

# UNEP-GEF Multi-Country Project to Strengthen Institutional capacities on LMO Testing in Support of National Decision Making (2017-2021)



*Science-informed decision making for effective biosafety systems*

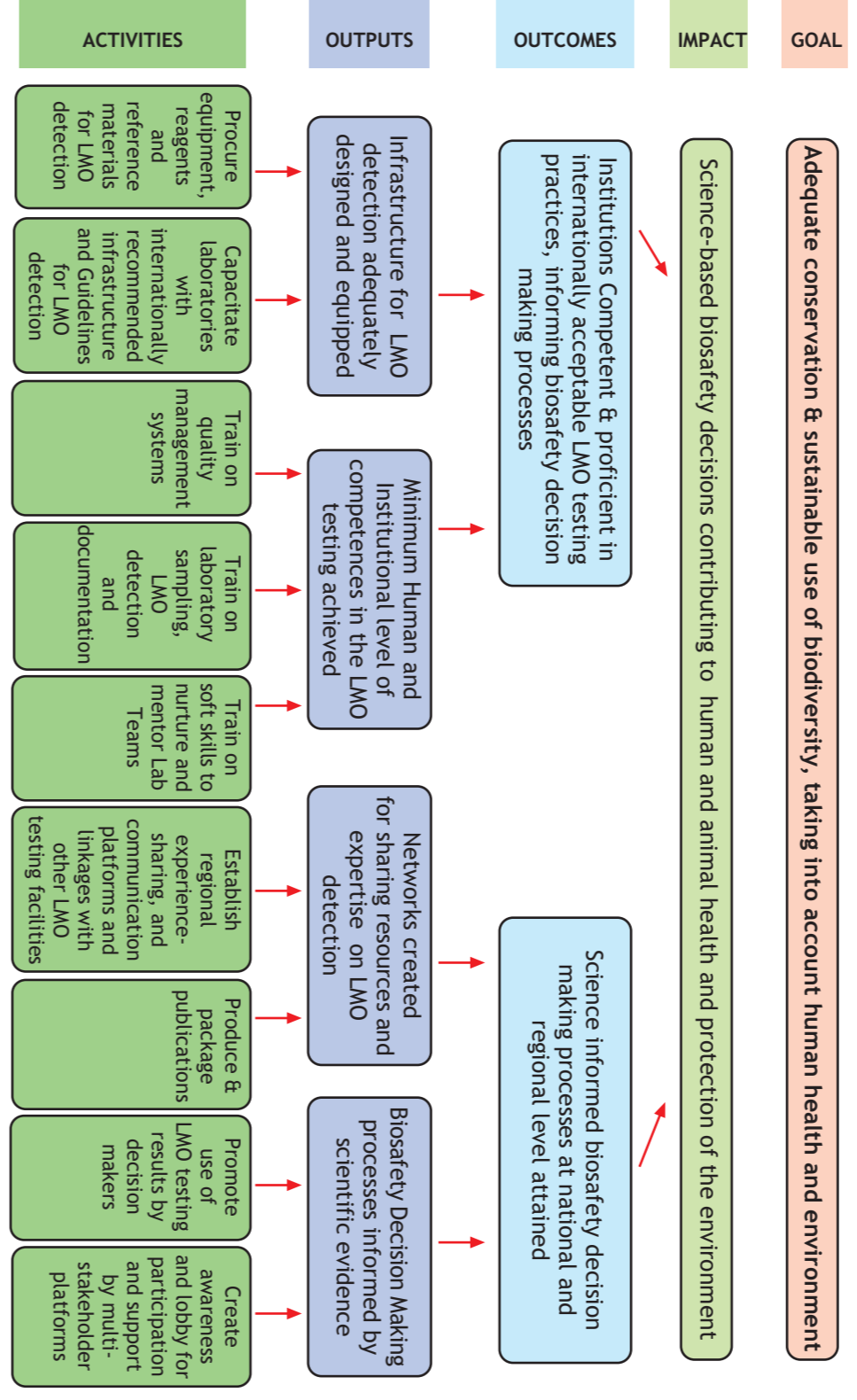


## “Multi-Country Project to Strengthen Institutional capacities on LMO Testing in Support of National Decision Making” (MCP-ICLT)

