed to get them adopted, despite the commendable efforts of the Project Management Unit and UNDP. Apparently, latent resistance persists. In this regard, the testimony of the representative of the Ministry of Health is revealing: "Concepts are not sufficiently chewed, and people have difficulty getting them across".

The main objective of Component 2 is to build and strengthen the capacities of national institutions through three main activities:

- Improving the capacities of competent agencies on the provision and main obligations of the NP and the scope of its enforcement. Capacity improvement is measured by the UNDP-GEF Tracking Tool for APA.
- Reaching the rate of 80% of world of researchers, local authorities, other industry stakeholders, representatives of the populations aware of the regulatory and institutional framework related to APA and traditional knowledge and APA issues. This rate is measured by a CAP survey (knowledge, skills and practices) whose leader is the national expert in education and public awareness on biodiversity and APA.
- Involving at least 5 Algerian institutions in bioprospecting⁶.

As part of Component 2, several activities focusing on the capacity building of key stakeholders through information on the regulatory and institutional framework and awareness-raising and training on APA and traditional knowledge issues have been carried out. These activities include: (i) the national and sectoral survey to identify competent national authorities and APA-related target groups and assess their specific needs (activity carried out in 2019-2020), (ii) analysis of the validated results of the National and Sector Survey on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (activity also carried out in 2019-2020); (iii) design of a national communication, education and awareness-raising strategy and program on APA, RG, CTA and DPI (activity carried out in 2018-2020) and the launch of their implementation in 2021; (iv) production of educational materials, manuals and training modules on the legal and institutional framework for APA (activity carried out in 2018-2021); (v) writing of draft model agreements adapted to the national context (activity carried out in 2020-2021), (vi) the national survey of existing inventories and databases in specialized institutions and structures (activity carried out in 2017-2021), and (vii) the establishment of a web site dedicated to APA (activity carried out 2017-2021⁷).

⁶. Inventory and evaluation of the constituent elements of biological diversity or biodiversity.

⁷. The website dedicated to APA is awaiting hosting.

This has contributed to building the capacity of the competent agencies on the provisions and key obligations of the PN and the scope of its enforcement. Based on the UNDP-GEF Tracking Tool for APA, the estimated capacity score is 16 points, an increase of 5 points from the baseline of 11 points (a relative increase of 37%). As the target is set at 50%, the goal is considered to have been achieved at 75%.

Interviews with stakeholders confirm this finding. According to UNDP representatives and sectoral ministries, the project had a strong impact on the capacity building of national stakeholders. The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained that many officials have been made aware of APA issues. In addition, many legal texts have been drafted.

Some national stakeholders such as representatives of the Ministry of Fisheries and Fish Products claim that it is not the same managers who have attended training sessions. This had a negative effect on the ownership of the project and the APA concepts.

The project also developed an awareness of the regulatory and institutional framework relating to APA and traditional knowledge and the different dimensions of the framework among researchers, local authorities, industry/private sector stakeholders and the representatives of the populations. This objective can be considered as achieved given the active involvement of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the various specialized research institutes (INRAA, INRF, CNRDPA, CRAPC, CRBT...) in the development and adoption of APA regulations.

Regarding the involvement of the industry/private sector and the representatives of the populations, the project's results are more mixed. On this point, the representative of the Ministry of the Environment and the Project Management Unit mentioned the involvement of only some associations and some pharmaceutical companies (SAIDAL, Biopharm and Magpharm) and the organization of the Campus Caravane for researchers and students. They explained that the latter have been trained on APA issues and involved in the drafting of regulatory texts, but it wasn't enough. Also, it is clear that the few industry/private operators and the few representatives of the populations trained do not represent the industry/private sector and the entire population. For local authorities, no proof of their contribution to the collective awareness of APA and related texts has been provided.

The project has planned to assess the collective awareness of biodiversity and APA through a CAP (knowledge, skills and practices) survey whose leader is the project national education and public awareness expert. No evidence was provided regarding the completion of such a survey at the end of the project. In other words, the evaluation of the achievement of the end-of-project target was done in an approximative way through the declarations of the stakeholders during the field interviews. Thus, the degree of achievement of this target is 50%.

Regarding the involvement of Algerian institutions in bioprospecting, the GEF and UNDP monitoring tools show that 5 Algerian companies and a women's cooperative are involved in a bioprospecting process in order to set up value chains based on 5 genetic resources. Otherwise, the target of 5 entities is reached. The degree of achievement is 100%.

Based on the achievement rates of the expected results of Component 2, there is a significant achievement of its objective. The capacities of the competent agencies have been clearly improved, even though knowledge of APA concepts is insufficient, and Algerian entities are sufficiently involved in bioprospecting. Furthermore, the collective awareness of the regulatory and institutional framework

relating to APA and traditional knowledge and its different dimensions is not sufficiently developed. These findings corroborate those of the interviews with UNDP representatives. For the latter, the main failure of the project relates to capacity building on the regulatory framework which is fundamental to support local stakeholders in its enforcement. For state bodies representatives, the capacity building could be better. Thus they stated: “Personal skills have indeed improved, but the impact on institutions is weak.. They say: “Personal skills have indeed improved, but the impact on institutions is weak. This is problematic because the field managers are not trained in specific APA techniques”.

