



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report
2023 - Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	North Africa
Country (ies):	Algeria
Project Title:	Rehabilitation and integrated sustainable development of cork oak forest production landscapes in Algeria
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/ALG/001/GFF
GEF ID:	9806
GEF Focal Area(s):	BD, LD
Project Executing Partners:	FAO Algeria
Project Duration (years):	Five (5) years
Project coordinates:	YES (see Appendix)

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	19/03/2023
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD:	14/07/2021
Project Implementation End Date/NTE ¹ :	14/07/2025
Revised project implementation end date (if approved) ²	

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 3 411 644
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc ³ :	USD 24 473 571
Total GEF grant (to June 30, 2023 (USD):	USD 292 899
Total GEF grant disbursement (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD) ⁴ :	USD 122 622
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023 ⁵	USD 120 571

M&E Milestones

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	2nd meeting of the steering committee (COPIL): 19/03/2023
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¹ As per FPMIS

² If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF CU.

³ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

⁴ For DEX projects, the GEF Coordination Unit will confirm the final amount with the Finance Division in HQ. For OPIM projects, the disbursement amount should be provided by Execution Partners.

⁵ Please refer to the section 12 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

Expected Midterm Review date⁶:	3rd quarter 2024
Actual Midterm review date (when it is done):	
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date⁷:	July 14, 2025 unless project duration is extended
Tracking tools/Core indicators updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Appendix)	

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/outcomes (cumulative):	Moderately satisfactory
Overall implementation progress rating:	Moderately satisfactory
Overall risk rating:	Moderate

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Low risk
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Status

Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	First PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager/Coordinator	Nasr Eddine KAZI AOUAL - National Project Coordinator	nasr.kaziaoual@fao.org
Budget Holder	Irina BUTTOUD SNEMED - Multidisciplinary team - Technical officer	Irina.Buttoud@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Mohamed Amrani, Senior Policy Officer	mohamed.amrani@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer, GTO (formerly technical FLO)	Mohamed Bergigui	mohamed.bergigui@fao.org

⁶ The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

⁷ The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators ⁸	Baseline	Mid-term Target ⁹	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress ¹⁰ since project start Level at 30 June 2022	Progress rating ¹¹
Rehabilitation and integrated sustainable development of cork oak forest production landscapes in Algeria		Zone of unprotected areas subject to improved practices (GEF-7 indicator 4)	0 Ha. The target corresponds to 22,530 ha of COFs on the three sites, minus 4,000 ha of protected areas accounted for under indicator 2.	10 000 Ha	22 530 Ha	5%	MS
		Zone of protected areas subject to improved practices (GEF-7 core indicator 1)	0 Ha Objective: 4000 ha Tlemcen national park	2000 Ha	4000 Ha	5%	MS
		Number of small and medium-sized enterprises and community organizations deriving income from the sustainable marketing of NTFPs, using a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services	0 U.	10 SMES	60 SMES (With at least 40% of women)	0%	MU
Component 1: Steering the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable use of	Outcome 1 Local biodiversity censuses and inventories have been completed, providing a basis	A number of sustainable forest management plans are collectively approved by local stakeholders and implemented	0 U.		3 sustainable forest management plans	5% - Holding of 4 workshops to launch the project, the 1st at national level and the other 3 in the western, central, and eastern cork	MS

⁸ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic Co-benefits as well.

¹¹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Moderately Satisfactory** (MS), **Moderately Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU).

