



## FAO-GEF Project Implementation Review

### 2019 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019



## 1. Basic Project Data

### General Information

<b>Region:</b>	RNE
<b>Country (ies):</b>	Lebanon
<b>Project Title:</b>	Smart Adaptation of Forest Landscapes in Mountain Areas SALMA
<b>FAO Project Symbol:</b>	GCP/LEB/027/SCF
<b>GEF ID:</b>	5125
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Climate Change, Adaptation
<b>Project Executing Partners:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>Project Duration:</b>	5 years

### Milestone Dates:

<b>GEF CEO Endorsement Date:</b>	13 October 2016
<b>Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :</b>	01 December 2016
<b>Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE<sup>1</sup>:</b>	30 November 2021
<b>Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) <sup>2</sup></b>	N/A
<b>Actual Implementation End Date<sup>3</sup>:</b>	

### Funding

<b>GEF Grant Amount (USD):</b>	USD 7,147,635	
<b>Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc<sup>4</sup>:</b>	MOE	USD 11,000,000
	IFAD/Green Plan HASAD	USD 8,340,000
	USAID/LRI	USD 6,900,000
	FAO-Lebanon	USD 740,000
	Sub-total co-financing	USD 26,980,000
<b>Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2019 (USD m):</b>	2,703,279 USD	

<sup>1</sup> as per FPMIS

<sup>2</sup> In case of a project extension.

<sup>3</sup> Actual date at which project implementation ends/closes operationally -- only for projects that have ended.

<sup>4</sup> This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

<b>Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2019<sup>5</sup></b>	USD 34,127,635
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### Review and Evaluation

<b>Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee:</b>	08 April 2019
<b>Mid-term Review or Evaluation Date planned (if applicable):</b>	End of 2019
<b>Mid-term review/evaluation actual:</b>	N/A
<b>Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2019 – June 2020).</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2019 – June 2020).</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Terminal Evaluation Date Actual:</b>	N/A
<b>Tracking tools/ Core indicators required<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>No</b>

### Ratings

<b>Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):</b>	S	
<b>Overall implementation progress rating:</b>	S	
<b>Overall risk rating:</b>	Modest	

### Status

<b>Implementation Status (1<sup>st</sup> PIR, 2<sup>nd</sup> PIR, etc. Final PIR):</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR
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<sup>5</sup> Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

<sup>6</sup> Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

## Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Affiliation	E-mail
<b>Project Manager / Coordinator</b>	Asmar, Fady	<a href="mailto:Fady.asmar@fao.org">Fady.asmar@fao.org</a>
<b>Lead Technical Officer</b>	Hamid, Abdel Hamied (RNETD)	<a href="mailto:AbdelHamied.Hamid@fao.org">AbdelHamied.Hamid@fao.org</a>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	Saade, Maurice	<a href="mailto:Maurice.saade@fao.org">Maurice.saade@fao.org</a>
<b>GEF Funding Liaison Officer, Investment Centre Division</b>	Veyret-Picot, Maude	<a href="mailto:Maude.VeyretPicot@fao.org">Maude.VeyretPicot@fao.org</a>

## 1. Progress towards achieving project objectives and outcomes (cumulative)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) <sup>7</sup>	Baseline level	Mid-term target <sup>8</sup>	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019	Progress rating <sup>9</sup>
<b>Objective(s):</b> Enhance resilience of fragile forest ecosystems and vulnerable communities in forested mountain areas	i) # Ha of climate resilient forest ecosystems (restored and reforested)	0	1000	2000	704	S
	ii) # of communities with increased adaptive capacity to reduce risks of and response to climate variability (AMAT 2.2.1)	0	12	24	30	MS
	iii) # vulnerable communities with diversified sources of income	0	12	24	Linked to SFM which are planned to start soon	U
<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Improved forest pest and fire management	i) Updated risk and vulnerability assessment (AMAT 2.1.1.1)	AFDC national mapping of forest fires no localized fire risk maps	Fire data collection and analysis in up to 20 selected sites	20	Linked to SFM which are planned to start soon	

<sup>7</sup> This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

<sup>8</sup> Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

<sup>9</sup> Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Marginally Satisfactory (MS)**, **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

## 1. Progress towards achieving project objectives and outcomes (cumulative)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) <sup>7</sup>	Baseline level	Mid-term target <sup>8</sup>	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019	Progress rating <sup>9</sup>
	ii) Risk and vulnerability assessment conducted (AMAT 2.1.1.2)	No systematic assessments of forest pest outbreaks	Pest surveys conducted on up to 20 selected sites	20	20%	MS
	iii) # of participatory and sustainable forest management plans	No sustainable forest management plans	16 plans	16	Linked to SFM which are planned to start soon	N/A
<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Diversified and sustainable sources of income for vulnerable communities	i) Men and women, households and communities have more secure access to livelihood assets	Poor access to livelihoods access (poverty is amongst the selection criteria of targeted community groups) (Level 2, AMAT 1.3.1)		Secure access to livelihoods resources (Level 4, AMAT 1.3.1)	Community Projects is not launched yet, due to the interlink with the FM activity implementation.	N/A
<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Reduced soil erosion, fragmentation of forest resources and biodiversity loss for more resilient forest and rural mountain forest communities	i) % change of soil erosion	0%	TBD		A TOR for soil sampling was finalized, LOA under signature	MS
	ii) change in fragmentation index	TBD		TBD	Mapping in progress but difficult to measure	N/A
	iii) # of participatory reforestation plans	0	8		30	S

## 1. Progress towards achieving project objectives and outcomes (cumulative)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) <sup>7</sup>	Baseline level	Mid-term target <sup>8</sup>	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2019	Progress rating <sup>9</sup>
<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Increased technical and institutional capacity at national level to replicate participatory climate proof forest management (upscaling community –based reforestation and forest management)	i) Number of trained MoA staff at central and local level participating in SALMA implementation;	0	23	23	100%	S
	ii) % of which are women	0	N/A	N/A	40%	
<b>Outcome 3.2:</b> Project monitoring and communication	i) Gender disaggregated M&E system established	0	1	1	100%	S
	ii) Communication and awareness strategy developed and implemented	0	1	1	10% Recruitment of a consultant is under progress.	MS

Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU rating <sup>10</sup>

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 1.1: Improved forest pest and fire management	Finalization of the vulnerability assessment and development of improved Forest pest and fire management plans.	Project team/ PMU/ Consultants	Pest assessment ongoing until end of 2020.  Fire Assessment is linked to sites where management will be implemented by mid-2020.
2.1 Reduced soil erosion, fragmentation of forest resources and biodiversity loss for more resilient forest and rural mountain forest communities	Concluding the contractual arrangement with LARI and finalization of the soil analysis work. The soil analysis will be used as a baseline for soils all over the country, for monitoring purposes	Project team/ Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI)	Soil sampling and analysis are spread over 1 year to the end of 2020.
<b>Outcome 3.2: Project monitoring and communication i)</b>  <b>ii) Communication and awareness strategy developed and implemented</b>	Communication consultant is under recruitment to develop the Strategy for the 40 Million trees (for the MOA) and for the project	Project Team	October 2019

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<sup>10</sup> To be completed by Budget Holder and the Lead Technical Officer

## 2. Progress in Generating Project Outputs

Outputs <sup>11</sup>	Expected completion date <sup>12</sup>	Achievements at each PIR <sup>13</sup>					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance <sup>14</sup> or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 <sup>st</sup> PIR	2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR	3 <sup>rd</sup> PIR	4 <sup>th</sup> PIR	5 <sup>th</sup> PIR		
<b>Output 1.1.1</b> Pest outbreak and forest fire risk and vulnerability assessments	Q4 Y2	Recruitment of expert is underway	Expert was recruited  Assessments underway				In progress	Fire risk assessment should have started in Q2 of 2019 according to the updated work plan. It was delayed since the list of sites for FM is not agreed upon yet. Selection is in progress
<b>Output 1.1.2</b> Participatory forest management plans with a focus on pest and fire management	Q2 Y5	Initial assessment of 33 sites was conducted by the forestry expert. Out of which, several sites will be selected for	TORs of vulnerability assessment developed  Guidelines for PSFM plans developed				Site selection in progress	Assessment phase was scheduled to start in Q2 2019. It was delayed since the list of sites for FM is not agreed upon, yet Selection is in progress.

<sup>11</sup> Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

<sup>12</sup> As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

<sup>13</sup> Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

<sup>14</sup> Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.



		SFM activities						
<b>Output 1.1.3:</b> Enhance the capacity of local communities to apply climate-proof forest management practices	Q2 Y5		Forest engineers and guards were trained on forest management				10%	Community trainings pending the implementation of forest management plans.
<b>Output 1.1.4:</b> Apply sustainable forest management practices	Q2 Y5		Selection of sites is in progress in coordination with MOA				0%	Forest management guidelines are linked with ongoing researches (pest and fire).
<b>Output 1.1.5:</b> Construction of water tanks for forest fire control (Green Plan)	Q2 Y5	Specifications of the tanks were prepared by the Green Plan	Sites to be identified based on the PSFM plans				10%	Planned for next year. Coordination with Green Plan is ongoing.
<b>Output 1.2.1:</b> Green jobs from sustainable forest management identified and sustainable and innovative uses of wood and non-wood forest	Q2 Y5		To be carried out when PSFM implementation takes over				0%	

products promoted								
<b>Output 1.2.2:</b> Community projects implemented with selected local community groups	Q4 Y5		Criteria and TORs developed				0%	Community projects are planned to start after the forest management activities.
<b>Output 2.1.1:</b> Baseline study on soil	Q3 Y5		To be carried out in the framework of the forest trees and range resources assessment				0%	Forest trees and range resources assessment has started.
<b>Output 2.1.2:</b> Analysis of land use and land cover changes along the ecological corridors based on remote sensing data	Q3 Y3		Planned to take place in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year.				0%	
<b>Output 2.1.3:</b> Implement community – based participatory reforestation plans	Q4 Y5	11 plans were implemented in 10 sites with a total of 140 hectares	20 additional plans on 564 ha were done during the reporting period				15%	Most of sites will be planted by the end of 2019

<b>Output 3.1.1:</b> Enhanced capacity on sustainable forest management of the Reforestation Programme Coordination Unit (RPCU) in MoA	Q4 Y5		A training was carried out.				0%	
<b>Output 3.1.2:</b> Updated and extended assessments of existing eco-system services in selected forests	Q2 Y4		Pending – to be implemented along with the vulnerability assessment of communities				0%	
<b>Output 3.2.1:</b> Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan for adaptive project management and lessons learnt	Q3 Y2	In progress. 3 meetings were held with the M&E Expert	Done				100%	
<b>Output 3.2.2:</b> Develop and implement a		Strategy is underway					10%	

communication and public awareness raising strategy							
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## Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on project implementation.

**Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):**

Max 200 words:

- SALMA secured more than 3,000 working days in reforestation activities to date. This figure is expected to triple during the coming planting season. Through this activity 350,000 trees will be planted on 704 ha of land all around the country (See appendix 1: Reforestation sites)
- Fire and pest risk assessments are on track. Fire risk assessments will start once the forest management sites are selected. These assessments will contribute to the forest management plans to ensure the sustainability of 1000 ha of forests.
- In the framework of the pest assessment, a severe outbreak of the Gypsy moth (*Limantria dispar*) was observed on some oak forests and particularly on the Ammiq oak forest. A report was prepared by the expert, emergency interventions are requested and will be implemented by July 15
- Forest management sites are in the process of being selected. Guidelines for forest management planning were developed, waiting for the endorsement of the LTO.
- Training MOA staff on Forest Trees and Range Resources Assessment tools and equipment was done. The assessment is starting. (See appendix 2: Tracts distribution – Tract sample).
- The process of developing and forest management and reforestation suitability map was initiated. SALMA team started to collect the needed data.
- Updating and maintenance of the forest registry related preparations are underway.
- TORs for a communication consultant are finalized. The consultant will develop a communication strategy for the project and the 40 million trees program in collaboration with FAO and the MoA.
- SALMA created benefits to existing initiatives. In Bcharre for example, the irrigation system will be of benefit to other neighboring reforestation sites.
- The reforestation/afforestation activity planned for the upper Keserwan with LRI (Lebanese Reforestation Initiative) is a pilot activity as it is involving a planning process of the whole territory, consultations with all users and stakeholders and management of potential conflicts.
- “Champions” are being identified at the community levels. They are the pillars of the success of the activities, as they are and will be leading the ownership of these activities.
- The project is providing support for the Shouf Biosphere Reserve team in a territorial planning exercise, in the buffer zone of the Reserve and in the surrounding villages. The support consists of regular meetings and training provided by the Mapping expert and by the Project Manager. This exercise will serve as an example for coordination and planning and will allow for the identification of sites for forest management that are embedded within a regional planning exercise.
- The project is providing technical support to the Green Plan Team through training on mapping, GIS and RS

**What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?**

Max 200 words:

- Delay in signing the LOAs with the reforestation partners caused an uncertainty in WFP support on manpower to some of the partners. The reason behind this uncertainty is that WFP can fund activities for active partners (partners having ongoing LOAs with WFP). Once the selection process for WFP ends, FAO will assess the LOAs and will secure/cover the needed funds.
- The offers received from the communication companies who applied for the communication strategy were not in line with the requirements and policies of both FAO and MOA. Thus, new TORs for recruitment of a communication consultant were prepared. The consultant will support the preparation of a communication strategy for the project and the 40 million trees program. This measure will facilitate the process of delivering the required communication messages in an effective way given the available budget.
- The assessment and planning phases of forest management were delayed due to the Ministry of Agriculture's uncertainty in selecting sites for forest management. The sites will be selected ASAP; SALMA team is directly following up with the Minister and the NPC.

## Development Objective Ratings, Implementation Progress Ratings and Overall Assessment

	FY2019 Development Objective rating <sup>15</sup>	FY2019 Implementation Progress rating <sup>16</sup>	Comments/reasons justifying the ratings for FY2019 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
<b>Project Manager / Coordinator</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<i>The rating is Satisfactory. Despite the delays that occurred on some activities, the project has managed to meet some targets (reforestation) and to prepare the way for other targets (forest management).</i>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<i>Earlier delays in the reforestation activities have been mostly addressed. Concerns about delays in launching the forest management component. This needs to be given highest priority in order to avoid delays and to allow sufficient time to address unforeseen constraints.</i>

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<sup>15</sup> **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. Ratings can be Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U) or Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>16</sup> **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

<b>Lead Technical Officer<sup>17</sup></b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<p><i>Despite the delay in implementation, the project performance is satisfactory. The project has built a dedicated team of directly recruited staff and from counterpart institutions who have led successfully the delivery of the reforestation work with full engagement of local communities (municipalities, local NGOs/CBOs). A number of studies/surveys were initiated. These will lead to generation of evidence-based data/information and to the development of guidelines that will support implementation of major outputs including through climate-proof forest management plans and associated community livelihoods projects. The project has a well-functioning Steering Committee that oversees project delivery and provides guidance on regular bases. The project has also implemented a number of staff capacity-building sessions. This will facilitate the exclusion of the planned community capacity building work in the next semesters. With these, the project has set a solid base for achieving its development objective and expected outcome.</i></p>
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<sup>17</sup> The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.



<p><b>GEF Funding Liaison Officer</b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p><i>Progress, both towards the achievement of the development objective and outcomes, as in terms of timely delivery of quality outputs, is satisfactory. The project partnership is engaged and committed and manages the process in full respect of the commitments made (results matrix and GEBs), with a sufficient level of flexibility to swiftly adapt to changing contexts (e.g. pest outbreak resulting in new prioritisation of the government counterpart). Nevertheless, for reasons described above, some delays have been accumulated and adjustments to the work plan made.</i></p> <p><i>Some aspects that are worthwhile to recall and motivate a ‘satisfactory’ rating:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The project’s intervention strategy appears to be solid, relevant, and proposes effective and efficient solutions to the challenges identified during project design. The project team embraces the innovations that the project is demonstrating in pilot sites, and first feedback and early results are encouraging. For instance, through participatory reforestation planning and implementation, a more strongly engaged community can be witnessed. Upcoming is the work that will initiate community projects. These are believed to result in tangible economic returns and diversified livelihood options for vulnerable groups in pilot communities. With the proper assessment of community project proposals, market options, cost-benefits and profit margins, these projects will help guaranteeing the sustainability of SALMA investments.</i></li> <li>- <i>Landscape management is challenging. Nevertheless, with the support of the right partners and the sensitisation and awareness raising activities carried out, the project has engaged in at least 2 pilot areas in a territorial, integrated and participatory planning exercise. The lessons will be very valuable at a large/national scale.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>In addition to the active participation of grassroots communities (the final beneficiaries of the project), municipalities and CSOs/NGOs in planning, managing and monitoring for more resilient forest ecosystems, the project introduced some ‘accelerators’ to secure ownership, engagement, and participation in project activities, e.g. ‘champions’ have been identified in the pilot sites and a diverse network of partners is involved in project execution. These are contributing to behavioural change and changed attitudes. This will need to be further accompanied by improvements (and revisions of laws) to the enabling environment, initiated in part by SALMA and its co-financing projects.</i></p>
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### 3. Risks

#### Environmental and Social Safeguards (Under the responsibility of the LTO)

<b>Overall Project Risk classification</b> (at project submission)	<b>Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid<sup>18</sup>.</b> If not, what is the new classification and explain.
<b>Medium</b>	ESR still valid

Please make sure that the below risk table include also Environmental and Social Management Risks captured by the Environmental and social Management Risk Mitigations plans.