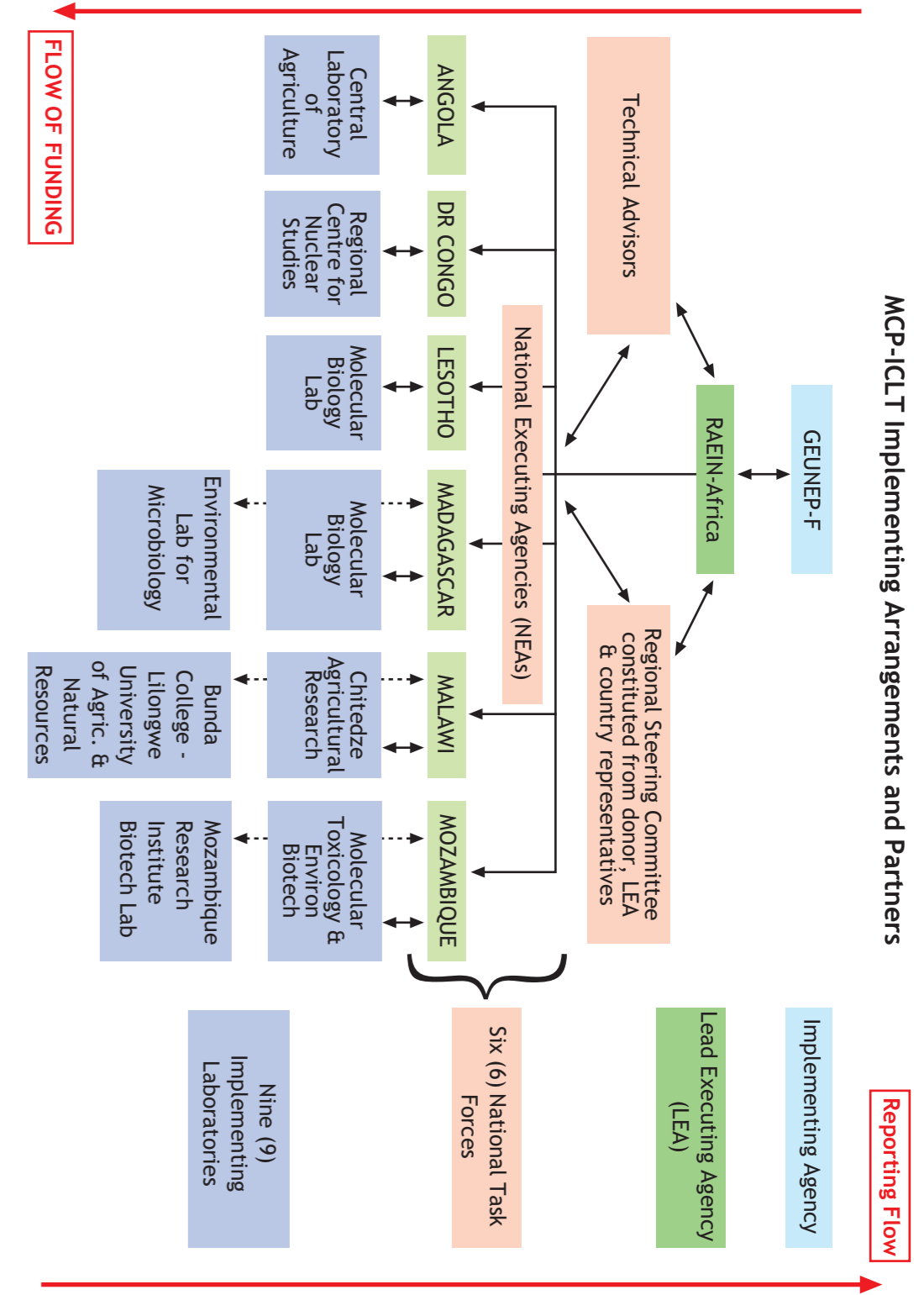
**Project Background**  
 Since 2004, the Regional Agricultural and Environmental Innovations Network-Africa (RAEIN-Africa), a regional non-governmental organization, has worked primarily on science, technology, and society including on biosafety capacity building projects. From 2007, RAEIN-Africa has conducted regional training on LMO testing for selected southern African countries, leading to the establishment and launch of the Southern African Network for GM Detection Laboratories (SANGL) in 2009. Through the implementation of SANGL (2007 to 2013) and the UNEP-GEF Preparatory Grant (PPG) (2014 to 2015), an in-depth study of the status of existing regulatory and policy environment around biotechnology, biosafety and biodiversity conservation, and the human and infrastructural capacities and gaps thereof, for LMO detection was carried out in Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique. Based on the needs and gaps identified a need driven, context-specific intervention entitled the “Multi-Country Project to Strengthen Institutional Capacities on LMO Testing in Support of National Decision Making” (MCP-ICLT) was born.

