

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2025
Reporting from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 9759	Umoja WBS:SB-009076.01-06, 11232
SMA IPMR ID:199018	Grant ID:S1-32GFL-000619
Project Short Title: Macedonia GEF6 SLM Project	
Project Title: Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Through Strengthening Legal and Institutional Framework, Capacity Building and Restoration of Most Vulnerable Mountain Landscapes	
Duration months planned:	48
Duration months age:	61
Project Type:	Full Sized Project (FSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Europe
Countries:	North Macedonia
GEF Focal Area(s):	Land Degradation
GEF financing amount:	\$ 3,662,545.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 30,063,295.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2020-05-20
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2020-07-20
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2020-09-18
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2021-06-30
Date of First Disbursement:	2020-09-28
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2025:	\$ 1,826,469.00

Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 727,649.00
Midterm undertaken?:	Yes
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	2024-10-22
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2024-06-30
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2025-12-31
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2026-12-31
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2027-06-30

1.2 Project Description

The objective of this project is to develop and strengthen the national policy and institutional capacities for sustainable land management (SLM) and to contribute to achieving the national and degradation neutrality target with integrated landscape management in north-western mountainous ecosystems of North Macedonia. The goal of the Project is to reduce the effects of land degradation and land use pressures on natural resources in the mountain landscapes. UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (ROE- Geneva and Vienna Programme offices) is the executing agency of the project, while the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP) is the main national partner and Municipalities of Arachinovo, Gazi Baba, Jegunovce, Lipkovo, Saraj and Zhelino as local partners. The project is also working closely with other national partners such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, PE National Forests and PE for Pasture Management. The project aims to achieve its objective through three main components.

Component 1 (Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM) aims at analysing the current legal, institutional and capacity needs of land management sector including key opportunities and threats to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) at national scale in North Macedonia; support in development of a Soil Protection Law, as well as a Soil Protection Strategy with Guidelines for Establishing Soil Quality Monitoring Programme; land utilization and ecosystems services valuation for forest and grasslands ecosystems in the pilot sites in the north-western part of North Macedonia; updates of the "Local Environmental Action Plans" of targeted municipalities to include sustainable land management (SLM) considerations and ecological approaches for erosion control.

Component 2 (Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and up scaling) focuses on increasing the practical experience and knowledge of SLM and SFM methods and approaches and to facilitate uptake of SLM/SFM measures, which will eventually lead to reductions in land degradation and enhance ecosystem services. The project focuses on the issue of soil erosion, as one of the dominant types of land

degradation mostly caused by torrent rains, flooding and human activities including poor agricultural practices, inappropriate forest management, illegal loggings and forest fires.

Component 3 (Knowledge management and public awareness) is expected to improve the understanding of the benefits of SLM/SFM and LDN practices to scale up the SLM/SFM/LDN for future activities and sites. It will bring together the results of the project, more efficient approaches to rehabilitation of degraded land and sustainable land management and LDN approaches by private sector land developers and users.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (ROE) - Vienna Programme Office
names of Other Project Partners	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of North Macedonia
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Lesya Nikolayeva
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	George Saddimbah
UNEP Support Assistants	Charles Imbezi
Manager/Representative	Harald Egerer
Project Manager	Sonja Gebert
Finance Manager	Erika Mattsson
Communications Lead, if relevant	Alejandro Laguna Lopez

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	PoW 2019-2020-Subprogramme 3: Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
PoW Indicator(s):	Nature: (iv) Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	Outcome 4 - Environment and Climate Change, Output 4.2 Natural Resources
Link to relevant SDG Goals	Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
3.1- Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration	0 ha	2 050 ha	2 050 ha	282
3.2- Area of forest and forest land under restoration	0 ha	400 ha	400 ha	282
4.1- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity	0 ha	12 550 ha	12 550 ha	5000
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments	All identified stakeholders consulted and informed on the project objectives and participated in project activities.	20735	20735	7380
11.1- Male	All identified stakeholders	10367	10367	3127

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
	consulted and informed on the project objectives and participated in project activities.			
11.2- Female	All identified stakeholders consulted and informed on the project objectives and participated in project activities.	10368	10368	4253

Implementation Status 2025: 5th PIR

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2025	5th PIR	MS	MS	M
FY 2024	4th PIR	MS	MS	M
FY 2023	3rd PIR	MS	MS	M
FY 2022	2nd PIR	S	MS	M
FY 2021	1st PIR	MS	MS	L
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities

The goal of the project is to reduce the effects of land degradation and land use pressures on natural resources in the mountain landscapes in North Macedonia. In line with the objective, the following progress is made in achieving the project outcomes and activities implementation: Regular consultation meetings were held with the local UNEP team and the GEF, UNCCD and CBD Operational Focal Points, and other representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MOEPP), as well as with local partners involved in the implementation of specific project activities. The first draft of the Soil Protection Law and the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) report have been prepared and delivered to MOEPP, a consultation process of the draft Soil Protection Law will follow in the next reporting period;

Synthesized report on Land utilization and ecosystems services valuation for forest and grasslands ecosystems in the pilot sites (municipality of Zhelino, Saraj, Arachinovo, Lipkovo, Jagunovce and Gazi Baba) completed, and available in Macedonian and Albanian language. In addition, separate factsheets have been prepared together with separate maps for the project area for each of the pilot municipalities. The final deliverables have been approved by MOEPP and will be promoted and further distributed in the upcoming period and during the entire project duration. Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) are completed, approved by MoEPP and target municipalities, shared and available in Macedonian and Albanian language. ToR for the Development of Soil Protection Strategy and Guidelines for Establishing Soil Quality Monitoring Programme (first phase) is prepared and approved by MOEPP, local partner is selected, SSFA is prepared and ongoing is contracting procedure.

ToR for the National trainings for capacity building on SLM/SFM in LDN for national and municipal representatives, as well as for the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) is drafted, local partner selected, shared with MOEPP for approval. Signed Memorandum for cooperation (MoU) between UNEP, MOEPP and Public Enterprise National Forests (PENF), PCA with the PENF for afforestation of four (4) pilot sites: Bogoslovec (Sveti Nikole), Golashec (Gevgelija), Goceva Gora (Negotino) and Lipkovo Lake, with a total of 282 ha forest land under management of PENF, is signed. Ongoing is a procedure for engaging an external Supervisor/Forest Expert to oversee the appropriate selection of plant species, planting techniques, and cultivation practices, with this the project will ensure the quality and sustainability of the afforestation efforts. Revised and updated national LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality) Target Setting report; Revised and updated National Drought Management Plan. Prepared ToR for development of Land Management Study and Action Plan for the pilot municipalities and SLM practices tested, demonstrated and locally validated on 10 000 hectares to achieve local LDN targets, shared with MOEPP for approval, local partner selected. Develop ToR for outreach campaign with the SCOUT Association of Macedonia, through their Borenka programme, to raise public awareness, particularly among children and youth, about the causes and consequences of land degradation, droughts, forest fires and extreme flood events. Additionally, will promote long-term ecological benefits of the ecosystem services, SFM and SLM practices in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in the country. On 5th December 2024 was marked the World Soil Day, through an organized event in Municipality of Lipkovo, where the Minister of MOEPP, with the general director of the PENF and the Mayor of Lipkovo, have planted trees and announced the afforestation activities.

In the frame of Component 1 the following activities have been accomplished: Output 1.1.1. Analysis of the ongoing legal, institutional and capacity needs of land management sector including key opportunities and threats to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) at national scale in North Macedonia, is completed and approved by MoEPP, and made available to the local and national government. The following documents have been produced: a) Stakeholders; engagement plan; b) Report/minutes from the first stakeholders; engagement meeting regarding the process of drafting the law; c) Report on the current legal and institutional framework in the country relevant to soil protection, sustainable land management (SLM) and land degradation neutrality (LDN); d) Roadmap for development and adoption of the Soil Protection Law; e) Report/minutes from the second stakeholders; consultation meeting (to present the results of the legal and institutional framework, discuss the roadmap, and present the structure with discussions on the scope of the law); f) Functional analysis on soil protection, SLM and LDN in North Macedonia (what each chapter of the draft law should contain); g) Guidance on demonstrating and scaling up SLM and LDN best practices. Output 1.1.2. Development of Soil Protection Strategy and Guidelines for Establishing Soil Quality Monitoring Programme completed and made available for adoption: TOR for