#### Risk ratings

RISK TABLE
<i>The following table summarizes risks identified in the <b>Project Document</b> and reflects also <b>any new risks</b> identified in the course of project implementation. The <u>Notes</u> column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, <b>as relevant</b>.</i>

	Risk	Risk rating <sup>19</sup>	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions <sup>20</sup>	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	Political instability may focus the public interest to areas other than environmental issues	Modest	The project is working on a communications strategy to raise awareness on reforestation and forest management issues.		

<sup>18</sup> **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

<sup>19</sup> GEF Risk ratings: Low, Medium, Substantial or High

<sup>20</sup> If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period”.

	Risk	Risk rating <sup>19</sup>	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions <sup>20</sup>	Notes from the Project Task Force
3	Limited capacity at central and local levels on sustainable forest management, fire management and pest management	Substantial	A training on Forest Management was held for stakeholders and MOA staff.		
4	Heavy administrative procedures mainly related to expenditures modalities and processing	Modest	Being mitigated through planning.		
5	Current climate and seasonal variability and/or hazard events prevent implementation of planned activities. This may include severe droughts mainly affecting reforestation sites and fires mainly affecting sites where SFM plan are being implemented. Risks include: economic loss or physical damage to project activities; the implementation timing of the project is delayed.	Modest	Irrigation is being included in the reforestation activities to mitigate draught. Forest management plans have a special focus on pest and fire.		

**Project overall risk rating** (Low, Medium, Substantial or High):

FY2018 rating	FY2019 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2019 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Medium	Medium	No change in the rating

## 4. Adjustments to Project Strategy

Please report any adjustments made to the project strategy, as reflected in the results matrix, in the past 12 months<sup>21</sup>

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
<b>Project Outcomes</b>	No	
<b>Project Outputs</b>	No	

### Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, evaluations or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
<b>Project extension</b>	Original NTE: _____ Revised NTE: _____ Justification: _____

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<sup>21</sup> Minor adjustments to project outputs can be made during project inception. Significant adjustments can be made only after a mid-term review/evaluation or supervision missions. The changes need to be discussed with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, then approved by the whole Project Task Force and endorsed by the Project Steering Committee.

## 5. Gender Mainstreaming

**Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)?**

SALMA project succeeded in triggering the “gender in forestry” spark among major forestry actors in Lebanon. For the first time, gender is being systematically addressed by NGOs, municipalities, and other stakeholders actively involved in forest management, reforestation/afforestation, and forest and range-based products. The topic is being raised during workshops and roundtables more than ever before. During SALMA’s stakeholders’ meetings, gender is among the main subjects of discussion, and it has been methodically integrated in the design and implementation of all activities and assessments. Under the participatory reforestation component, SALMA and partners engaged women and men in community roundtables and ensured their equal participation in species selection, sites delineation, prioritization of community support actions, and capacity building activities. Gender mainstreaming was among the evaluation criteria of the proposed participatory reforestation plans.

So far, the project promoted gender mainstreaming by requesting partner NGOs and municipalities to equally involve women and men in reforestation planning through taking decisions related to seedlings’ species, reforestation sites, and implementation strategies. In the upcoming project activities, partners will be asked to give priorities to women and vulnerable groups in capacity building and community projects. A training on “Gender in Forestry” was provided to partner NGOs and municipalities with the aim of ensuring full and effective participation of women and vulnerable groups on all project levels. Any engagement challenges will be addressed on a case-by-case scenario.

The project’s M&E plan and guidelines for conducting vulnerability assessments include gender-sensitive indicators that were reviewed by FAO’s gender officer and gender focal point in Lebanon. The project recruited a gender specialist to ensure the gender perspective is mainstreamed in all activities. Reporting on gender mainstreaming is underway and all NGOs are requested to report on specific actions undertaken to involve women and men equally in planning activities.

## 6. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

**Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.**

N/A

## 7. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))

The project is interfering whenever relevant to provide technical support (such as trainings to MOA staff on relevant subjects including forest management, assessment tools etc., Mapping and GIS training with the different partners, and coordination meetings). In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Shouf Cedar Society, SALMA will urgently respond to the outbreak of the Gypsy Moth through providing 3,000 traps and pheromones to contain the moth's outbreak in one of the most significant Quercus forests. The site where the project will interfere is proposed among the forest management sites.

In addition, the project is working with consortiums of municipalities and NGOs in target sites. Those consortiums identify local stakeholders in each region, then develop participatory reforestation plans with these stakeholders. Local stakeholders are involved in the selection of sites, species, risk management plans, and potential community activities. In each target area, the consortium conducted at least one meeting with local stakeholders to involve them in the reforestation planning process.

Main workshops conducted during the reporting period include:

Date	Stakeholders Engaged	Audience	Outcome
6-7 Aug 2018	Workshop on forest management	MOA and NGOs	Sustainable forest management planning explained
8 to 10 Oct 2018	Workshop on Gender in Forestry	MOA and NGOs	Trainees more aware about mainstreaming gender in forestry
1 Nov 2018	Workshop on Reforestation & Afforestation Techniques and Tools	NGOs	Trainees more aware about Reforestation & Afforestation Techniques and Tools
19 to 21 Feb 2019	Open Foris Collect and Collect Mobile Training	MOA and NGOs	Trainees able to collect and analyse data effectively
	TOT of forest Assessment	MOA	Trainees enabled to train forest

Stakeholder groups	Role in project execution	Means of engagement	Dissemination of information	Resource requirements
Partnerships				
Ministry of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executing Partner</li> <li>• Project Steering Committee Member</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent face to face meetings with MoA staff to coordinate on reforestation, forest management, forest registry, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing minutes of meetings</li> <li>• Reporting to the MoA upon request</li> <li>• Provision of technical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SALMA's office is at the Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• SALMA has allocated budget</li> </ul>

