

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 4087	Umoja WBS:SB-026392
SMA IPMR ID:20039	Grant ID:S1-32GFL-000529
Project Short Title: National Biosafety Framework for Syria	
Project Title: BS: Support for the Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework for Syria	
Duration months planned:	48
Duration months age:	176
Project Type:	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	3654
Project Scope:	National
Region:	West Asia
Countries:	Syrian Arab Republic
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
GEF financing amount:	\$ 875,000.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 953,000.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2010-10-29
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2011-04-07
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2016-02-29
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	
Date of First Disbursement:	
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2025:	\$ 0.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 0.00

Midterm undertaken?:	n/a
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2011-04-14
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2016-02-29
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	
Expected Financial Closure Date:	

1.2 Project Description

The objective of Syrian implementation of National Biosafety Framework project is that by the end of this project, Syria has in place a comprehensive, workable and transparent national biosafety framework, in line with its national needs and priorities as well as its international obligations.

COMPONENT 1: Finalize, adopt and implement a fully functional and responsive regulatory regime in line with new developments, national needs and priorities and other international obligations

Expected Results

Fully functional biosafety legislative system in place and working by
2015

Application and enforcement of regulatory
regime

COMPONENT 2: Establish an effective national mechanism for handling requests, carrying out risk assessment, and decision making for GMOs and their products

Expected Results

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COMPONENT 1: Finalize, adopt and implement a fully functional and responsive regulatory regime in line with new developments, national needs and priorities and other international obligations

Expected Results

Fully functional biosafety legislative system in place and working by 2015

Application and enforcement of regulatory regime

COMPONENT 2: Establish an effective national mechanism for handling requests, carrying out risk assessment, and decision making for GMOs and their products

Expected Results

Fully functional, effective and integrated system for Risk Assessment, Risk Management and Decision making on LMOs and their products in place
Fully functional and integrated system in place for handling requests on LMOs and their products

COMPONENT 3: Set up a workable and fully functional system for monitoring, enforcement and emergency measures.

Expected Results

Establishment of roles, responsibilities and procedures for monitoring, enforcement and emergency measures

Technical means for monitoring and inspections are in place

Emergency measures established and made operational by MoE, and relevant Governmental & Non-Governmental Organisations.

COMPONENT 4: a fully functional improved system for public information, education and participation in decision making process

Expected Results

Access to information for the public

ensured

Public awareness of information sources and possibilities to influence the authorization process

enhanced

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	Ministry of State for Environment Affairs, Syria
names of Other Project Partners	
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Alex Owusu-Biney
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Arshad Hussain
UNEP Support Assistants	Elizabeth Kimani
Manager/Representative	
Project Manager	
Finance Manager	
Communications Lead, if relevant	

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme, Foundational: Environmental governance
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	Environmental Governance
PoW Indicator(s):	Governance: (ii) Number of international legal agreements or instruments advanced or developed with UNEP support to address emerging or internationally agreed environmental goals
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.
Link to relevant SDG Goals	Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

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

	Targets - Expected Value				
Indicators	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	Remarks

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	4th PIR	HU	HU	Not Related

FY 2024				
FY 2023	3rd PIR	HU	HU	Not Related
FY 2022	2nd PIR	HU	HU	Not Related
FY 2021	1st PIR	HU	HU	Not Related
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities

The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.

Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 953,000
Actual to date:	
Progress	Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.

2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	No
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.

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? If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken? n/a
Environmental and social safeguards management	The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.

2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.
Main learning during the period	The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.

Reflows

Reflows (for NGIs only)	n/a
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2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the original objectives have been overtaken by events.
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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
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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
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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		
2 Governance structure - Oversight		
3 Implementation schedule		
4 Budget		
5 Financial Management		
6 Reporting		
7 Capacity to deliver		

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
			N/A							The project never started due to the political crisis in Syria. UNEP is currently in the process of suspending the project, as the

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										original objectives have been overtaken by events.
			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A				

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

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

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
Syria	34.6402	39.0494			

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

[\[Annex any linked geospatial file\]](#)