Development of Soil Protection Strategy is prepared and finalized in consultations with local partners and approved by MOEPP. There is an ongoing procedure for contracting the Local partner. Output 1.1.3. Land utilization and ecosystems services valuation for forest and grasslands ecosystems in the pilot sites in the north-western part of Macedonia. Synthesized report on Land utilization and ecosystems services valuation for forest and grasslands ecosystems in the pilot sites (municipality of Zhelino, Saraj, Arachinovo, Lipkovo, Jagunovce and Gazi Baba) completed, and available in Macedonian and Albanian language. In addition, separate factsheets have been prepared together with separate maps for project area for each of the pilot municipalities. The final deliverables have been approved by MOEPP and will be promoted and further distributed in the upcoming period and during the entire project duration. Output 1.1.4. Support in the Development of the Law on Soil Protection: Roadmap for development and adoption of the Law on Soil Protection in North Macedonia is prepared, the working thesis and structure of the LSP were completed. An official announcement regarding the preparation of the LSP was published on MOEPP website Известување за започнување на изработка на Закон за заштита на почвите | Министерство за животна средина и простorno планирање, and on Unique National Electronic Register of Regulations of the Republic of North Macedonia (ENER) ЕНЕР | Закон за заштита на почвите, on (22 May 2024), Expert working group was established with a MOEPP decision (signed on 29 May 2024). The first draft of the LSP is prepared and shared with MOEPP, following this, a preliminary consultative meeting was held with the local partner and MOEPP. A second meeting between MOEPP and the expert team is planned prior to the law's publication on ENER. During the upcoming reporting period, additional public consultation meetings will be conducted with all relevant stakeholders to ensure broad input and comments. Additionally, communication is established with the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria for organizing of a Study visit for national and local governmental representatives. The purpose of this visit is to facilitate an exchange of experiences in implementing soil protection and management legislation, and gain insights into Bulgaria's established regulatory framework, including law enforcement practices, reporting mechanisms, and institutional communication processes. Output 1.1.5. Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) of targeted municipalities are revised and updated, to include sustainable land management considerations and ecological approaches for erosion control: The LEAPs for the pilot municipalities (Arachinovo, Jagunovce, Saraj and Zelino), are completed, shared with MOEPP and pilot municipalities and approved. Synergy activities report and Erosion protection and torrent waters with Action plan for Municipality of Lipkovo are also completed, delivered to MOEPP and Municipality of Lipkovo and approved. The final versions of the documents are available in Macedonian and Albanian language. Output 1.2.1. Relevant national and municipal resource managers capacitated in SLM and SFM practices, ecosystem services and use of economic instruments: The Capacity Building Training (CBT) for SLM and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in LDN in Türkiye was organized on 08-15 September 2024. Training programme modules were developed in consultation with the Turkish/Directorate for Combating desertification and erosion. ToR for the National trainings for capacity building on SLM/SFM in LDN for national and municipal representatives as well as for the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), is drafted and shared with MOEPP for approval, local partner selected. Output 1.2.2. Strengthened National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) to coordinate institutions, engage with local communities and manage information flows for better integration of SFM/SLM and LDN aspects: The new National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) is established, and progress has been made in discussions with representatives from institution members of the NCSD, regarding their participation in capacity-building trainings. ToR for this Output is drafted together with the Output 1.2.1 and shared with MOEPP for approval. In the frame of Component 2 the following activities have been accomplished: Output 2.1.1. SFM and SLM guidelines are prepared and made available to national and local authorities and all interested stakeholders, providing an effective framework for reforestation, afforestation, restoration and conservation activities: Within the scope of this output, consultants have been engaged to support the revision and update of the national LDN targets, as well as the National Drought Management Plan. These documents are finalized and will serve as a baseline for further development of the Soil Protection Strategy and updating the Draft National Action plan to Combat Desertification, but will also contribute to development of the guidelines and effective framework for re/afforestation activities. Output 2.1.2 SFM practices and priority actions for afforestation are implemented

to accelerate optimized use of forest and non-forest land by communities and local government on 5 000 hectares at pilot sites: Signed Memorandum for cooperation (MoU) between UNEP, MOEPP and Public Enterprise National Forests (PENF), PCA with the PENF for afforestation of four (4) pilot sites: Bogoslovec (Sveti Nikole), Golashec (Gevgelija), Goceva Gora (Negotino) and Lipkovo Lake, with a total of 282 ha forest land under management of PENF, is signed. Output 2.1.3. SLM practices to address priority LD and deforestation issues tested, demonstrated and locally validated on 10 000 hectares to achieve local LDN targets: Revision of the Drought Management Plan and suggestions for inputs/revision of the Draft National Action Plan to Combat Desertification is completed. Expert team was selected to work on the implementation of SLM practice and development of the Land Management Study and Action Plan (LMSAP) for the target municipalities. Furthermore, the lessons learned from the conducted CBT in Turkiye, as well as NCSD-related upcoming trainings, are expected to be the baseline to conduct the trainings under Output 2.1.3 on testing of SLM practices, while the LMSAP will integrate SLM practices that will be replicated/piloted on selected forest, agriculture and pasture land with involvement of local communities. ToR for development of the LMSAP as well as training for farmers and piloting of SLM on 50ha agriculture land is drafted and shared with MOEPP for approval. In the frame of Component 3, the following activities have been accomplished: Output 3.1.1 Production of knowledge management products made available to national and local stakeholders, based on training and exchanges under Outcome 1.2 and best practice arising from Outcome 2.1 to ensure SLM/SFM and LDN: This activity is ongoing, and depends on the finalization mainly of Outcome 1.2 and Outcome 2.1. Output 3.1.2. Communication strategy and outreach campaign designed and made available to targeted national and local stakeholders, with an emphasis on ecological and economic benefits of sustainable management of land and forests of North Macedonia, including establishment of web-based national SLM/SFM and LDN knowledge management hub: Developed Communication Strategy, for stakeholders' engagement throughout the implementation of all project activities and approved by MOEPP. TOR for starting SLM/SFM outreach campaign/s and development of promotional materials was drafted and approved by MoEPP. There is an ongoing awareness campaign related to the development of the Soil Protection Law. The development of the web-based communication hub has been agreed with MOEPP to be developed on their website. Initial informative text and documentation to be published, have been shared with MOEPP, which are approved, and in the next reporting period the dissemination hub is planned to be functional. On 5th December 2024 was marked the World Soil Day, through an organized event in Municipality of Lipkovo, where the Minister of MOEPP, with the General director of the PENF and the Mayor of Lipkovo, have planted trees and announced the afforestation activities. TOR developed and approved by MOEPP, with local partner SCOUT regarding youth involvement through the "Borenka" programme during the afforestation activities, including project visibility and raise awareness on SLM/SFM/LDN, SSFA prepared ongoing contracting procedure. Output 3.1.3 Development of three bankable project proposals made available to national authorities, for replication of sustainable land and forest management practices in other regions identified as vulnerable: This output will be implemented at the end of the project, following the deliveries of all components and specific stakeholders' needs.

Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

During the implementation phase of the project, no significant challenges or obstacles were confronted.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 33,725,840
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Actual to date:	17,190,000
Progress	Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has provided UNEP with office space for the project needs. Furthermore, the Ministry is continuously supporting the project execution with dedicated engagement and monitoring the implementation of the planned activities, field work activities, awareness raising events and public consultation processes. MOEPP expertise and guidance is crucial for political and operational execution of the project, especially during the development of the Soil Protection Law and Strategy, during project deliveries, such as the LEAPs for targeted municipalities, the ecosystem services valuation for forest and grassland ecosystems at the pilot sites and similar. The Ministry actively participated in preparing the Afforestation programme and maintained daily communication with the UNEP team. In addition, the targeted municipalities have actively participated in the preparation of LEAPs and ecosystem valuation services, through their engagement in working groups and consultative meetings. This engagement has not only facilitated the implementation of project activities but also enhanced local capacity and awareness, contributing to the sustainability and scalability of project outcomes at both local and national levels. The Public Enterprise National Forest will co-financing USD 237,444 during the afforestation activities in four pilot sites: Bogoslovec (Sveti Nikole), Golashec (Gevgelija), Goceva Gora (Negotino), and Lipkovo Lake. Covering human resources for site preparation, seedling production, and the application of silvicultural treatments, such as planning, pruning, and protection measures. The Agricultural Institute and the Faculty of Forestry have provided continuous support through expertise, expert involvement in the project activities, and further strengthening the technical foundation of the project.

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2024-03-01
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	<i>Knowledge management sharing and raising public awareness of SLM/SFM/LDN targeting stakeholders at both national and local levels forms part of all project components and is carried out with particular support from the scientific community, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, as well as non-governmental organizations that can directly contribute to proactive engagement of stakeholders, such as Scout Association in North Macedonia. Regular meetings are held with the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (CBD, UNCCD/GEF Operational Focal Points), as well as with local partners, to monitor the status of planned activities. Frequent coordination meetings are also conducted with the Faculty of Forestry, Public Enterprise National Forests, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Public Enterprise Pasture Management, and the Agriculture Institute, especially for the implementation of activities under Component 2. The activities under component 3 are expected to increase the access to information on the project, possibility for different stakeholders to access and contribute to the quality of deliverables and increase the knowledge on SLM/SFM/LDN challenges and opportunities. In</i>

	<i>this line frequent communication with local CSO were held, and involvement of youth in the project activities especially in the afforestation work is planned with the Scout Association in North Macedonia.</i>
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2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	No
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	The project is in line with UNEP's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment and takes into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of both men and women. Also, the project is consistent with the GEF Policy on Gender Equality (GEF/C.53/04, October 2017), and is also in line with the UNCCD, which recognizes the important role of women and of all individuals with expertise on desertification, land degradation and drought. The developed project Communication strategy includes gender mainstreaming tools in line with SDGs with focus on increasing the understanding of land degradation issues and impacts. Activities with reference to promotion of gender equality have been included in the selection of local partners, out of which 75% women are managing NGOs.

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? No If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?
New social and/or environmental risks	Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? No If yes, describe the new risks or changes?
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period? No If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?
Environmental and social safeguards management	In all project activities, a transparent process has been used, involving all stakeholders and respecting gender equality. Regarding social protection measures, all stakeholders are treated equally, regardless of different nationality, gender, or other categorization.