Finally, there is a correlation between the scores according to the GEF and UNDP monitoring tools and the results of the analysis of KPIs of the logical framework. Indeed, both show that APA capacity building is significantly more important than the development and implementation of the APA legal and institutional framework.

1.2.3. Factors that have Impacted the Implementation of the Project

The main factors that have positively impacted the implementation of the project and its outcomes are:

- The clear distribution of the roles and responsibilities of the tripartite (the Project Steering Committee, the Project Technical Committee and the Project Management Unit) in order to ensure a proper implementation of the project.
- The long experience of cooperation between UNDP Algeria and the General Directorate of Forests/Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- The effectiveness of the National Project Director in managing the project. It was particularly welcomed by the interviewed national stakeholders.

Various factors have negatively impacted the implementation of the project and its outcomes:

- The delay in the recruitment of the Project Management Unit, and especially the Chief Technical Advisor, the National Project Coordinator and the Administrative and Financial Assistant. Due to some changes in UNDP recruitment procedures, recruitment was only completed in September 2016. As a result, the Project Management Unit could not be operational until October 2016.
- The problems encountered in identifying and recruiting both local experts in the field of genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the resulting benefits (especially the National Lawyer and the Traditional Knowledge Expert) and French-speaking international experts mastering the Nagoya Protocol on APA. As a result, it was necessary to publish the calls for further applications over several weeks/months.
- The delays in the administrative procedures for calls for applications, selection of candidates, final choice of experts/consultants and effective recruitment; the technical and relational failure; the breach of contracts of some of the consultants recruited; and the failure of the traditional knowledge expert recruited in 2020.
- The resignation of the first National Coordinator at the end of 2017, followed by the National Lawyer and the National Communication Expert who was technically faulty. The new national communication consultant was only recruited in 2020, which delayed the design and implementation of the project communication strategy. Also, the International Communication

Expert recruited was not very effective due to the lack of knowledge of the media and cultural landscape of the country.

- The death of some of the national consultants recruited: the National Lawyer (recruited in 2018); the national consultant in charge of drafting legislative and regulatory texts; the national consultant in charge of the inventory and valuation of RG and CTA of wild and domestic fauna; and the national consultant in charge of the inventory and valuation of RG Microorganisms.
- The long-term unavailability of the Chief Technical Advisor, the National Project Coordinator and national consultants (the National Communication Expert, the National Expert in information system and database, the National Expert in charge of inventory and valuation of RG and CTA for food and agriculture, and the National Expert in training engineering) due to illness (Covid-19, surgical interventions/hospitalizations).
- The occurrence of the Covid-19 pandemic and the barrier measures decided by the Government (national confinement for several weeks/months, border closures, national travel restrictions, etc.). This contributed to slowing down the implementation of project activities in 2020 and 2021 due to the death of a national consultant and the infection and quarantine of several project staff (the Chief Technical Advisor and the National Coordinator) and 5 consultants. In addition, to comply with the barrier measures, the Project Management Unit was forced to suspend, cancel or postpone some of their activities (follow-up activities, awareness-raising and training workshops, Project internal meetings, stakeholders meetings, etc.) and hold a number of meetings by videoconference.

1.3. Project Efficiency

1.3.1. Resources Utilization

- *Human Resources*

The project management required the recruitment of a team of 6 people (including 3 women and 3 men): a National Project Director, a National Project Coordinator, a Chief Technical Advisor, a Communication Expert, an Administrative and financial and Assistant and a driver). In addition to this team, a technical support staff, including a Chief Technical Advisor and 5 consultants were also hired.

- *Financial Resources*

In 2016, it was planned to devote 45.8% of the budget to capacity building activities, compared to 84.7 % in 2017, 46.5% in 2018, 46.7% in 2019, 46.4% in 2020 and 58%% in 2021. Also in 2016, nearly 44% of the budget was dedicated to the national policy development, compared to 44.5% in 2018, 44.9% in 2019, 44.5% in 2020 and 33.7% in 2021. Finally, project management activities were to be financed up to nearly 10.3% in 2016, 15.3% in 2017, 9% in 2018, 8.4% in 2019, 8.1% in 2020 and 8.3% in 2019.