		<p>communication strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly coordination meeting with the National Project Coordinator (Director of the RDNR Department)</li> <li>• Field visits to forest guard centres to engage forest guards in the implementation of project activities, especially the “forest trees and range resources assessment”.</li> </ul>	information	lines to the forest registry, the communication strategy, and the fees of the “forest trees and range resources assessment”
<p>Consortiums of municipalities and NGOs: 8 NGOs; 18 Municipalities; 4 Nature Reserves</p>	Implementing partners	<p>Issuing contracts to engage the consortiums: Consortiums provide labour, land, and other inputs to support the project objectives (Reforestation, forest management, community support). Consortiums help establish SALMA’s links to local community groups/individuals, mainly shepherds and other vulnerable groups relying on forest and wildland resources. Community consultations go through these consortiums.</p>	LoAs – Participatory plans – frequent reporting – frequent technical advice	A considerable budget is allocated to consortiums to support activity implementation
<b>Collaboration</b>				
WFP	Cooperation/ collaboration	WFP is supporting some SALMA beneficiaries (NGOs and municipalities) through financing the manpower for reforestation and irrigation, thus expanding the areas	Minutes of meetings	WFP allocated a budget for supporting NGOs directly

		under sustainable restoration		
UNDP	Collaboration for Knowledge exchange	UNDP developed guidelines for sustainable forest management. The SALMA project was among the major contributors. Part of these guidelines will be used in SFM planning within SALMA.	Sharing of knowledge and expertise	N/A
Directorate of Geographic Affairs	Provision of land-cover, land-use maps, and landmine maps	The Directorate of Geographic Affairs provided SALMA with the most updated land-cover, land-use, and landmines maps	Meetings – Sharing of data and maps	A budget was allocated for the maps
Balamand University	Forest fire risk assessment	The Balamand University is the only academic body working on scientific research related to forest fires	Meetings – MoU/LoA	SALMA allocated a budget for the fire assessments
Saint Joseph University and the Lebanese University	Pest risk assessment	Professors and students are conducting pest outbreak and risk assessments in various sites	Meetings – MoU/LoA- frequent reporting	SALMA allocated a budget for the forest pest assessments
American University of Beirut	Innovative water harvesting techniques	One of SALMA sites in an arid area was used for testing innovative water harvesting techniques	Meetings	N/A
Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute	Study of soil samples	The Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute is affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture. It will provide studies of soil samples (specifically soil organic carbon) within the forest trees and range resources assessment.	MoU/LoA	SALMA allocated a budget for the soil studies
<b>Policy and programmatic consultation</b>				
Ministry of Environment	Project Steering Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoE Representative attends all steering committee meetings and is part of the strategic decision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of Meetings</li> <li>Reporting upon request</li> </ul>	N/A



		making process		
Green Plan (a government body under the Ministry of Agriculture)	Project Steering Committee Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Plan Representative attends all steering committee meetings and is part of the strategic decision-making process</li> <li>Frequent meetings take place between SALMA team and Green Plan staff to coordinate on project activities</li> <li>The establishment of the water ponds for fighting wild fires is technically supervised by the Green Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of Meetings</li> <li>Frequent reporting</li> </ul>	A budget was allocated to the water ponds
Information access and dissemination				
Wider public	<p>Receive information on project progress and results</p> <p>Receive awareness on the National 40 Million Trees Program</p>	The communication strategy to be developed by the project will lay out the details on means.	Different media tools: social media, website, community gatherings...	The SALMA project foresees a budget line for the development and implementation of a communication strategy

## 8. Knowledge Management Activities

**Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval**

The project team ensures lessons learned are shared and integrated as part of the wider National Reforestation Program knowledge management approach. Consortiums of municipalities and NGOs are using different reforestation methods in areas with different biophysical characteristics. For example, some NGOs are using methods to totally avoid irrigation, while others rely more on irrigation. Various land preparation (digging and weeding) tools and techniques are employed on different sites. Each NGO is sharing its experience with others to identify the most suitable reforestation techniques for each area. At the end of the project, SALMA plans to produce reforestation guidelines for each ecosystem based on the success rates, pros and cons of each method/technique used.

The project team is studying different reforestation scenarios to help develop a national reforestation suitability map that will ensure sustainability of future reforestation initiatives.

In addition, the project is in the process of developing simplified results-based forest management guidelines applicable at municipal levels. These guidelines aim at facilitating the process of developing forest management plans for municipalities, NGOs, and local communities. Forest Management has not been among national priorities in Lebanon. The present project is introducing the concept of community-based forest management with a focus on the guidance of management objectives identified through community consultations. SALMA has already organized an experience-sharing workshop to explore different management plans/practices used by different forest management experts and practitioners. Guidelines for assessing climate vulnerability of forests and forest-dependent people were prepared and will be tested in the framework of the project.

## 9. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing <sup>22</sup>	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2019-	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
USAID	Lebanon Reforestation Initiative	Other	\$7 Million	\$7 Million		\$7 Million
IFAD/OFID	HASAD	Other	\$12.3 Million	\$7.656 Million		\$4.644 Million
National Government	MOE	Other	\$ 11 Million	0		\$11 Million
Other	FAO-Lebanon	Grant	\$740,000	\$740,000		\$740,000
Other	FAO-Lebanon (Korea)	Grant		\$207,350		\$207,350
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$31.04 Million</b>	<b>\$15.603 Million</b>		<b>\$23.654 Million</b>

**Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement**

<sup>22</sup> Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

## **Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions**

**Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

**Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action. **Moderately Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action. **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