2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	During the implementation of the project, several important lessons have been learned that contribute to improving future planning and coordination. 1. Effective Stakeholder Collaboration, the engagement between the Ministry and local municipalities in implementing Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) has demonstrated the value of inclusive and participatory approaches. Strong local partnerships enhance ownership, improve responsiveness to environmental challenges, and facilitate smoother implementation. 2. Timely planning of afforestation and other project activities has proven essential for achieving desired outcomes. Aligning activities with seasonal and ecological conditions ensures greater efficiency and impact, highlighting the need for proactive and well-coordinated scheduling. 3. The Capacity Building Training (CBT) conducted in Türkiye provided valuable insights and practical knowledge. Integrating these learnings into the upcoming national training will ensure that international best practices are adapted to the local context, strengthening institutional and technical capacities. 4. Strategic and timely planning, combined with continuous monitoring, significantly enhances project implementation.
Main learning during the period	Main learning during the implementation period is that the timely planning is critical for aligning project activities with seasonal, ecological, and operational conditions, especially for interventions like afforestation. In addition, early coordination with stakeholders ensures smoother implementation and reduces delays caused by administrative or logistical challenges, while the monitoring and flexibility during implementation allow for real-time adjustments, improving responsiveness and overall project effectiveness.

Reflows

Reflows (for NGIs only)	
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2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	On 5th December 2024, an event was organized in Lipkovo Municipality to mark World Soil Day. The event was jointly organized by UNEP, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MOEPP) in North Macedonia and the Public Enterprise "National Forests" (PENF).
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	https://makfax.com.mk/makedonija/%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%9F%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D1%81%D0%B0%D0%B4%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B5-%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8-800-%D0%B8%D0%BB%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B8-%D1%81%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%B8/ https://opserver.mk/makedonija/medzhiti-zasaduvame-novi-800-iljadi-sadnici-na-pet-lokacii/ https://zoom.mk/me%D1%9Fiti-zasaduvame-novi-800-il%D1%98adi-sadniczi-na-pet-lokaczii/ https://nezavisen.mk/od-lipkovo-pochnuva-sadenjeto-800-000-sadnici/ https://www.kumanovonews.mk/vesti/kje-se-posumuva-pokraj-lipkovsko-ezero https://biznisvesti.mk/ministerot-medhiti-ja-pochnuva-aktsijata-za-sadene-drvtsa-vo-opshtina-lipkovo/ https://www.vecer.press/%D1%9C%D0%B5-%D1%81%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D1%88%D1%83%D0%BC%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BF%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE/ https://www.facebook.com/MOEPPMKD/posts/pfbid0LP2V5ddWSYAfELtyidBYzrVM6txNtAEB5ndJhgXN3QqLyJjMndkfKE1N4mN4oFGVI https://www.facebook.com/JPNacionalnisumi/posts/pfbid0ZcZ7zkGVBismhWkd9HoySrFmbMgxK4raQ4p5dE7cYcmFjPsQ2cRN1yFxG6Z1LzGSI
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3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
To develop and strengthen national policy and institutional capacity for sustainable land management (SLM) and to contribute to achieving the national and degradation neutrality target with integrated landscape management in north-western mountainous ecosystems of North Macedonia	Number of Government Strategy, Legislation developed	Weak political or institutional will to make necessary changes will prevent the application of SLM and SFM practices on the ground	Report on existing legal, institutional and capacity needs of land management sector Updated Local Environmental Action Plans drafted Soil Protection Strategy drafted for consultation	Analysis of the ongoing legal, institutional and capacity needs of land management sector including key opportunities and threats to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) at national scale in North Macedonia completed and made available to the national and local government	50%	Plan for stakeholders' involvement and communication developed; Report on current legal and institutional framework in North Macedonia developed, Road Map to a Law on Soil protection and functional analysis and Guidance on demonstrating and scaling up SLM and LDN best practices developed. All deliverables are approved by MOEPP. In addition the first draft of the Law and the Regulatory impact assessment (RIA) have been finalized and delivered to MOEPP.	MS
Outcome 1.1.:National authorities address gaps and weaknesses in the land use and	Number of Government Strategy, Legislation developed	No specific strategy for soil	Report on existing legal, institutional	National Soil Protection Strategy	30%	Local partner selected, ToR for Development of Soil Protection Strategy is finalized in consultation with MOEPP	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
land degradation policy, legal and regulatory framework to accelerate the achievement of land degradation neutrality		protection	and capacity needs of land management sector	approved		and the local partner, and is approved by MOEPP. SSFA drafted, ongoing is contracting procedure.	
Outcome 1.1.:National authorities address gaps and weaknesses in the land use and land degradation policy, legal and regulatory framework to accelerate the achievement of land degradation neutrality	Number of Government Strategy, Legislation developed	No specific legislation on protection of soils	Updated Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs)	LEAPs updated	100%	LEAPs for the pilot municipalities (Arachinovo, Jagunovce, Saraj and Zelino) Synergy activity report and Erosion protection and torrent waters for Municipality of Lipkovo are finalized, approved by MOEPP, and available in Macedonian and Albanian language.	S
Outcome 1.1.:National authorities address gaps and weaknesses in the land use and land degradation policy, legal and regulatory framework to accelerate the achievement of land degradation neutrality	Number of Government Strategy, Legislation developed	No specific strategy for soil protection	Drafted Soil Protection Law	Soil Protection Law drafted	60%	The first Draft of the Law and the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) have been finalized and delivered to MOEPP. As the next step, MOEPP will publish the draft Law on the National Electronic Register for Regulations of the Republic of North Macedonia (ENER). In the coming period, consultative meetings will be held with all relevant stakeholders. Based on the comments received through ENER and during the consultations, the final version of the Law will be prepared. In the meantime, communication is established with the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria for organizing of a Study visit for national and local governmental representatives. The	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						purpose of this visit is to facilitate an exchange of experiences in implementing soil protection and management legislation, and gain insights into Bulgaria's established regulatory framework, including law enforcement practices, reporting mechanisms, and institutional communication processes.	
Outcome 1.2: Trained national and municipal resource managers to integrate SLM/ SFM in LDN, in coordination with the NCSD	# of trained and capacitated NCSD members	NCSD has limited capacity, limited participation of important stakeholders, limited coordination between the members of NCSD	MOEPP: 22 5 NCSD members trained	MOEPP 30 100 experts trained	40%	The international Capacity Building training for SLM and SFM in LDN was held in Türkiye from 8-15 September 2024. During this period, 25 representatives (13 women, 12 men) from state and municipal institutions, as well as NGOs were trained. The expertise gained will be disseminated through national trainings sessions in the next reporting period. The new national Development Strategy was adopted, followed by a reconstitution of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD). During the reporting period consultations have been held with the newly established NCSD and member institutions to discuss shared priorities related to SLM and SFM in LDN, as well as their participation in the national CBT. Additionally, representatives from NCSD member	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						institutions took part in the CBT held in Türkiye. ToR for the National trainings is developed and submitted to MOEPP for approval. A local partner has been selected to implement the ToR.	
Outcome 2.1: Local governments in North Macedonia apply practical methods, approaches and practices for halting or reversing land degradation and deforestation beyond the pilots	Forest land under SFM (ha) under afforestation actions	~9,000 ha of forest and forest land have been lost annually 0 ha under SFM practices; There are no specific guidelines for undertaking SFM in project sites	Guidelines for SFM reforestation for the targeted municipalities prepared; SFM approaches (based on developed SFM guidelines) for additional 5 000 ha of forest and forest land determined	Practical application of field afforestation activities at selected bare land or severely degraded forest and additional 5 000 ha of forest and forest land is under SFM	50%	The national LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality) target setting report has been revised and updated. The drivers of land degradation described in existing LDN Report were reanalyzed and revised, together with the approach/methodology for their development and assessment. The existing legal and institutional framework related to LDN has been reviewed and updated. Afforestation programme for 400 ha of forest land across 6 pilot sites is prepared. Based on this programme and following several consultation meetings with the Public Enterprise National Forests (PENF) and the Public Enterprise for Pasture management, a PCA for afforestation of four pilot sites has been signed with PENF. Consultations with MOEPP are ongoing for developing a ToR for SFM guidelines, covering an additional 5,000 ha of forest and forest land under SFM practices.	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Outcome 2.1: Local governments in North Macedonia apply practical methods, approaches and practices for halting or reversing land degradation and deforestation beyond the pilots	Area of land under sustainable land management (ha) under SFM ;# of farmers testing SLM practices	0 ha - Farmers do not apply sustainable land management and climate smart agricultural practices in pilot municipalities	500 local farmers involved in the questionnaires by year 1; At least 100 local farmers tested SLM practices	10 000 ha of land under SLM	35%	Updated National Drought Management Plan and suggestions for inputs/revision of the Draft National Action Plan to Combat Desertification. Furthermore, the lessons learned from the conducted CBT in Turkiye, as well as NCSD upcoming trainings will be baseline to conduct the trainings under Output 2.1.3. on testing of SLM practices. In addition, ToR is developed in constlations with local experts and MOEPP, for preparation of Land Management Study and Action Plan for the target municipalities, that will cover an area of 10 000 ha of land under SLM and 500 local farmers involved in the questioners The ToR is shared with MOEPP for approval.	MS
Outcome 2.1: Local governments in North Macedonia apply practical methods, approaches and practices for halting or reversing land degradation and deforestation beyond the pilots	# of municipal action plans updated (LEAP)	Municipalities have no systematic plans with local land users to prevent or reverse erosion threats; Limited local level knowledge or	2 LEAPs revised and updated	5 LEAPs revised and updated	100%	LEAPs for the pilot municipalities (Arachinovo, Jagunovce, Saraj and Zelino), Synergy activities report and Erosion protection and torrent waters for Municipality of Lipkovo are finalized and available in Macedonian and Albanian language. In addition to this, ToR for preparation of Land Managment Study and Action plan for all target municipalities is prepared and shared with MOEPP for approval.	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		understanding of SLM methods or approaches					
Outcome 3.1: Private sector, land developers and users apply SLM/SFM best practices for mitigating erosion and degradation applicable for North Macedonia	Community, stakeholder and societal knowledge and understanding of benefits of SLM/SFM improved	Few targeted knowledge management products based on best practice for SLM and application of LDN principle available	At least 300 people (out of which, at least 50% women) have taken notice of, or participate in, at least 3 targeted awareness raising activities and/or materials	At least 500 people (out of which, at least 50% women) have been given opportunity to take notice of, or participate in, a variety of targeted awareness raising activities and materials and benefits from SLM/SFM	20%	This Output is ongoing and depends on the finalization of the Outcome 1.2. and Outcome 2.1	MS
Outcome 3.1: Private sector, land developers and users apply SLM/SFM best practices for mitigating erosion and degradation applicable for North Macedonia	Community, stakeholder and societal knowledge and understanding of benefits of SLM/SFM improved	Few stakeholders have knowledge products on SLM/SFM and LD		At least 50% of the communication and awareness raising products delivered by the project will be focused	10%	The project has prioritized the active involvement of women throughout its implementation. To date, a total of 611 individuals have participated in face-to-face meetings and events, including 351 women and 260 men. These engagements have taken place through various forms such as workshops, trainings and PSC meetings, as well as on-site	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
				towards women		consultations with target municipalities and institutions across the country. As the project progresses, it will continue to emphasize women's participation, particularly through the development and dissemination of communication and awareness raising materials designed to ensure inclusive outreach and engagement.	
Outcome 3.1: Private sector, land developers and users apply SLM/SFM best practices for mitigating erosion and degradation applicable for North Macedonia	Community, stakeholder and societal knowledge and understanding of benefits of SLM/SFM improved	No Web-based national knowledge management hub for SLM/SFM and LDN available to scientific institutions, public and private sector			50%	This activity is discussed together with the institutional communication tools on SLM/SFM/LDN. This activity has been agreed upon with MOEPP to be developed on their website. Initial informative text and additional documentation have been shared with MOEPP, which are approved, and in the next reporting period the dissemination hub to be functional.	MS
Outcome 3.1: Private sector, land developers and users apply SLM/SFM best practices for mitigating erosion and degradation applicable for North Macedonia	Three new project proposals for application of SLM/SFM developed	No well-developed SLM/ SFM project proposals for submission to donors prepared	One bankable SLM/SFM project proposals prepared	Three bankable SLM/SFM project proposals prepared and being discussed with potential donors	100%	During the project implementation three bankable SLM/SFM project proposals have been developed. 1. GEF7 National Project "Biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and sustainable tourism development in North Macedonia" has been approved and is currently ongoing. Building on the results	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						and achievements of the STAR5 project, it continues to strengthen existing initiatives within the national focal areas of land degradation and biodiversity. 2. GEF8 Transboundary biodiversity conservation project, between North Macedonia and Albania, has been approved and is currently ongoing. The aim is to contribute to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity of the transboundary protected area Shar Planina/Korab-Koritnik, by mobilizing Albania's and North Macedonia's common vision for transboundary cooperation for the management and development of the transboundary protected area. 3.Provided support to MOEPP in developing of PIF for the GEF8 National Project proposal, targeting national goals for combating land degradation and conserving biodiversity conservation in line with GEF8 cycle, strategic objectives.	