**Why LMO testing capacities?**  
 Lack of human and institutional capacity in LMO detection is a major impediment to effective implementation of national biosafety regulatory systems, countries are therefore unable to meet their international obligations under the CPB without the required LMO detection capacities. The “Multi-Country Project to Strengthen Institutional Capacities on LMO Testing in Support of National Decision Making” project aims to assist six countries in the region: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique; on pre-and post-approval monitoring of LMOs as part of the risk management processes under Article 17 of the CBP. The project aims at strengthening LMO testing capacities in support of biosafety decision making.

**The MCP-ICLT Project Scope**  
 The MCP-ICLT is a four year, UNEP-GEF funded project led by RAEIN-Africa in collaboration with six partner countries; Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. This project falls under the UNEP Medium-term Strategy of the sub-programme on Environmental Governance, whose objective is to ensure that the environment is strengthened to address agreed priorities at country, regional and global levels.  
The project purpose is to contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of safe transfer, handling, transport and use of LMOs resulting from LMOs that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, also taking into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements.



Theory of Change : UNEP-GEF “Multi Country Project to Strengthen Institutional capacities on LMO Testing in Support of National Decision Making”



## MCP-ICLT Project Components and Outputs

The project is divided into 4 work packages which include:

PROJECT COMPONENT	OUTCOMES	PROJECT OUTPUTS
<b>Project Objective</b> To build and strengthen institutional and human capacities for LMO detection in support of biosafety national decision making processes in selected southern Africa countries		
<b>A. Strengthening Infrastructure for LMO Detection</b>	1.0 Designated LMO laboratories fully capacitated and achieving a minimum level of functionality on LMO detection.	1.1 Guidance document on minimal infrastructure for LMO detection
		1.2 Adequate functional equipment and facilities for LMO detection
<b>B. Strengthening Institutional and Human capacities for LMO detection</b>	2.0 Minimum level of competence achieved in the designated LMO detection laboratories	2.1 Strengthened institutional and human capacities for LMO detection in support of biosafety national decision making processes
		2.2 Adequate technical backstopping in support of implementation processes
		2.3 Guidance document on best practices in LMO detection adapted for the regional context
<b>C. Strengthening Information sharing, lesson learning and Partnerships</b>	3.0 Sustainable Opportunities for sharing expertise, experiences and resources on LMO detection created.	3.1 Platforms for information exchange established and functional
		3.2 Project materials and guidance manuals well documented and published
		3.3 Linkages and partnerships with other regional and international LMO detection laboratories, and other relevant institutions established
<b>D. Strengthening Biosafety Decision Making</b>	4.0 Technical support to strengthen LMO detection and biosafety decision making processes in the targeted countries	4.1 Policy makers aware of the importance of LMO testing and using LMO detection in biosafety decision making.
		4.2 Skills and techniques for sampling, handling documentation of LMOs provided to biosafety regulatory chain actors.

Activities E & F are mainly to do with Project management and reporting.



## PARTICIPATING LABORATORIES



## The National Executing Agencies: and Project Coordinators

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### Technical Advisory Team

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## NATIONAL EXECUTING AGENCIES