Table 7: Breakdown of the Approved Annual Budget (USD)

Headings	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
Capacity Building	222 500	45.8	230 834	84.7	215 833	46.5	230 833	46.7	900 000	46.4	608960.14	58.0
National Policy Development	213 409	43.9	0	0	206 742	44.5	221 742	44.9	883 836	45.5	353888.51	33.7
Project Management	51 591	10.3	41 591	15.3	41 591	09	41 591	08.4	176 364	08.1	86737.1	08.3
Total	485 400	100	272 425	100	464 168	100	494 166	100	1 940 000	100	1049585.75	100

Source: Table drawn up on the basis of project financial reports

As far as the project expenditures are concerned (Cf. Table 8), as of December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018, capacity building activities represented respectively approximately 74.9%, 69.9% and 31% of the total amount of project expenditure, compared to 55.1% in 2019, 20.9% in 2020 and 41.5% in 2021. Project management costs (including project staff salaries) represented approximately 25.1% in 2016, 18.9% in 2017, 2.5% in 2018, 3.3% in 2019, 22.8% in 2020 and 13.8% in 2021. In this respect, if we take into account the GEF rules, namely PMCs not exceeding 5% of the project's total cost, we can conclude that the execution of the project budget only took this threshold into account in 2018 and 2019.

Table 8: Breakdown of Annual Expenses (USD)

Headings	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
Capacity Building	28056.81	74.9	65890.91	71.0	67865.44	31.0	146232.94	54.3	49603.13	20.8	218927.76	41.5
National Policy Development	0	0	9462.8	10.2	145368.63	66.5	114073.75	42.4	134233.29	56.4	235450.04	44.7
Project Management	9415.9	25.10	17506.41	18.8	5486.92	02.5	8928.72	03.3	54289.77	22.8	72506.05	13.8
Total	37471.9	100	92860.12	100	218720.63	100	269235.41	100	238126.19	100	526863.85	100

Source: Table drawn up on the basis of project financial reports

However, it is important to put this conclusion into perspective for two reasons. The first reason is related to the stage of project implementation. It is clear that at the beginning operating expenses are high, but decline thereafter. In 2016, project management costs were relatively high, at 25.1%, reflecting the start of the project. Then management fees decreased relatively in 2017 to 18.9% then sharply in 2018 and 2019 (2.5% and 3.3% respectively). The second reason is related to the health crisis linked to Covid-19 pandemic and induced health restrictions. Project management costs increased significantly in 2020 to 22.8% in relative terms. The start of the exit from the health crisis in 2021 logically led to the decrease of management costs to 13.8% of total project expenses.

1.3.2. Efficiency Index

The report of the project activities carried out in from 2016 to 2021 shows an average physical achievement rate of 90% and an average financial achievement rate of 73.9%. The average efficiency index (physical achievement rate/financial achievement rate) is therefore 1.22.

Table 9: Efficiency Index

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Physical achievement rate (%)	1%	5%	18%	30%	15%	21 %	90%
Financial achievement rate (%)	2,5%	7,9%	12 ,5%	15%	11,3%	24,7%	73.9%
Efficiency Index	0.40	0.63	1.44	02	1.33	0.85	1.22

Source: Table drawn up on the basis of project annual reports

The irregular evolution of the efficiency index over the implementation period (2016-2021) is normal given the problems encountered, including the health crisis linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is clear that at the start of the project, the efficiency rate is at its lowest. It gets better over the years. The vagaries of the pandemic since early 2020 impacted the efficiency index, which fell sharply in 2021.

The average efficiency index (i.e., 1.22) shows that the implementation of project activities was cost effective. Indeed, 90% of project activities were carried out, whereas the financial achievement rate was less than 74%. In addition, several budget-consuming activities such as the implementation of the communication plan and bio-prospecting activities, design of the APA Information System and validation

of the strategy for promoting genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge within the framework of APA were carried out in 2021.

In contrast, 10% of project activities remain to be implemented for the first quarter of 2022 (planned closing date). Given the average physical achievement rate (15% on average per year), it seems difficult to get the remaining activities (10%) done on time.

1.3.3. Main Factors that have Impacted the Project Efficiency

At least two factors have positively impacted project efficiency:

- Coverage of some operational costs (the salary of the National Director and water and electricity expenses) by the General Directorate of Forest/Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; provision of offices, a vehicle and driver to the Project Management Unit by the latter, as well as meeting rooms (DGF, INRF and INRAA); and requisition of several officials to support the project.
- The management of project resources according to UNDP management standards.

Some other factors have negatively impacted the project efficiency:

- The vagaries of the Covid 19 pandemic and the related health restrictions;
- Delays in the fundings, especially at the start of the project and at the start of each year of project implementation.

1.4. Project Impact

Project impact in terms of development of a national regulatory framework on APA and the protection of traditional knowledge to enable the application of the Nagoya Protocol as well as the conservation and enhancement of genetic resources is palpable but could have been more noticeable. Indeed, the project has contributed to the development of a national regulatory framework on APA and the protection of traditional knowledge, but it has not yet been adopted and implemented by the Government.

At the same time, several legal and regulatory texts have been drafted for the establishment of mechanisms for sharing the monetary and non-monetary benefits produced by APA agreements, but remain unpromulgated and have not proven their effectiveness.

In addition, there have been several expressions of interest in developing APA value chains, both from domestic and foreign agencies, but they have not been translated to concrete projects. This is partly due to the fact that the texts regulating APA in Algeria are not yet implemented.

In short, project achievements, although real and palpable, are not sufficient to consolidate the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria.