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Output 1.1.1.: SLM approaches mainstreamed into revised legal framework and land management planning processes	2022-03-31	100%	100%	Revised legal framework and land management planning processes	S
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.1.1. Analysis and identification of gaps in the relevant primary and secondary legislation in the land management sector in the country	2021-12-31	100%	100%	Local partner Institute for Policies in Environment and Climate Change selected and SSFA signed on 10-Jun- 2022. Functional analysis and Guidance on demonstrating and scaling up SLM and LDN best practices prepared and approved by MOEPP.	S
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.1.2. Analysis, identification of gaps and different responsibilities of relevant stakeholders in the land management sector	2021-12-31	100%	100%	Functional analysis and Guidance on demonstrating and scaling up SLM and LDN best practices prepared and approved by MOEPP.	S
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.1.3. Conduct meetings and workshop with relevant stakeholders to discuss results from the performed analysis under 1.1.1.1 and 1.1.1.2 and present proposals for improvements, taking into consideration gender balance and inclusion of vulnerable groups and ethnic and religious minorities	2022-03-31	100%	100%	On October 3, 2022, Inception workshop was held attended by 38 participants from various stakeholders (state administration bodies, local self-government units, the non-governmental sector and the scientific community), with the purpose to inform all stakeholders about the process and presenting the prepared Plan	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					for stakeholders' involvement and communication. On 07-Dec-2022 a second workshop https://ipecc.org.mk/en/rabotilnicarazvo-naregulativa-za-upravuva-e-so-pochvite-vorepublika-severna-makedonija-en/ , attended by 31 participants, for the purpose of presenting the Report on the Legal and Institutional Framework for Soil Protection in the Republic of North Macedonia, the Roadmap for Drafting the Law on Soil Protection, and the Draft Structure of the Law on Soil Protection.	
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.1.4. Prepare report with recommendations for improvements in the identified legal and institutional framework	2022-03-31	100%	100%	Stakeholders' engagement plan and communication plan was prepared and approved by MOEPP.	S
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.1.5. Clarify and define individual and joint stakeholder responsibilities, especially in regards to SLM and SFM decision making mechanisms and responsibilities	2022-03-31	100%	100%	Report on current legal and institutional framework in North Macedonia prepared, together with the Road map for drafting the Law on Soil protection and approved by MoEPP.	S
1 Strengthened legal and	Output 1.1.2: Development of Soil Protection Strategy and Guidelines for Establishing Soil Quality Monitoring Programme completed and	2025-12-31	30%	35%	Delays in the implementation due to the parliamentary and president elections in	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	made available for adoption				the country (May-June 2024) and appointment of a new Minister for environment and physical planning and new GEF OFP. In addition, as a national - scale strategy, the first one of its kind in the country, it was necessary to determine its scope and type of expertise needed for successful development. ToR is finalized and approved by MOEPP, local partner is selected, ongoing is contracting procedure.	
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.2.1. Analysis of the existing national and local policy documents to impact SLM and SFM, major related environmental problems, steps taken so far and reasons for strategy development	2025-12-31	30%	40%	Activity partially conducted through Output 1.1.1 Revised legal framework and land management planning processes	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.2.2. Preliminary national stakeholders' consultations to discuss major problems and results under 1.1.2.1, taking into consideration gender balance and inclusion of vulnerable groups and ethnic and religious minorities	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and	Activity 1.1.2.3. Develop sections on LD in correlation with other sectors and impacts, mechanisms for measuring soil quality and effectiveness of remedial actions	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
capacity building for SLM and SFM						
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.2.4 Consultation with national stakeholders to discuss proposed actions and best management practices	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.2.5. Draft Soil Protection Strategy	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.2.6. Develop guidelines for establishing soil quality monitoring programme	2025-12-31	0%	10%	Ongoing are discussions with MOEPP on the methodology for the monitoring programme.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.2.7. National stakeholders' consultations to discuss 1.1.2.6 and development of final version of the Strategy, taking into account gender balance and inclusion of minorities	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
building for SLM and SFM						
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Output 1.1.3: Land utilization and ecosystem services valuation for forest and grasslands ecosystems in the pilot sites in the north-western part of North Macedonia, completed and disseminated	2025-09-30	90%	98%	Synthesized report on Land utilization and ecosystems services valuation for forest and grasslands ecosystems in the pilot sites (municipality of Zhelino, Saraj, Arachinovo, Lipkovo, Jagunovce and Gazi Baba) completed, and available in Macedonian and Albanian language. In addition, a separate factsheet have been prepared together with separate maps for project area for each of the pilot municipalities. The final deliverables have been approved by MOEPP and will be promoted and further distributed in the upcoming period and during the entire project duration.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.3.1. Determine through stakeholder consultation which SLM options are to be assessed for land utilization and ecosystem services	2022-09-30	100%	100%	Identification and selection of ecosystem services was done for each municipality whereas the local stakeholders did priority ranking. Capacity matrix methodology was applied for the assessment of ecosystem services. As a result, capacity matrix for 14 selected ecosystem services for 5 ecosystem types (coniferous, deciduous and riparian forests, lowland and mountain pastures) within the six Municipalities was created.	S
1 Strengthened	Activity 1.1.3.2. Preparation of studies on (a) Scenario	2023-06-30	100%	100%	A List of threats and pressures was	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	characterization and biophysical & economic data and (b) Scenario analysis and valuation – within a scope of application of land utilization and ecosystem services				created, and the expert team identified ecosystem type/s within each municipality.	
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.3.3. Organizing of Stakeholder validation workshop on the application of land utilization and ecosystem services and preparation of final version on scenario analysis and valuation	2023-09-30	100%	100%	Inception workshop for Development of Ecosystem services (ESS) for the Municipalities of Lipkovo, Arachinovo, Gazi Baba, Saraj, Zhelino and Jegunovce was held. on October 4, 2022 Validation workshop experts' workshop was organized on 25-Nov-2022. Additionally, during February and March 2025, further consultative meetings were conducted with all participating municipalities, during which the final deliveries were presented and validated.	S
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.3.4. Publications (translation, design and printing) of scenario analysis and valuation study on the applications of land utilization and ecosystem services	2025-06-30	80%	100%	All developed documents: Synthesis report on Land utilization and ecosystem services valuation for forest and grasslands ecosystems in the pilot sites in the northwestern part of North Macedonia is translated in Macedonian, Albanian and English language, while the Factsheets on Ecosystem services for each pilot site/municipality are available into Macedonian and Albanian language, designed and printed.	MS
1 Strengthened	Activity 1.1.3.5. Dissemination of Scenario analysis and valuation	2025-09-30	50%	90%	Ongoing communication with the pilot	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	study on the application of land utilization and ecosystem services				sites/municipalities for organizing educative workshop on Promotion and distribution of publications with scenario analysis and valuation study on the applications of land utilization and ecosystem services.	
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Output 1.1.4: Support in the Development of the Law on Soil Protection	2025-09-30	30%	75%	Progress has been made in the development of the first draft of the Soil Protection Law, including the completion of the working thesis and structure, establishment of an expert team, and ongoing consultative meetings and workshops.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.4.1. Conform an inter-institutional steering group to guide and supervise the development of the Law, taking into consideration the existing international and national policies, regulations and treaties	2024-06-30	100%	100%	Roadmap for development and adoption of Law on Soil Protection in North Macedonia is prepared, delivered to MOEPP and approved. The working thesis and structure of the LSP were completed, this activity was followed by a series of experts' meetings. A working group on the Soil Law was established with a MOEPP decision (signed on 29 May 2024).	S
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.4.2. Establishment of an expert team to work on the development of the Draft Law, taking into account gender balance	2022-12-31	100%	100%	A local partner was selected and contracted to support the Development of the Soil Protection Law (Institute for Policies in Environment and Climate Change-IPECC). An expert team was established (involving soil expert, legal, erosion, pedology, climate expert, etc.).	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.4.3. Develop Draft Law on Soil Protection	2025-09-30	60%	70%	Ongoing activity. The first draft version of the law is prepared and shared with UNEP and MOEPP. The Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) report is finalized. The next reporting period will be used for the public consultation process on the Law on Soil Protection.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.4.4. Carry out necessary workshops, meetings, national consultations to present and discuss the Draft Law on Soil Protection, taking into account gender balance and inclusion of minorities	2025-09-30	40%	55%	Several consultative meetings with the expert team were organized by the local partner in relation to the development of the first draft of the Soil Protection Law (SPL). Following the submission of the initial draft, a preliminary consultative meeting was held with the local partner and MOEPP. A second meeting between MOEPP and the expert team is planned prior to the law's publication on the National Electronic Register for Regulations of the Republic of North Macedonia (ENER) https://ener.gov.mk/Default.aspx . During the upcoming reporting period, additional public consultation meetings will be conducted with all relevant stakeholders to ensure broad input and comments. Following these consultations and receiving comments on ENER, the final draft of the Law will be prepared. Additionally, communication is	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					established with the Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria for organizing of a Study visit for national and local governmental representatives. The purpose of this visit is to faci	
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.4.5. Preparation of all necessary documentation and submission of the Draft Law to relevant legislation authorities for official processing and adoption of the Law	2025-09-30	20%	25%	Ongoing. On 15 March 2024 an announcement was published on MOEPP website regarding the preparation of the Law on Soil Protection.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Output 1.1.5: “Local Environmental Action Plans” of targeted municipalities are revised and updated, to include sustainable land management considerations and ecological approaches for erosion control	2024-12-31	90%	100%	Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs) for targeted municipalities are revised and updated, final versions delivered to MOEPP and target municipalities, available in Macedonian and Albanian language.	S
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.5.1. Selection of expert team to work on the development of the “Local Environmental Action Plans”	2021-03-31	100%	100%	Local partner contracted: Milieu Kontakt MK (MKM) with an expert team to support the development of the Local Environmental Action Plans (LEAPs)	S
1 Strengthened legal and	Activity 1.1.5.2. Draft “Local Environmental Action Plans”, taking into account gender balance, local capacities and institutional budgets	2021-09-30	100%	100%	LEAPs for the targeted municipalities (Arachinovo, Lipkovo, Saraj, Zhelino,	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM					Jegunovce) were drafted, including the sustainable land management and ecological approaches for erosion control and torrent waters for the Municipality of Lipkovo.	