## Appendix 1: Reforestation sites

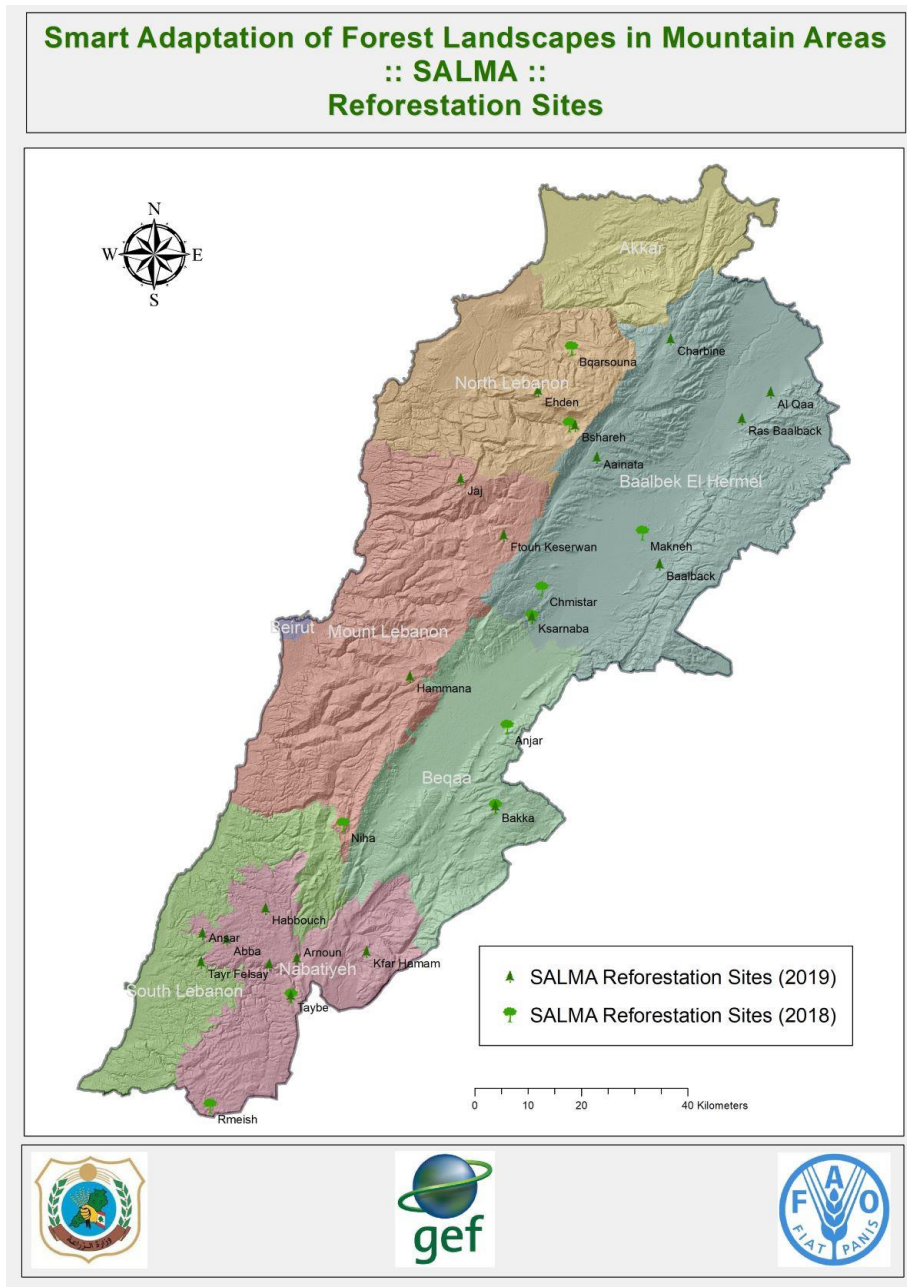
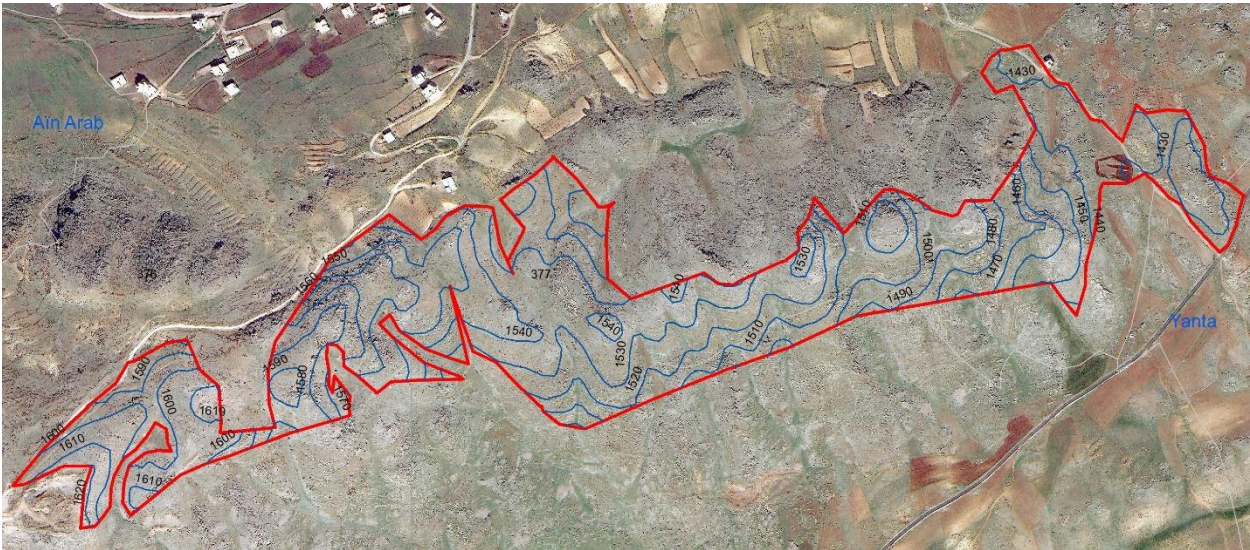