However, in Algeria there is real capacity building on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. UNDP Monitoring Tool can attest to this reality. Furthermore, the project contributed to achieving the strategic objective applicable to the GEF program, specifically the focal region objective GEF-5 BD-4. However, this contribution could have been greater if Result 4.1 “Legal and regulatory frameworks and established administrative procedures that allow access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing in accordance with the provisions of the CBD” applicable to the GEF program, had been reached.

Capacity building also contributed to the achievement of the Country Program Implementation Action Plan (CPIP) expected results. Strengthening the capacities of the various national stakeholders will facilitate the implementation of the future strategies and plans for the sustainable management of natural and urban ecosystems on the basis of improving the level and the lifespan of the populations. The living environment and population resilience will then be improved thanks to the sustainable participatory management of natural and urban ecosystems. But likely not in 2020, as planned in the Project Document.

1.5. Project Sustainability

1.5.1. Project sustainability is Committed

For some national stakeholders such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, raising awareness and mastering APA concepts is a prerequisite to the project sustainability. In addition, ratification of the Nagoya Convention by Algeria Government, once done, will significantly contribute to improving the project sustainability. For other national stakeholders, the project sustainability will depend rather on the adoption of the regulatory framework by Algeria Government. However, the actors point out the challenge due to the fact that the regulatory framework is not sufficiently mature and does not present practical mechanisms for the implementation of the strategy and regulations. Field actors' needs are far more complex. Moreover, these stakeholders consider that without capacity building after the project closure, the applicability of the regulatory framework will be seriously compromised.

Finally, the sustainability of the benefits from the project in terms of capacity building through awareness-raising and training is achieved. However, as mentioned earlier, some beneficiaries are very critical: "APA concepts are difficult to understand and assimilate, and the project does not meet the expectations of some target beneficiaries such as tax officials, customs officials, etc.". Also, it is important for the project, for the remaining months, to focus on knowledge management activities to consolidate its achievements. Obviously, the promulgation of APA texts would lead by a ripple effect to preserve, even develop, the knowledge acquired relating to APA in Algeria.

1.5.2. Risks for the Sustainability of Project Achievements

The main risk for the sustainability of project achievements is the persistence of regulatory constraints that delay the adoption of APA texts. Despite the palliative measures implemented by the project, as recommended in the Project Document, latent resistance persists.

The other main risk is of a financial nature. Indeed, if financial resources are not available after the project closure, it will be particularly difficult to sustain benefits from the project. Admittedly, some interviewed UNDP Algeria staff members consider additional resources will likely be available. It should also be noticed that a national body will be dedicated to the application of the strategy on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of their benefits. However, this remains uncertain.

Finally, other risks are identified in the Project Document (see Table below). This Table also presents the changes noticed on the potential risks initially identified.

Table 10: Risks Identified and Occurrence or not of these Risks

Description	Type	Impact et Probability	Counter measures/Management Solutions	Risk Situation at the Evaluation Date
Insufficient participation and involvement of government employees and civil servants may hamper project implementation	Political	The risk, the potential effect would be to thwart both aspects of the project P = 1 I = 5	Provide targeted training to government agencies involved in APA issues. Engage officials from competent authorities and other related agencies. This would increase the level of experiences and skills available and commitment to the project and future APA work.	Risk not occurring
Difficulties and delays in the adoption of the national regulatory framework on APA and the protection of traditional knowledge	Regulatory	The risk, the potential effect would be to thwart the results of the project P = 1 I = 5	The project will conduct extensive consultation and sensitization campaigns with stakeholders to build and maximize awareness and political will to take the necessary steps to develop a national APA/traditional knowledge regulatory and institutional framework. It will also help provide information to stakeholders to help them understand the importance of the Nagoya Protocol.	In progress There are obvious delays in the adoption of the texts. Palliative measures have been implemented by the project, in particular advocacy with the competent authorities. However, this was not enough.
Stakeholders are not sufficiently interested in the project and/or committed to participating in its activities.	Functional	The risk would be to compromise the ability to meet the project objectives P = 1 I = 5	Methods for engaging actors and stakeholders will vary. For government officials, high-level requests for participation and choosing appropriate locations for training are important. For local people, measures developed and focused on a new set of APA-related livelihoods ensuring interest. For the private sector, business opportunities can also play a role.	Risk not occurring The opposite happened. In interviews, stakeholders stated that commitment has increased as a result of capacity building.
Sufficient financing not obtained for the project within the framework of the finance law.	Financial	The risk would be to compromise the ability to achieve project objectives P = 1 I = 5	The DGF has requested that the project be included in the finance law for the 2016-2020 financial years	Risk not occurring; In progress
Continuing loss of biodiversity	Environmental	The risk would be the reduction of genetic biodiversity, thus thwarting the objective of sharing the benefits of access to genetic resources. P = 2 I = 5	Support the government in implementing the provisions of the ABS Act, the Biological Resources Act to ensure that financial resources are available to address biodiversity loss.	Measures to fight against the reduction of genetic biodiversity have not been integrated into the implementation of the project.
Harmful and serious effects of climate change on the biodiversity of Algeria	Environmental	This will happen and will reduce genetic diversity and compromise ecosystems, which hampers the goal of sharing the benefits of access to genetic resources. P = 3 I = 5	Support the government in implementing the APA provisions of the Biological Resources Act to ensure financial resources are available to address biodiversity loss. Focus on supporting the completion of a national gene bank to ensure that genetic resources are properly conserved despite the impacts of climate change.	In progress But measures to support the government in implementing the APA provisions of the Biological Resources Act have been incorporated into project implementation.