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.5.3. Stakeholders workshop to discuss developed draft "Local Environmental Action Plans"	2022-12-31	100%	100%	The LEAPs were shared with MOEPP and the municipalities. In parallel, meetings were organized with each to discuss the findings. The comments received were integrated and LEAPs are finalized, delivered and accepted by MOEPP.	S
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.1.5.4. Final "Local Environmental Action Plans" updated and lessons learned	2021-12-31	95%	100%	Deliverables: LEAPs for pilot municipalities (Arachinovo, Jagunovce, Saraj and Zelino), Synergy activities report and Erosion protection and torrent waters for Municipality of Lipkovo are finalized, available in two languages Macedonian and Albanian and delivered to MOEPP and pilot municipalities.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Output 1.2.1: Relevant national and municipal resource managers capacitated in SLM and SFM practices, ecosystem services and use of economic instruments	2025-12-31	40%	45%	Capacity Building Training (CBT) was organized in Türkiye, based on the prepared training modules. A National training Programme will be developed, and relevant national and local stakeholders will be additionally capacitated. Local partner is selected; ToR is developed and shared with MOEPP for approval.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.2.1.1. Assessment of capacities at national and local level to identify the needs and challenges of relevant stakeholders in adopting SLM/SFM approaches	2025-12-31	60%	70%	Capacity need assessment was done in advance for the selected participants/stakeholders at the Capacity building Training (CBT) in Türkiye and took into consideration similar past initiatives (using that experience and avoiding duplication), based in these results, the needs and challenges of relevant stakeholders in adopting SLM/SFM approaches and the training modules for the CBT in Türkiye were developed. As a follow-up, these training modules will be scaled up and adapted for the upcoming National CBT. The initial assessment will also be broadened to better inform the design and delivery of the national-level training	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.2.1.2. Based on the results of 1.2.1.1, develop Training Program, to fit the capacity needs assessment	2025-12-31	30%	40%	In collaboration between UNEP, MOEPP, UNCCD Secretariat and the General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion within the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change in Türkiye, a Training Program/modules were developed. Lessons learned and experiences gained through these CBT modules will be upscaled at national level through the national Training Programme.	MS
1 Strengthened	Activity 1.2.1.3. Selection of training teams depending on the model	2025-12-31	30%	70%	Selection of training teams for the CBT	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	of training and stakeholders				in Türkiye was done based on the training model and stakeholders needs. The TOR for the Training Programme at national level is developed and shared with MOEPP for approval. An expert team and local partners were identified and agreed with MOEPP. Preliminary mapping of relevant stakeholders to be trained is conducted.	
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.2.1.4. Implementation of the Training Program, taking into consideration gender balance	2025-12-31	40%	45%	The Capacity Building Training (CBT) for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) was held in Türkiye from September 8-15, 2024. During this period, 25 representatives (13 women, 12 men) from state and municipal institutions, as well as NGOs were trained. The expertise gained will be disseminated through national training sessions in the next reporting period.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.2.1.5. Identification and addressing of information gaps and flows for carrying out SLM and SFM approaches	2025-12-31	30%	40%	The Capacity Building Training (CBT) for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) was held in Türkiye from September 8-15, 2024. During this period, 25 representatives (13 women, 12 men) from state and municipal institutions, as well as NGOs were trained. The expertise	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					gained will be disseminated through national training sessions in the next reporting period.	
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Output 1.2.2: Strengthened National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) to coordinate institutions, engage with local communities and manage information flows for better integration of SFM/SLM and LDN aspects	2025-12-31	20%	30%	The new NCSD is established, and progress has been made in discussions with representatives from institution members of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), regarding their participation in capacity-building trainings. However, challenges persist in implementing specific activities due to an ongoing institutional restructuring process. ToR for this Output is drafted and shared with MOEPP for approval.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.2.2.1. Strengthen NCSD capacities on SLM and SFM approaches, through thematic meetings and workshops	2025-12-31	20%	30%	Discussions with representatives from institutions -members of the National Council for Sustainable Development were conducted related to the common SLM/SFM/LDN needs and their involvement in the capacity building trainings. The new National Development Strategy is adopted by the national authorities. and brought reconstruction and establishment of a new NCSD and its operations. In addition, member institutions of the newly established NCSD were participating in the Capacity building training (CBT) organized in September 2024 in Türkiye.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.2.2.2. Field visits for NCSD members to facilitate engagement with local communities	2025-12-31	30%	30%	Two member institutions of the NCSD participated in the Capacity building training (CBT) organized in September 2024 in Türkiye. This activity will be implemented in the upcoming reporting period, within the same CBT programme for the National trainings.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.2.2.3. Develop mechanism for gathering and sharing information between NCSD members	2025-12-31	0%	15%	Primary discussion with relevant institutions members of the National Council for Sustainable Development were conducted to discuss the needs for SLM/SFM/LDN sharing information tools, as well as with an expert team on SLM/SFM/LDN.	MS
1 Strengthened legal and institutional framework and capacity building for SLM and SFM	Activity 1.2.2.4. Develop recommendations for revising national policies relevant to the land management sector	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period.	MS
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in	Output 2.1.1. SFM and SLM guidelines are prepared and made available to national and local authorities and all interested stakeholders, providing an effective framework for reforestation, afforestation, restoration and conservation activities	2025-12-31	30%	50%	National expert identified in close cooperation with MoEPP, revised and updated the national LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality) target setting report and developed the guidelines. The drivers of land degradation described in the existing LDN Report were analyzed and revised, together with the approach/methodology for their	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)					development and assessment. The existing legal and institutional analysis connected with LDN has been analyzed and updated. Additional data collection is ongoing. A workshop and meetings to discuss the developed guidelines with relevant stakeholders, planned for the upcoming reporting period.	
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous	Activity 2.1.1.1. Establish technical advisory working group with representatives from concerned stakeholders	2024-03-31	100%	100%	National expert identified in close cooperation with MOEPP. A technical advisory working group for implementation of the prescribed actions in the ToR is established and meetings with the MOEPP are organized.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)						
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot	Activity 2.1.1.2. Select expert team to work on the development of the guidelines based on data gathered through questionnaires and analysis of other relevant documentation	2024-03-31	100%	100%	Selected expert team in cooperation with MOEPP and other relevant stakeholders, revised and updated the national LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality) target setting report and developed the guidelines.	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)						
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous	Activity 2.1.1.3. Develop draft guidelines and effective framework of reforestation/ afforestation activities	2025-12-31	60%	60%	A database for preparation of the guidelines was provided. The existing LDN report was analyzed and gaps for improvements identified. Some of the new degradation trends of the land have been assessed through the existing (published) data. The drivers of land degradation, described in the existing LDN Report were analyzed and prepared, as well as the approach/methodology for their development and assessment. The existing legal and institutional analysis connected with LDN have been analyzed and updated. Ongoing is communication with MOEP for drafting a ToR for additional data collection and finalisation of the development of the guidelines.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)						
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and	Activity 2.1.1.4. Workshop and meetings to discuss the developed guidelines with relevant stakeholders taking into consideration gender balance and inclusion of vulnerable groups and ethnic and religious minorities	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
upscaling)						
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)	Activity 2.1.1.5. Final guidelines and effective framework developed	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period.	MS
2 Implementation of sustainable	Output 2.1.2: SFM practices and priority actions for afforestation are implemented to accelerate optimized use of forest and non-forest land by communities and local government on 5 000 hectares at pilot	2025-12-31	50%	60%	The Program for afforestation of 6 pilot sites on 400 ha is prepared. Furthermore, a Memorandum for	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)	sites				cooperation (MoU) between UNEP, MOEPP and PE National Forests. was signed. ToR developed and PCA for afforestation of four (4) pilot sites: Bogoslovec (Sveti Nikole), Golashec (Gevgelija), Goceva Gora (Negotino) and Lipkovo Lake, with total of 282 ha forest land, is signed with the Public Enterprise National Forests (PENF).	
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the	Activity 2.1.2.1. Select expert team to work on the identification and implementation of priority actions	2023-12-31	100%	100%	A national expert was contracted based on the TOR consulted with MOEPP, for preparation of afforestation programs for three pilot sites, including the selection of species, planting techniques, and cultivation measures and overall contribution to the UNEP	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)					national project team in implementing activities related to Sustainable Forest Management Practices. Due to the natural conditions on the ground and arid and poor soil conditions, difficult access to the afforestation sites, occupational health and safety aspects, land property issues, the engaged expert proposed to develop a detailed and expanded afforestation plan for three additional locations. As final delivery, Afforestation programs for 6 pilot sites, selection of species and planting techniques and cultivation measures is prepared.	
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most	Activity 2.1.2.2. Discuss and select possible pilot sites with national and local stakeholders, including types of species for reforestation/afforestation	2023-12-31	100%	100%	For the three initially planned pilot sites (wider area of the village Strachince, Lipkovo Lake, and Zheden Mountain), meetings with the Public Enterprise National Forests and field visits with its branch offices on the pilot sites were conducted. During these meetings, the forest management plans were discussed, and an analysis of national and separate forest-unit management plans was conducted.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)					Micro-locations for afforestation were selected based on the prepared analysis. Additionally, an analysis was performed on settlements and areas not included in the forestry bases of the PE National Forests. The two analyses covered several key aspects: Selection of tree types, shrubs, and other species for afforestation, Recommendations for soil preparation and processing, handling of seedlings and recommendations for planting techniques, Suggested types and qualities of seedlings, Detailed work plans for the identified planting seasons. The same process was done for the newly proposed pilot sites: Golashec, Goceva Gora, and Bogoslovec. During the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting held on 1st March 2024, six suggested pilot sites for afforestation were discussed, and five of them were approved. However, due to the complexity of the pilot site, it was decided that the Zelino pilot site would not beafforested.	