Figure 1: SALMA reforestation map – 2018 - 2019

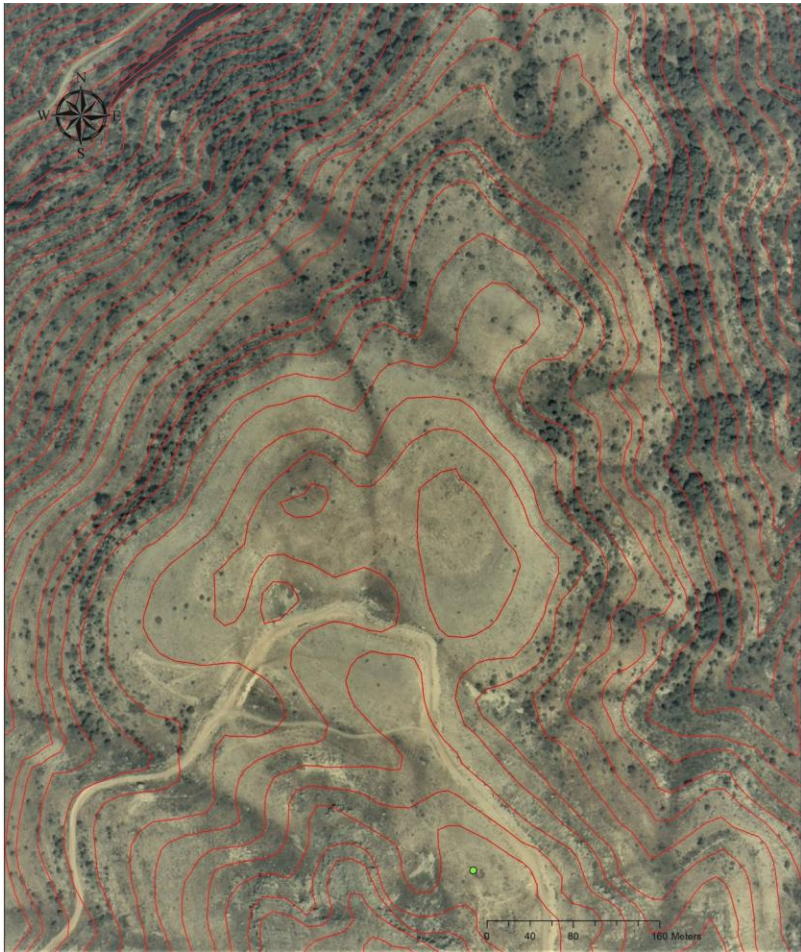
Below are samples of images for different reforestation sites across Lebanon, implemented by different NGOs and municipalities:



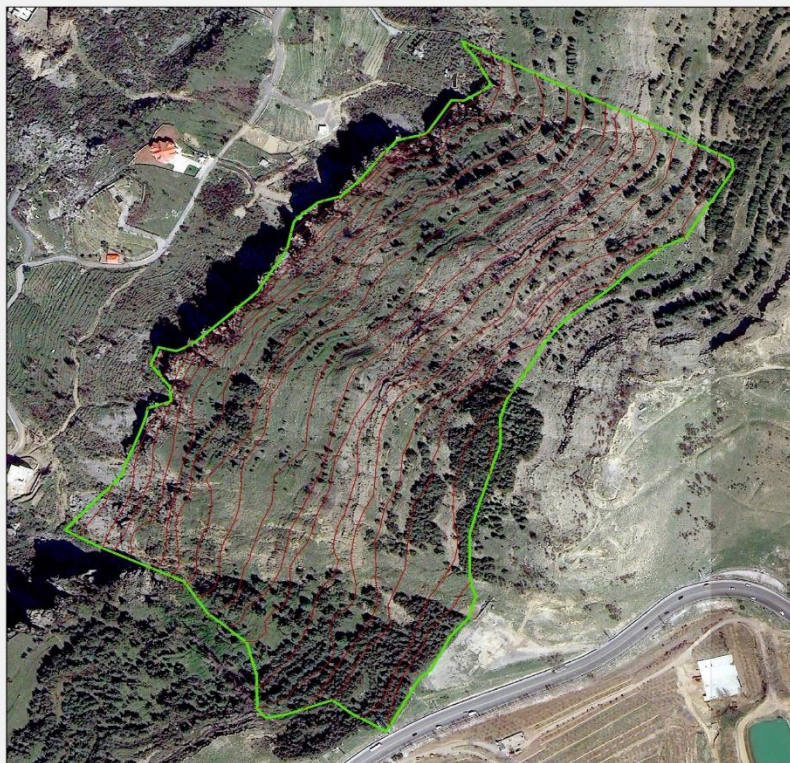
**Picture 2:** Ansar reforestation site – South Lebanon