Source: Table drawn up on the basis of the Project Document

1.6. Project Implementation and Responsive Management

1.6.1. Business Management and Planning

The recruitment of an experienced team has made it possible to ensure effective management and implementation of the project. The setting up of a Tripartite entity (a Project Steering Committee, a

Project Technical Committee and a Project Management Unit) to oversee the implementation of the project and provide strategic and corrective guidance has also helped to ensure good governance of the project. According to the project staff, project annual reports were submitted on time and the statutory meetings of the Project Steering Committee (i.e., a meeting once a year) were held and the average attendance to these meetings over the 6 years (from 2016 to 2021) have always reached the quorum. That is to say that the Project Steering Committee which is in charge of the supervision and the monitoring of the implementation of the project has functioned properly.

It should be noted that the project resources were managed according to UNDP management standards.

Additionally, most stakeholders interviewed, especially sectoral ministries were involved in the development of the project's annual work plans. The main planning tools used are: Project Management Unit internal planning meetings, the Project Document, stakeholders planning meetings, Project Steering Committee annual meetings and Project Technical Committee meetings.

Finally, the project staff took into account the new risks that came up during the implementation of the project, and especially the health crisis linked to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting challenges in terms of project management. To deal with this situation, and as mentioned above, it had to adapt the implementation of the project by making adjustments, for example by postponing and/or canceling some activities such as awareness-raising activities, internal meetings and stakeholder meetings or teleworking.

1.6.2. Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

The project has developed and implemented a monitoring/evaluation mechanism using various monitoring/evaluation tools such as the "Project performance measurement framework", the "Project monitoring/evaluation framework" and progress reports. This allowed to collect the data necessary to complete the project logical framework. We should add to this that the recommendations made by Project Steering Committee were taken into account and implemented by the Project Management Unit for better implementation of the project. For instance, Project Steering Committee had recommended to submit a request to extend the duration of the project, a request that was granted. Project Steering Committee also recommended the Project Management Unit to develop a common implementation roadmap in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment. They worked together on the regulatory texts to trigger the adoption process. Finally, a training plan has been developed to respond to the recommendations of Project Steering Committee which will be implemented in February 2022.

1.6.3. Communication

According to the project staff, project deliverables, and especially project annual reports were produced regularly and submitted to the stakeholders on time. Annual reports provide information on achievements and progress made, as well as delays and constraints experienced in the implementation of the project.

In addition, since 2021, an external communication strategy has been developed and efforts have been made to develop communication tools and activities to make the project and its achievements more visible. Among the tools and activities developed, we can mention:

- The design of the project logo;
- The creation of the project Facebook page;
- The creation of a website and the posting of the project information and activities;

- The production of a documentary film and the call to the written and audiovisual press to present the project objectives and activities;
- Information and sensitization of stakeholders to make the project better known;
- Advocacy with State institutions for the adoption of the developed regulatory framework.

CONCLUSIONS, LESSONS, GOOD/BAD PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides a set of conclusions, lessons, good/bad practices and recommendations to both improve the sustainability of benefits from the project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming.

2.1. Main Conclusions

Evaluation Criteria	Main Conclusions
Project Strategy	<p>Rating: Satisfactory</p> <p><i>Project Design</i></p> <p>The project clearly responds to an institutional need and is seen by Algeria Government as a prerequisite for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. Moreover, the project design process was participatory and the main stakeholders were involved in the project. However, some key stakeholders, namely constituted bodies such police and customs services and the Department of Justice lamented they were not involved in the project design. It follows that the project would have benefited from including more stakeholders during the project design process for better achievement of its objectives and expected results.</p> <p>Undisputable efforts have been made to align the project with the National Strategy on Biodiversity. It is good to mention that the project design process coincided with the update process of the National Strategy on Biodiversity which was planned to be validated in 2015. This made the project fully consistent with the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity 2016-2030, the National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the National Strategy for Ecosystem Management of Wetlands of Algeria and the National Spatial Planning Scheme 2030.</p> <p>In addition, efforts have been made to align the project with several international strategies (Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations revised Strategic Cooperation Framework 2019-2021) and UNDP programmatic tools (Country Program Document 2016-2020 and UNDP Action Plan for the implementation of the Country Program 2016-2020).</p> <p><i>Project Relevance</i></p> <p>The project overall approach is relevant for several reasons, but it was significantly impacted by constraints to recruit local and international experts. On the one hand, the project is based on the analysis of the major constraints to the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological and genetic diversity and resources in Algeria and the long-term solutions to be implemented, and on the results and lessons learned from the implementation of UNDP-GEF past projects or on-going projects whose objectives are similar or close to those of Project “APA”. On the other hand, the project’s strategy is based on an approach that focuses on awareness-raising, training, and support from both relevant stakeholders and local and international expertise. Nevertheless, some interviewed key stakeholders were critical because in their view, the project does not respond to beneficiaries’ needs and expectations. For the scientific community, for example, solutions suggested are too theoretical and difficult to put into practice. For health practitioners, awareness-raising and training activities are not suitable.</p>