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management	Activity 2.1.2.3. Establishment of work plan for implementation of SFM practices	2024-03-31	100%	100%	A detailed work plan for the implementation of SFM has been developed in consultation with PE National Forests, shared with MOEPP and approved.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)						
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in	Activity 2.1.2.4. Implement SFM practices and priority actions on selected sites, involving local communities, taking into account gender balance and inclusion of minorities	2025-12-31	20%	35%	PCA was signed with the Public Enterprise National Forests to implement the afforestation activities on four (4) locations under their management (Bogoslovec (Sveti Nikole), Golašec (Gevgelija), Goceva Gora (Negotino), and Lipkovo Lake), an area of 282ha forest land. While for the fifth location Strachinci are ongoing negotiations with	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)					MOEPP for selection of local partner. In addition to this, a ToR is finalized for engaging an external Supervisor/Forest Expert to oversee the appropriate selection of plant species, planting techniques, and cultivation practices, with this the project will ensure the quality and sustainability of the afforestation efforts.	
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous	Activity 2.1.2.5. Presentation of results during national stakeholder workshops	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned after finalization of the afforestation activities.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)						
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot	Output 2.1.3: SLM practices to address priority LD and deforestation issues tested, demonstrated and locally validated on 10 000 hectares to achieve local LDN targets	2025-12-31	20%	30%	This output is ongoing. Together with MOEPP, it was agreed to connect these activities with the training activities under Output 1.2.1-1.2.2, and an expert team was selected to work on the implementation of SLM practice and development of the Land Management Study and Action Plan (LMSAP) for the target municipalities. Updated National Drought Management Plan and suggestions for inputs/revision of the Draft National Action Plan to Combat Desertification. Furthermore, the lessons learned from the conducted CBT in Türkiye, as well as NCSD-related upcoming trainings, are expected to be the baseline to conduct the trainings	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)					under Output 2.1.3 on testing of SLM practicesBased on the knowledge and experience gained, the LMSAP will be further developed and will integrate SLM practices that will be replicated/piloted on selected forest, agriculture and pastureland with involvement of local communities. ToR is drafted and shared with MOEPP for approval.	
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable	Activity 2.1.3.1. Selection of expert team to work on the implementation of SLM practices	2024-06-30	100%	100%	A national consultant was engaged based on the agreed TOR with MOEPP to review and update of the Drought Management Plan necessary for revision of the draft National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, further feed the national LDN report and will set the baselines for the development of the Soil Protection Strategy. In addition, in consultations with MOEPP (connected with the trainingactivities under Output 1.2.1-1.2.2) an expert team was selected to work on the implementation of SLM practices. Following the findings of the capacity needs assessment (Output 1.2.1), the capacity-building training (CBT) developed and implemented (first sessions in Türkiye), all knowledge and experience gained is planned to be replicated at central and local	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)					governmental level, with involvement of local communities in testing/piloting SLM activities on forest and pasture lands.	
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned,	Activity 2.1.3.2. Establishment of inter- organization advisory working group	2025-12-31	0%	10%	The project team is in communication with possible experts and institutions that can be included in the inter-organization advisory working group	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
replication and upscaling)						
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)	Activity 2.1.3.3. In consultation with concerned stakeholders, determine the pilot sites to test and validate SLM practices	2025-12-31	50%	55%	The initial pilot sites have been identified and discussed; further details will be outlined in the Developed Land Management Study and Action Plan.	MS
2 Implementation	Activity 2.1.3.4. Develop Land Management Study and Action Plan	2025-12-31	0%	10%	Local partner is selected; ToR is drafted and shared with MOEPP for	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)					approval.	
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for	Activity 2.1.3.5. Workshops with national and local authorities and representative of targeted municipalities to present and discuss the study under 2.1.3.4	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)						
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites	Activity 2.1.3.6. Practical testing and validation of applicable SLM practices on identified pilot sites, with involvement of local communities and taking into consideration gender balance	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Local partner is selected; ToR is drafted and shared with MOEPP for approval. Planned to be implemented during the next reporting period.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)						
2 Implementation of sustainable land and forest management practices for reducing the effects of land degradation in three pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous region (testing	Activity 2.1.3.7. Presentation of results during national stakeholder workshop	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
and demonstration in selected pilot sites in the most vulnerable mountainous regions, as basis for lessons learned, replication and upscaling)						
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Output 3.1.1: Production of knowledge management products made available to national and local stakeholders, based on training and exchanges under Outcome 1.2 and best practice arising from Outcome 2.1 to ensure SLM/SFM and LDN	2025-12-31	0%	10%	This Output is ongoing, and depends on the finalization of Outcome 1.2 and Outcome 2.1	MS
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Activity 3.1.1.1. Development of user-friendly handbook on land and forest management practices, applicable in the country and taking gender balance into consideration	2025-09-30	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period.	MS
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Activity 3.1.1.2. Stakeholders workshop to discuss the developed handbook	2025-09-30	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period.	MS
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Activity 3.1.1.3. Design, translation, printing and dissemination of the developed handbook	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned for the next reporting period.	MS
3 Knowledge	Output 3.1.2: Communication strategy and outreach campaign	2025-12-31	60%	60%	Developed Communication Strategy, for	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
management and public awareness	designed and made available to targeted national and local stakeholders, with an emphasis on ecological and economic benefits of sustainable management of land and forests of North Macedonia, including establishment of web-based national SLM/SFM and LDN knowledge management hub				stakeholders' engagement throughout the implementation of all project activities and approved by MOEPP. TOR for starting of SLM/SFM outreach campaign/s and development of promotional materials was drafted and approved by MoEPP. There is an ongoing awareness raising campaign related to the development of the Soil Law. The development of the web-based communication hub is being discussed with MOEPP together with the institutional communication tools on SLM/SFM/LDN. TOR developed and approved by MOEPP, with local partner SCOUTS regarding youth involvement through the "Borenka" programme during the afforestation activities, including project visibility and raise awareness on SLM/SFM/LDN.	
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Activity 3.1.2.1. Develop Communication Strategy taking into consideration gender balance	2022-03-31	100%	100%	Communication strategy, including gender mainstreaming tools in line with SDGs is developed and approved by the MOEPP.	S
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Activity 3.1.2.2. Organization of outreach campaigns (direct and indirect dissemination mechanisms) with involvement of local communities and taking into consideration gender balance	2025-12-31	50%	50%	One overall ToR for this activity has been developed and approved by MOEPP. The first public awareness campaign is ongoing through Activity 1.1.4, aiming to raise public awareness on Soil Protection and Soil Protection Law. The second campaign will be	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					conducted through Activity 1.1.2, with a focus on the development of a Soil Protection Strategy and Guidelines for Establishing a Soil Quality Monitoring Programme. The ToR is finalized and approved by MOEPP, SSFA is prepared in the next period contracting will be completed. For the third campaign, local partner SCOUTS through their 'Borenka' programme will be engaged during the afforestation activities. This campaign will ensure youth involvement, enhance project visibility, and raise awareness on SLM and SFM in the context of LDN. The ToR is developed and approved by MOEPP, SSFA is prepared, in the next period will be concluded. The outreach campaigns will provide high-quality informative videos, written articles, PR text for electronic and written media, video clips, viral videos, and educational materials for youth. These materials will reflect the best project activities, with a focus on preparedness needs, possibilities, and the critical importance of an early warning and public alert system. On 5th December 2024 was marked the World Soil Day, through an organized event in Municipality of Lipkovo, where the	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					Minister of MOEPP, with the General Director of PENF and the Mayor of Lipkovo, have planted trees and announced the afforestation activities.	
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Activity 3.1.2.3. Connecting with related national networks and regional initiatives, for possible experience sharing and organization of experience exchange study visits	2025-12-31	40%	50%	UNEP' NT Project coordinator is involved in the Regional Inclusive Biobased Entrepreneurship Solutions (RIBES) Multi-actor Transformative Forums (MTFs) in Western Balkans.	MS
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Develop web based communication and information dissemination hub/site	2025-12-31	20%	30%	This activity is discussed together with the institutional communication tools on SLM/SFM/LDN. This activity has been agreed upon with MOEPP to be developed on their website. Initial informative text and additional documentation have been shared with MOEPP, which are approved, and in the next reporting period the dissemination hub should be functional.	MS
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Output 3.1.3: Development of three bankable project proposals made available to national authorities, for replication of sustainable land and forest management practices in other regions identified as vulnerable	2025-09-30	0%	10%	This output will be implemented during 2025/2026, following the deliverables of all components and specific stakeholders' needs. Ongoing, throughout the duration of the project.	MS
3 Knowledge management and public awareness	Activity 3.1.3.1. Develop three bankable project proposals, taking into consideration gender balance and inclusion of vulnerable groups and ethnic and religious minorities	2025-09-30	0%	100%	During the project implementation three bankable SLM/SFM project proposals have been developed. 1. GEF7 National Project "Biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					sustainable tourism development in North Macedonia” has been approved and is currently ongoing. Building on the results and achievements of the STAR5 project, it continues to strengthen existing initiatives within the national focal areas of land degradation and biodiversity.2. GEF8 Transboundary biodiversity conservation project, between North Macedonia and Albania, has been approved and is currently ongoing. The aim is to contribute to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity of the transboundary protected area Shar Planina/Korab-Koritnik, by mobilizing Albania’s and North Macedonia’s common vision for transboundary cooperation for the management and development of the transboundary protected area.3.Provided support to MOEPP in developing of PIF for the GEF8 National Project proposal, targeting national goals for combating land degradation and conserving biodiversity conservation in line with GEF8 cycle, strategic objectives.	
3 Knowledge management and public	Activity 3.1.3.2. Analysis of the results and capture lessons learned for replication in other regions	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Ongoing, throughout the duration of the project.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
awareness						