**Picture 2:** Bakka reforestation site – Bekaa, Lebanon

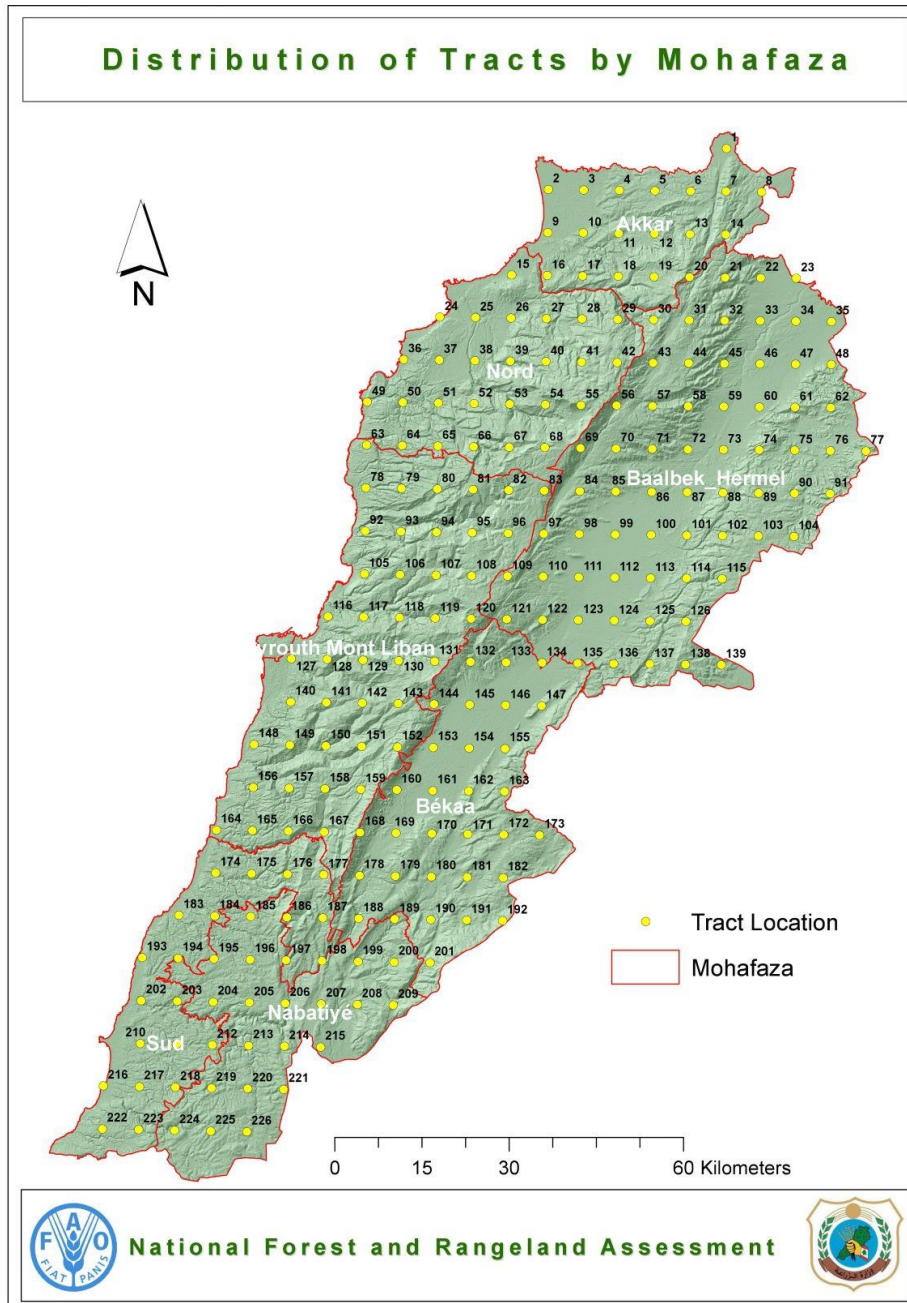


**Picture 3:** Ehden reforestation site – North Lebanon



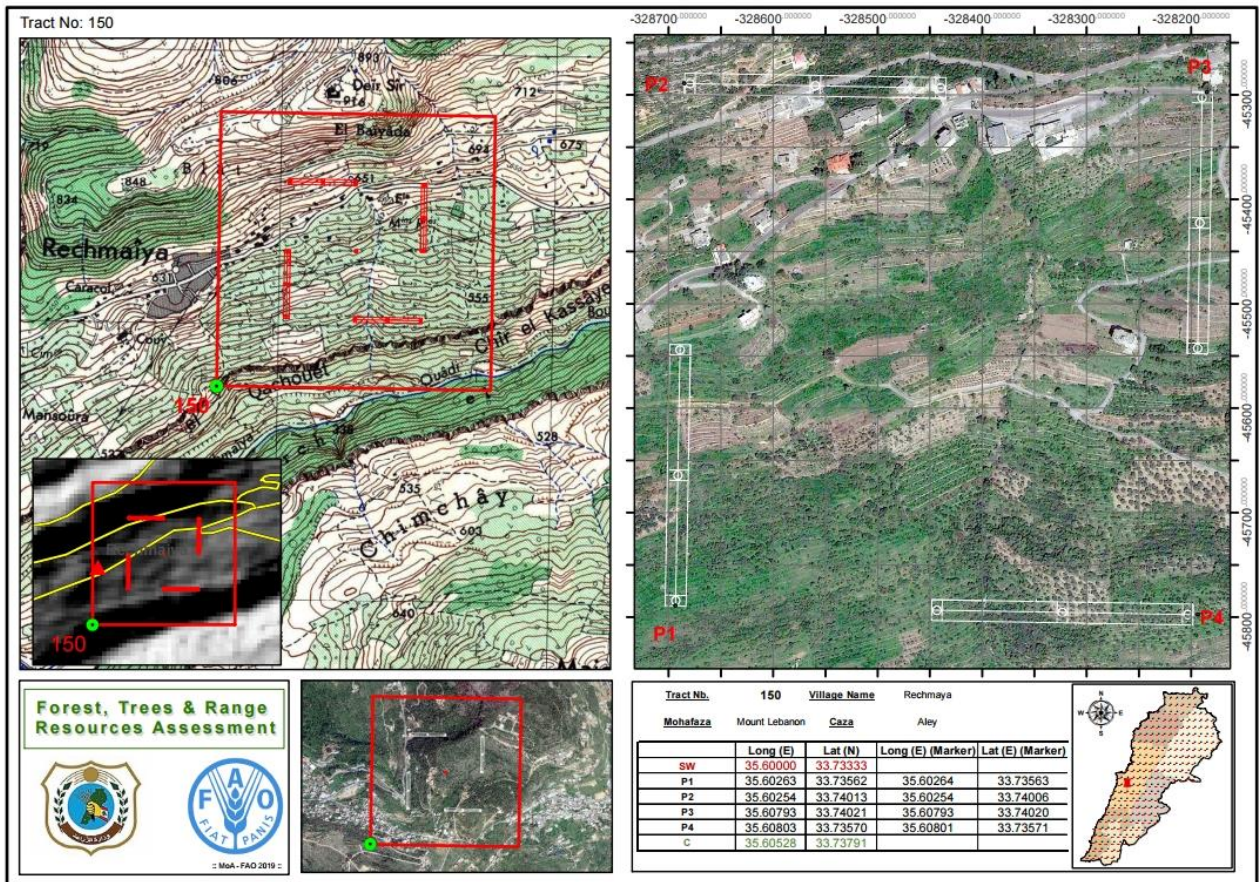
**Picture 4:** Hammana reforestation site – Mount Lebanon

**Appendix 2: Forest and Tree Resources Assessment Tracts distribution – Tract sample**



**Picture 5: Tracts distribution**





Picture 6: Tract sample