	<p>Otherwise, it must be noticed that beneficiaries' needs and expectations were initially identified, evaluated and validated through national workshops. The minutes of these workshops clearly show that they were intersectoral and inclusive. However, some members of the Project Steering Committee, namely the Ministry of Finance, INRA and INRF, claimed that they have not been involved or received the project deliverables. At least three factors contribute to explain this finding. The first explanatory factor is related to the project design process, which was indisputably participatory, but which could have been more inclusive. The second explanatory factor is instability in stakeholders' representatives. This may explain the lack of information and effective involvement in the project. Finally, there is a lack of sufficient decision-making representativeness in the project meetings and workshops.</p> <p>Gender aspects have been taken into account in the project design, but in a rather contradictory way. Indeed, no indicator of the project logical framework explicitly concerns women and no indicator is disaggregated by sex. This can be explained by the fact that the project's objective was to put in place the legal rules and the institutional framework for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol; the legal and institutional framework to be developed does not appear to be part of a discriminatory logic vis-à-vis gender. However, in Annex 4 of the Project Document it is clearly mentioned that the project will focus on the improvement of gender equality and women empowerment by creating new economic opportunities for the holders of genetic resources and traditional knowledge which are mostly made up of women. In contrast, it is reported in the Social and Environmental Risk Checklist that women in Algeria did not raise gender equality issues in the project. This was also confirmed by key informants interviewed. They are unanimous in saying that the gender issue is not topical in Algeria. This suggests that gender was not seen as a key dimension of the project.</p> <p>Finally, the project logical framework is globally relevant (most of indicators with regard to the project objectives and expected results are relevant and end-of-project targets are "SMART", i.e., Specific, Measurable, Appropriate and Achievable over Time). However, some risks were not taken into account in the Project Document (lack of experienced local experts and international French-speaking experts; lack of local training expertise on APA issues; insufficient decision-making representativeness; etc.). Additionally, one key indicator is not sufficiently relevant ("Number of valid expressions of interest by users and suppliers of genetic resources to develop APA agreements in Algeria").</p>
<p>Progress made towards the Achievement of Expected Results</p>	<p>Rating: Moderately satisfactory</p> <p>There has been a tangible improvement in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Algeria and related capacities. The score calculated from the tracking tool for biodiversity projects in GEF-4 and GEF-5 has changed by 62%. The score of the capacity building assessment of national institutions on APA issues, according to the UNDP Sheet, increased by 37%.</p> <p>The project performance in terms of achieving the expected results are moderately satisfactory. As of December 31, 2021, only 3 expected results out of a total of 11 expected results (i.e., approximately 27%) were achieved, while only one expected result (i.e., approximately 9% of the total number of expected results) was achieved at 75% and 4 other expected results (about 36% of the total number of expected results) at half. Finally, 3 other expected results were not achieved or were achieved at a rate that is difficult to quantify, due to a lack of exhaustive data.</p>

The project activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria have not been sufficiently consolidated. Indeed, despite the large number of expressions of interest and the development of the regulatory framework, the GEF monitoring tool mentions that no value chain has been completed and no APA agreement has been concluded.

The project strategy was based on two components. The first component sought to develop a national policy and legal and institutional framework, while the second component sought to develop and strengthen the capacities of national institutions. As far as the first component is concerned, the project has succeeded in placing APA and the protection of traditional knowledge at the center of the national strategy. For instance, some APA issues were introduced in objective 21 of the NBSAP 2016-2030. The project also strongly tackled the development and implementation of a national legal framework for APA. This achievement is significant given the multiple constraints encountered by the project. On the other hand, the national policy and legal and institutional framework was neither adopted nor promulgated.

Another significant achievement of the project was the development of an institutional and cross-sectoral coordination framework. However, in the same way as for the legal and institutional framework, the institutional and cross-sectoral coordination framework requires its validation and promulgation by Algeria Government. Unfortunately, that is not done. As for the financial benefit-sharing mechanism, it was developed in a participatory manner without proving its effectiveness, as stated in the project logical framework. In addition, no APA standard agreement has been developed.

In summary, the degree of achievement of the project objectives and expected results regarding component 1, is rather average. Indeed, while the project succeeded in integrating APA issues in the national policy for biodiversity and produced texts on the different aspects of the component, it failed to get them adopted by the Government, despite the commendable efforts of both the Project Management Unit and UNDP. Apparently, latent resistance persists. In this regard, the testimony of the representative of the Ministry of Health is revealing. For this field actor, the APA concepts are not sufficiently "chewed" and people have "difficulty getting them across".