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Low	Low
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Substantial	Substantial
3 Implementation schedule	Substantial	Substantial
4 Budget	Low	Low
5 Financial Management	Low	Low
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low	Low

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Risk 1: Insecurity and political unrest may result in considerable delays and postponement of project implementation	All Project outcomes and outputs	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	=	Remains the same
Risk 2: Lack of attention by National	Outcome 1.1 and 1.2.	M	M	M	M	S	M	M	=	Remains the same

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Government institutions because of other priorities (in particular possible start of negotiation with EU for integration)										
Risk 3: Administrative challenges emerging during setting up policy platform for SLM coordination between the sectors.	Outcome 1.2. and 3.1	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	=	Remains the same
Risk 4: Rehabilitation of disused and abandoned land surfaces may encounter resistance from landowners (public and private) and political figures	Outcome 2.1	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	Remains the same
Risk 5: Insufficient knowledge about modern technologies and technical approaches. such as GIS. remote sensing. computer modelling. environmental valuation. cost-benefit analysis. and social impact assessment	Outcome 2.1.	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	=	Remains the same
Risk 6: Unclear roles of stakeholders in the execution of the project may result in lack of commitment/buy-in from local communities and therefore may result in failure of demonstration projects	Outcome 1.1. 1.2 and 2.1.	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	Remains the same
Risk 7: Climate change impacts (e.g. increased flooding; more severe droughts; forest fires) may negatively affect project activities for ecosystem restoration and effective SLM practices	Overall		M	M	M	M	M	M	=	Remains the same
Risk 8: Poor monitoring of environmental. social and economic impacts after the project implementation	Overall	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	=	Remains the same
Workflow Risk: Delays in project activities	Overall	N/A	H	M	M	M	S	S	↑	New National Technical Project

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
and expenditures as well										coordinator was engaged. there is a progress in implementation of the activities especially in communication and contracting of local partners.
Governance structure - Oversight	Overall	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	↓	
Implementation schedule	Overall	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	S	S	↓	
	overall	N/A	M	M	M	M	M	M	=	

4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Risk1: Insecurity and political unrest may result in considerable delays and postponement of project implementation	The current political situation in North Macedonia is stable. but the potential for a spontaneous upsurge is real. The project team will provide continuous monitoring of the security and political situation in the country and update the Steering Committee on a regular basis. There is sufficient time for adequate response actions and adjustment in project strategy. The 1st PSC was	Following the parliamentary and presidential elections, the political situation in the country is stabilizing. Local elections are scheduled for October 2025, and changes in mayoral leadership are expected in some of the pilot municipalities. These transitions may lead to delays in the implementation of certain activities during the	The PMU will continue to monitor the security and political situation on a regular basis. The PMU will continue to foster and maintain communication. especially with the key local partners	Until the end of the project.	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	organised in March 2024.	upcoming reporting period.			
Risk 2: Lack of attention by National Government institutions because of other priorities (in particular possible start of negotiation with EU for integration)	The project will emphasize the advantages of its intervention not only toward meeting global goals. but also, the EU acquis.	There is an ongoing process on development of the Soil Protection Law and Strategy. that will be taking into consideration the country's needs. but also, obligations stemming from the international agreements and the latest developments on soil protection at EU level. The project team and local partners are making further efforts to raise the awareness and interest on the LD challenges and SLM/SFM/LDN approaches among local and state authorities and communities.	In the current reporting period, an international capacity building training (CBT) was held in Türkiye, and ongoing is preparation of national CBT programme for the Institutions that have role in SLM/SFM to expand the knowledge, practices and to contribute to the goal of achieving the national LDN in harmonization with EU legislation.	Until the end of the project.	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners
Risk 3: Administrative challenges emerging during setting up policy platform for SLM coordination between the sectors	The project will focus on previously identified goals regarding land management. which are necessary to be implemented according to national strategic documents.	Close and fruitful cooperation with the concerned local partners is fostered.	Organization of thematic trainings for national and municipal resource managers to integrate SLM/ SFM in LDN	Until the end of the project	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners
Risk 5: Insufficient	The project will support	The update of the National	Capacity building events	Until the end of the project	UNEP. Local partners

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
knowledge about modern technologies and technical approaches. such as GIS. remote sensing. computer modelling. environmental valuation. cost-benefit analysis. and social impact assessment	training and coordination with the central government to support the introduction and use of new technology. as well as the transfer of knowledge and skills from the extension services of the central government to the new staff in local (municipal) governments. Also. the project will pursue coordination and development of training modules with other ongoing projects of similar topic.	LDN targets and the Drought Management Plan set the baseline for development of the Soil Protection Law and Strategy. An afforestation program for 6 pilot sites to cover 400 ha is prepared, and PCA for afforestation is signed with the Public Enterprise, "National Forests" The international training was organised the second week of September 2024. Ongoing is preparation for organising of national trainings on SLM/SFM in LDN. All these and upcoming activities consider the latest SLM/SFM developments and knowledge.	and trainings for the Institutions that have role in the management of SLM/SFM.		
Risk 7: Climate change impacts (e.g. increased flooding; more severe droughts; forest fires) may negatively affect project activities for ecosystem	Integrated land use plans will include hazard mitigation measures to minimize the impacts of droughts (e.g. through better water management and adoption of	Following the prepared Afforestation programme and the envisaged SFM practices, a PCA was signed with the PE "National Forests", to conduct the	Engagement of a National Forest Expert for Supervision of Re/Afforestation activities is ongoing. The Supervisor will monitor if the	Until the end of the project	UNEP. Local partners, External Supervisor.

