

UNDP MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO

TERMINAL EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND BENEFIT SHARING IN BHUTAN

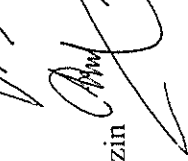
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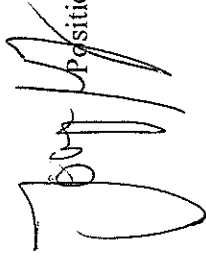


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Overall comments:

The Terminal Evaluation highlights the following important points in the report:

Conclusion 1: Concrete results were generated – all three project outcomes were fully realized. It was accompanied by efficient use of project resources which were fully used.

Conclusion 2: The project outcomes has raised biodiversity conservation in Bhutan to a new level. For the first time in Bhutanese conservation history the practical possibility to accord value to biological resources beyond traditional economic values of biodiversity such as timber, fodder and food.

Conclusion 3: The project has set a new trend in Bhutan's biotechnology industry which thus far has remained in the field of producing herbal medicine by putting in mechanisms and capacities to develop science based bio-products.

Conclusion 4: By enabling benefits sharing mechanism policy framework the project has been able to introduce a new means of enabling sustainability to conservation efforts in the country.

Conclusion 5: Project implementation benefited from good design, strong country ownership. However, the project indicators lacked specific timelines of delivery.

Conclusion 6: The NBC managed the project effectively and efficiently with the oversight and right directives from the PSC and support from UNDP CO.

Conclusions 7: The establishment of a national institutional framework and organizational arrangements for ABS through the project is the first of its kind in Bhutan. However, the project has not been very effective in enabling ease of access to its knowledge and awareness products. The project has also not been successful in documenting lessons learned from the project which can be applicable in upscaling and in design of similar projects in future.

Conclusion 8: The project management had maintained all information pertaining the project. However, the effectiveness of internal information management is considered weak.

Conclusion 9: The delay in enactment of the revised Biodiversity Bill has not affected the delivery of project outputs and outcomes. However, the Act is necessary for legitimacy for the policy, regulatory and organizational establishment.

Specific Recommendations and Management Responses are as follow:

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 1: It is recommended to commission an economic analysis of the commercial aspects of the project outputs to provide costs involved, pricing, sales and profitability of the commercial products and shed light in the appropriateness of the benefit sharing proportions defined in the pilot ABS agreements and how soon or late actual benefits would practically arise.

Management Response: The final Project Board Meeting, which was held on 21 December 2018 discussed in length and agreed with the recommendation on conducting an economic analysis of the commercial aspects of the project in future, which should include costs of production, pricing, sales and profitability and benefit sharing proportions (for ABS related project). The PSC members also recommended considering 4Ps in the marketing of the products (production, price, place and promotion) in order to sustain the products in the market.

Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking* Comments	Status
As an immediate measure, the project implementing partners, led by the NBC will develop an exit and back up strategy and explore the possibility of using 'BRAND BHUTAN' and 'Royal Seal' to secure better marketing of the products.	Mid 2019	IPs led by NBC		Ongoing

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 2: It is recommended to carry out documentation of lessons learnt in the upscaling implementation process to advice on upscaling.

Management Response: UNDP has been documenting the lesson learnt of the projects through monitoring and evaluation, and success stories. In fact, all projects will have a component on M&E going forward to capture the lesson learnt and knowledge sharing.

Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking Comments	Status
Develop M&E plan, which includes the documentation of lessons learnt for the projects		UNDP		Ongoing

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 3: It is recommended that the communication and awareness materials as well as the report on experiences of pilot ABS may be made available online through the website of NBC to continue the good effort that the project has made in creating awareness and to promote bioprospecting.

Management Response: As recommended, UNDP and NBC will upload all the communication and awareness materials and the advocacy video on their websites to reach out to larger audience.

Frame	Unit(s)	Comments	Status
Upload all the communication and awareness materials and the advocacy video on UNDP and NBC's websites	Q2 2019 UNDP and NBC		Ongoing

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 4: It is recommended to pursue the consideration of the Biodiversity Bill by the Parliament at the earliest. However, due to the change in the Parliament, it is suggested that awareness and sensitization of Parliamentarians on ABS and on the bill be conducted prior to submitting the bill to the parliament. This recommendation is made to ensure understanding of the bill in the right context before it is passed or is subjected to further delays. Hence, it may not be submitted to the first session of the 3rd Parliament.

Management Response: As recommended, NBC will explore the possibility of conducting an awareness and sensitization meeting/workshop for the Parliamentarians on ABS and Biodiversity Bill prior to submitting the bill to the parliament, which will ensure understanding of the Bill in the right context before it is passed or is subjected to further delays.

Key Action(s)	Time	Responsible	Tracking	Status
Conduct awareness and sensitization of Parliamentarians on ABS and Biodiversity Bill	Q3/Q4 2019	NBC		