As far as Component 2 is concerned, the project has succeeded in improving the capacities of participating partners in the field of APA. However, ownership of APA concepts by the beneficiaries is not complete and deserves to be further strengthened.

The project has also been relatively successful in developing awareness (a collective awareness) of the regulatory and institutional framework relating to APA and traditional knowledge. If this target can be considered as reached for researchers, it is less so for private/industrial sector operators and other genetic resources providers such as farmers. Private/industrial sector operators (SAIDAL, Biopharm and Magpharm) and farmers and farmers' associations cannot claim to represent the sector or the entire population. For the local authorities, there is no tangible proof of the latter contribution to the collective awareness on APA issues and related texts has been provided by the project.

In addition, the project has planned to measure this collective awareness through a knowledge, skills and practices survey, the leader of which is the national expert in education and public awareness on biodiversity and APA. But here too there is no proof of the completion of such a survey at the end of the project.

	<p>Regarding the involvement of bioprospecting sector players, the project activities were successful since 5 Algerian companies and a women's cooperative are involved in a bioprospecting process in order to set up value chains.</p> <p>In other words, the objective of the second component of the project has been significantly achieved.</p> <p>Several constraints and limits hampered the implementation of the project activities: the delay in the recruitment of the project staff, particularly the Chief Technical Advisor, the National Project Coordinator and the Administrative and Financial Assistant; the issues encountered in identifying and recruiting national and international experts in the field of genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the resulting benefits; the resignation of the first National Project Coordinator at the end of 2017, followed by the national lawyer and the national communication consultant; the novelty and complexity of the APA theme and the lack of knowledge of this theme by the stakeholders; the lack of commitment from some key participating partners at the start of the project; the Covid-19 pandemic, in March 2020, and its unprecedented and multifaceted impacts and the severe and exceptional restrictions that resulted, the death of two national consultants and the long unavailability of the project's Chief Technical Advisor and two national consultants, for Covid-19-related health reasons ; etc.</p>
Project Efficiency	<p>Rating: Moderately satisfactory</p> <p>Project management costs (including project staff salaries) accounted for approximately 25.1% in 2016, 18.9% in 2017, 2.5% in 2018, 3.3% in 2019, 22.8% in 2020 and 13.8% in 2021. In this regard, if we take into account the GEF's rules, namely PMCs not exceeding 5% of the total budget, we can conclude that this threshold was only reached in 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>However, this finding should be put into perspective for at least two reasons. The start-up phase is usually accompanied by higher-than-normal operating expenses. This is true in 2016 where management costs are relatively high (25.1%). Subsequently, management costs decreased reasonably to 18.9% in 2017, then sharply in 2018 and 2019 (2.5% and 3.3% respectively). The second reason is linked to the vagaries of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting lower expenses due to health restrictions. The management expenses fell sharply from 2020 (22.8% of the total expenses) to 2021 (13.8% of the total expenses).</p> <p>The project activity report from 2016 to 2021 shows an average efficiency index (physical implementation rate/financial implementation rate) of 1.22. Unfortunately, 10% of the activities remain to be implemented for the first quarter of 2022 (planned closure of the project). Given the average rate of physical achievement (15% on average per year), it seems difficult to achieve the remaining 10% of activities in one quarter</p> <p>Project efficiency was positively impacted by two main factors: (i) the coverage of some operating costs (the salary of the National Director of the project and water and electricity charges) by DGF; the provision of an office, a vehicle and meetings rooms to the Project Management Unit; and the requisitioning of several civil servants to support the implementation of the project; and (ii) the management of project resources according to UNDP management standards.</p>
Project Impact	<p>Rating: Moderately satisfactory</p> <p>Project impact in terms of setting up a national regulatory framework on APA and the protection of traditional knowledge to enable the application of the Nagoya Protocol as well</p>