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
restoration and effective SLM practices	drought tolerant crops). to reduce the risk of forest fires (through education and improved enforcement regarding the intentional setting of fires). and to reduce the threat of flooding (through improved land management and retention / restoration of vegetative cover).	afforestation activities in pilot sites Lipkovo, Goceva Gora, Bogoslovec and Golashec. In the Implementation Plan of the PCA, silviculture and protective measures are envisaged often the afforestation period, which will reduce the risk of forest fires and other negative climate effects.	implemented work by the contracted partner is following the prescribed activities envisaged in the prepared Afforestation programme		
MTE Recommendation1: Some indicators are not SMART so it is difficult for implementing team to understand target and also monitor them. Hence it is recommended to improve some indicators of Result Framework. e.g. In outcome 2.1, Indicator is: 500 local farmers involved in the questionnaires by Year 1. It has not mentioned in what type of questionnaires farmers will be involved. Another	The ProDoc under Component 2 clearly indicates that in the identification of the SLM/SFM measures and development of the Land Management Study and Action Plan, national and local authorities, as well as local landowners and users will directly be engaged. Face-to-face questionnaires/interviews with the project's beneficiaries (including farmers) will serve to identify the challenges with unsustainable land management on the ground	1. For the outcome 2.1, ToR is developed, with envisaged activity 500 local farmers involved in the questionnaires Face-to-face questionnaires/interviews with the project's beneficiaries (including farmers) 2. The LEAPs for five municipalities are finalized and introduced and shared with the pilot municipalities. 3. Indicator 3.1 is planned to be provided during all project	The PMU will continue to implement in place this recommendation.	Until the end of the project	MoEPP/UNEP Europe Office (Vienna Office)

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
indicator says 2 LEAPs by MTR point and 5 LEAPs by TE point updated but difficult to understand which 2 local bodies by MTR and 5 by TE point elected. Indicator of 3.1 says at least 300 people (50% women) have taken notice of, or participate in, at least 3 targeted awareness raising activities and/or materials. Here indicator is not clear which activities they will be involved.	and to tailor better the applicable SLM practices (considering modern technologies and technical approaches on land use planning). 2. The pilot municipalities have been identified and discussed with the stakeholders during the PPG and the project inception phase. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP), as the project's lead EA, priorities the target municipalities for the development of the Local Environment Action Plans (LEAPs). The LEAPs for five municipalities are finalized and introduced and shared with the pilot municipalities. 1. Awareness-raising activities and materials are detailed in the Project's Communication Strategy. The target i.e. at least 300 people (50% women) is expected to be reached throughout all	activities, and Awareness-raising activities (one is ongoing during the preparation of the Soil Law, second is envisaged in the TOR for the Soil protection, and for the third one ToR and SSFA is prepared with the Scout Association in North Macedonia, which will engage youth and local communities in the project activities, ongoing is process of contracting.			

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	projectactivities, including the process of drafting the SoilProtection Strategy and Law (public consultations,workshops and trainings); implementation/testingof SFM and SLM practices, LEAPs validation, Ecosystem services for the target municipalities,the SLM/SFM Training Program, etc. The 3 targetawareness raising activities include Developmentof Soil Law: organizing workshops, meetings,public events, and utilizing social media andnewspapers/portals for information dissemination.2. Development of the Soil Protection Strategy:broader public campaign to raise awareness aboutthe importance of healthy soils, their impact on daily life, and simple actions to reduce degradation and improve soil				

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	quality. Social media awareness campaign, at least 3 promotional public events, PR texts for newspapers/electronic portals, workshops, meetings, and public consultation processes.3. Engagement of youth and local communities in afforestation activities and promote SFM and SLM, development of videos, and social media campaign				
MTR Recommendation 5: Since the project is far behind the target, it is recommended to speed up coordination with all implementing partners to move project implementation forward. It is learned that MoEPP is planning to meet UNEP team in November 2024 to discuss project status and plan for the coming days to speed up the	Close and fruitful cooperation with the concerned local partners is fostered.	Several meetings between MoEPP and UNEP Europe Office (Vienna Office) have been held during the reporting period to discuss the project status and plan for the next activities.	The PMU continues to monitor closely the indicators and activities, to prevent further delays.	Until the end of the project	MoEPP/UNEP Europe Office (Vienna Office)

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
implementation process. This opportunity should be utilized to address problems that has been delaying project activities. Similarly, it is recommended to monitor everyactivities very closely by the PMU so that no delays would take place. Project Monitoring should not only rely on partners and consultants, but close monitoring activities should be done by the PMU. Also, there should be request (as per need) meeting of PSC to support the project team. The PSC need to play active role for the project because project activities are delayed, and it has only limited time. Chair and themembers need to support projectteam on a regular basis to assure that no work will be delayed due to long waiting for					

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
approvals.					
MTR Recommendation 7: Delay in development of Soil conservation Strategy and guidelines may delay afforestation program also. Hence recommended to give priority to complete Soil Conservation Strategy and guidelines as early as possible.	The ToR for the Soil Protection Strategy is finalized and pending approval by MoEPP. The process of engagement of a local partner is expected to be concluded in Q1/2025. The afforestation programmes are already developed. The negotiations with the Public Enterprise National Forests (PENF), a responsible entity for the afforestation on state land, are in the final stages and the contract is to be signed in Q1/2025.	The SSFA for the Soil protection Strategy is prepared, ongoing is constricting procedure. The PCA with the PENF is signed.	The PMU continues to monitor closely the indicators and activities, to prevent further delays.	Until the end of the project	PMU, MoEPP/UNEP Europe Office (Vienna Office)
Workflow Risk: Delays in project activities and expenditures as well	A new National Technical Project coordinator has been nominated. There is progress in implementation of the activities, especially in communication and contracting of local partners.	PMU have engaged in frequent communication with MOEPP and all stakeholders. Several site meetings have been held with between UNEP Vienna Office and the MOEPP. The at national level consultations with key stakeholders were held to facilitate coordination and	The frequency of communication has been intensified. PMU and MOEPP are monitoring the implementation of project activities to facilitate the timely implementation.	Until the end of the project	PMU, MoEPP/UNEP Europe Office (Vienna Office), local partners

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
		gather input for the implementation of project activities			
Governance structure - Oversight	Changes in GEF OFP, appointed new Minister of the Environment and Physical planning in North Macedonia	PMU have engaged in frequent communication with MOEPP and all stakeholders. Several site meetings have been held between UNEP Viena Office and the MOEPP. At national level consultations with key stakeholders were held to facilitate coordination and gather input for the implementation of project activities.	The frequency of communication has been intensified. PMU and MOEPP are monitoring the implementation of project activities to facilitate the timely implementation.	Until the end of the project	PMU, MoEPP/UNEP Europe Office (Vienna Office), local partners
Implementation schedule	Changes in GEF OFP, appointed new Minister of the Environment and Physical planning in North Macedonia. New National Technical Project coordinator was engaged. there is a progress in implementation of the activities especially in communication and contracting of local partners.	PMU have engaged in frequent communication with MOEPP and all stakeholders. Several site meetings have been held between UNEP Viena Office and the MOEPP. At national level consultations with key stakeholders were held to facilitate coordination and gather input for the implementation of project	The frequency of communication has been intensified. PMU and MOEPP are monitoring the implementation of project activities to facilitate the timely implementation.	Until the end of the project	PMU, MoEPP/UNEP Europe Office (Vienna Office), local partners

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
		activities.			

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	No

Minor amendments

5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Afforestation pilot sites	Revision		2024-07-01	2026-06-30	Afforestation planned in three planting seasons by the end of the project technical closure date (December 2025). on the following locations: Lipkovo Lake. Strachinci. Golashec. Goceva Gora and Bogoslovec. keeping the initially planned afforestation area
ICA Amendment No1	Amendment & Extension	2024-09-22	2024-09-22	2026-06-30	no-cost, duration extended of the Agreement for 18 months

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Aracinovo	42.023853	21.561557		Land degradation	
Gazi Baba	42.046616	21.531706		Land degradation	
Lipkovo	42.157009	21.585986		Land degradation	
Jegunovce	42.07287	21.120275		Land degradation	

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Saraj	41.999581	21.327996		Land degradation	
Zelino	41.985419	21.065021		Land degradation	
Sveti Nikole (Bogoslovec)	41.773360	22.021864		Land degradation	
Demir Kapija	41.413183	22.255862		Land degradation	
Gevgelija (Golashec)	41.235833	22.485000		Land degradation	

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. *

EUROPE / Western Balkan / Republic of North Macedonia / <https://www.geonames.org/718075/north-macedonia.html>

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

Additional Supporting Documents:

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
Lipkovo_Plan_Albanian.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:39:19	Download
LEAP_SARAJ_Albanian.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:39:19	Download
LEAP_ZELINO_Albanian.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:39:18	Download
LEAP_JEGUNOVCE_Albanian.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:39:18	Download
LEAP_ARACINOVO_Albanian.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:39:18	Download
Synergy activities.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:38:51	Download
LEAP_ARACINOVO_Final.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:38:35	Download
LEAP_JEGUNOVCE_Final.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:38:35	Download
LEAP_ZELINO_Final.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:38:35	Download
LEAP_SARAJ_Final.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:38:35	Download
Lipkovo_Plan.pdf	BDLD TM	2025-08-04 12:38:35	Download