	<p>as the conservation and enhancement of genetic resources is palpable but could have been more noticeable. Indeed, the project APA capacity building results were not sufficient to consolidate the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria. In other words, the project did contribute to achieving the strategic objective applicable to the GEF program, specifically the focal region objective GEF-5 BD-4, applicable to the GEF. So, it could have been greater if the legal and regulatory framework had been established and operationalized.</p> <p>Certainly, the project capacity building activities were not sufficient to consolidate the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and related traditional knowledge in Algeria, but they contributed to the achievement of the results of the Country Program Implementation Action Plan (CPIP). This will make it possible to implement future strategies and plans for the sustainable management of natural and urban ecosystems based on the improvement of the level and the lifespan of the populations. As a result, the living environment and the resilience of the populations will be improved through sustainable participatory management of natural and urban ecosystems.</p>
<p>Project Sustainability</p>	<p>Rating: Moderately satisfactory</p> <p>The question of the sustainability of the benefits from the project in terms of setting up a national regulatory and institutional framework on APA remains, because if this framework has indeed been developed and submitted to the Government for adoption, it is not sure that it will be (a risk for the sustainability of this project achievement is that there is a change at the political level before the end of the process of adoption of the legal and institutional framework developed).</p> <p>The question of the sustainability of the benefits from the project in terms of building the capacities of the implementing partners through awareness-raising and training seems to have been acquired. However, some beneficiaries are very critical: APA concepts are difficult to understand and assimilate; awareness and training activities are not planned after the project; etc. So, it is important for the project to focus on knowledge management activities to consolidate its benefits. Obviously, the promulgation of APA texts the Government would lead by a ripple effect to preserve, even develop, the knowledge acquired relating to APA in Algeria.</p>
<p>Project Implementation and Responsive Management</p>	<p>Rating: Satisfactory</p> <p>The project was managed on the basis of the logical framework and the planning of the scheduled activities, based on the results. The Project Management Unit has regularly prepared annual work plans. The Project Steering Committee held its statutory yearly meeting and the quorum was always reached. In other words, this project orientation and management body, i.e., the Project Steering Committee, has done its job.</p> <p>The Project Management Unit has been able to take into account the new risks, and particularly the health crisis linked to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the project implementation and results. To deal with this new situation, it had to adapt the evolution of the project by making some adjustments, for example, by postponing and/or canceling some activities (awareness-raising activities, face-to-face meetings, etc.) or by favoring teleworking.</p> <p>The project implementation was seriously affected by multiple internal and external factors: the delay in the recruitment of the project staff, the problems to identify and recruit local and international experts with demonstrated expertise and experience on APA issues, the instability of part of the project staff (resignation of the first National Coordinator of the</p>

	project at the end of 2017 as well as the national lawyer and the national communication consultant), the deaths of national consultants recruited for the project, the long-term unavailability of some project personnel due to illness (Covid-19, surgical interventions/hospitalizations), the occurrence of the pandemic of Covid-19 and the implementation of barrier measures by the Government, etc.
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2.2. Lessons Learned

1. We cannot understand the project achievements without taking into account the instability of part of the project staff, the problems encountered in recruiting local and international experts, the occurrence of the Covid-19 pandemic and the severe and exceptional restrictions imposed by the Government, the death of two national consultants, and the long unavailability of the project's Chief Technical Advisor and two national consultants for health reasons related to Covid-19.
2. The creation of a Project Technical Committee – composed mainly of national research institutions – helped to promote the constitution of a pool of national expertise on APA. However, this committee will have to be accompanied by a real political will and actions to build the capacities of its members.
3. Efforts to develop a legal and institutional framework to enable the application of the Nagoya Protocol as well as the conservation and development of genetic resources are futile without the real and strong involvement of political authorities at the highest level.

2.3. Good/bad practices

The good practices identified in the design and implementation of the project are as follows:

1. Consideration of different interests and the involvement of a wide range of institutional and technical partners in the project to take into account the complex and multidimensional nature of the project objective.
2. The creation of a Project Technical Committee responsible for providing technical advice and guidance on the technical and scientific feasibility of the project and to assist both the Project Management Committee and the Project Steering Committee in the project implementation process.

The bad practices identified are the following:

1. The failure to anticipate certain risks (the lack of national and international experts specialized in APA issues, the problem of decision-making representativeness, etc.).
2. The absence of an exit strategy.

2.4. Recommendations

No	Recommendation	Type of Recommendation	Addressed to:
Strategy			
1	For the implementation of future projects in the field, ensure that the risks that have arisen in the implementation of this project are taken into account in the Project Document.	a. Priority: high b. Resources: not applicable c. Timeframe: Middle term	GEF DGF/MADR UNDP
Progress made towards the Achievement of Expected Outputs			
2	Continue to lobby political authorities at the highest level in favor of the adoption of the regulatory and institutional	a. Priority: high	DGF/MADR

	framework developed	b. Resources: not applicable c. Timeframe: short term	UNDP
3	Launch projects at the sectoral level to support the needs that have been identified during the implementation of this project, especially in terms of the conservation of genetic resources and capacity building of the various links in the value chain based on genetic resources.	d. Priority: high e. Resources: high b. Timeframe: short term	GEF DGF/MADR UNDP
Efficiency			
4	For the implementation of future projects, we recommend that the GEF's rules be respected, namely PMCs not exceeding 5% of the project's total cost.	a. Priority: high b. Resources: not applicable c. Timeframe: short term	DGF/MADR Project Steering Committee Project Management Unit
Sustainability			
5	Always develop an exit strategy for the project closure.	a. Priority: high b. Resources: not applicable c. Timeframe: short term	DGF/MADR Project Steering Committee Project Management Unit
6	For the remaining time in the project, it's important to speed up the knowledge management interventions to preserve the benefits from the project. Obviously, the promulgation of APA texts, if done, would lead by a ripple effect to preserve, and even develop the knowledge acquired in relation to APA in Algeria.	a. Priority: high b. Resources: not applicable c. Timeframe: short term	DGF/MADR Project Steering Committee Project Management Unit