Algeria's globally important cork oak forests.	for sustainable management					<p>oak regions,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digitized mapping carried out for the project's 3 pilot zones, and regional meetings held for the 21 other cork oak Wilayas (provinces), as part of the implementation of successful actions and activities in the 3 pilot zones, - Missions carried out in the field by the 5 recruited national consultants in charge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing integrated forest ecosystem management plans; • Characterization and finalization of the typology of COF systems at the three pilot sites; • Specific inventory of NTFPs; • NTFP value chains; • Setting up participatory governance mechanisms for the 03 pilot sites, - Baseline study currently being carried out by BNEDER. 	
	Output 1: Local biodiversity censuses and inventories have been completed,	Diagnosis and inventory of biodiversity	0 U.	-	3 U.	Ongoing. To be completed by 09/31/2023 (NCs + BNEDER)	MS
						50%	

<p>Component 2: Creating sustainable value from products, goods and services derived from the cork oak ecosystem.</p>	providing a basis for sustainable management						
	<p>Output 2: Sustainable forest management plans to conserve biodiversity and generate income for local populations are being drawn up and implemented at three sites (Taourirt Ighil-Bejaia forest, Béni Idder-Jijel forest, Hafir-Tlemcen forest).</p>	Number of sustainable forest management plans collectively agreed by local stakeholders and implemented	0 U.		3 sustainable forest management plans	5% (Same as for outcome 1)	MS
	<p>Outcome 2 Strengthening value chains for priority NTFPs in the forests of</p>	Number of small and medium-sized enterprises and community organizations deriving income from the sustainable marketing of NTFPs, using a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services	0 U.	10 SMES	60 SMES (With at least 40% of women)	0%	MU
	<p>Output 1: Restored and regenerated productive forest landscapes at three sites.</p>					0%	MU
	<p>Output 2: The capacities of local operators and companies are strengthened and benefit from a favorable environment.</p>					0%	MU
	<p>Output 3:</p>					0%	MU

<p>Component 3: Replicating and scaling up successful approaches</p>	<p>A traceability system is operational for at least two NTFPs, including cork.</p>						
	<p>Output 4: Economic value-added tools (labels, certificates, for example) are in place for cork, honey and mastic.</p>					0%	MU
	<p>Outcome 3 Sustainable management and harvesting plans have been launched at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites in Algeria.</p>	<p>A number of hectares of cork oak forests have integrated management plans at the end of the project</p>	0 Ha	10 000 Ha	000 Ha	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of implementation of digitized zone mapping work, particularly in terms of standardizing work methodology, based on work carried out in the 3 pilot zones, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zone delimitation, divided into series, - Drawing up a plot plan, - Elaboration of a land-use map, - Thematic maps: Slopes, Orography (relief), road network and tracks, hydrographic network, localities. <p>Note that the division into homogeneous subplots (management units) will be drawn up by the consultancy firm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness-raising and involvement of teacher's

						<p>researchers and Master II students in biology, associations and neighboring residents in the project's pilot zones, NTFP and PPAM processors, during meetings in the 3 pilot zones on the project's progress and the involvement of the associations concerned: 87 people attended, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23 representatives from 12 associations, - 05 farmers, - 08 local PPAM users and cork workers, - 05 academics, including 04 Master 2 students in ecology, <p>02 NTFP processors - carbo and olive oil.</p>	
	<p>Output 1: Political and technical mechanisms for scaling up best practice are in place, including data management, policy platforms and institutional/technical capacity.</p>					0%	MS
	<p>Output 2: A scaling-up strategy is drawn up, based on project monitoring,</p>					<p>2%</p> <p>The actions undertaken to achieve the expected results relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digitized mapping of the pilot zones, carried out 	MS

	<p>evaluation and knowledge management. A strategy for moving upmarket has been drawn up, based on monitoring, evaluation and project knowledge management.</p>					<p>by Forest Conservancy officers in the pilot zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The contract with the <i>Bureau National des Etudes pour le Développement Rural</i> (BNEDER), (National Office for Rural Development Studies) in charge of the baseline study and field surveys in the project's pilot zones. <p>The work of national consultants: through their field missions, in particular the NC to support the development of integrated forest ecosystem management plans.</p>	
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Action Plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
<p>Component 1: Steering the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable use of Algeria's globally important cork oak forests.</p> <p>Outcome 1: Biodiversity censuses and inventories have been completed at a local level, providing a basis for sustainable management.</p> <p>Output 1: Local biodiversity censuses and inventories have been completed, providing a basis for sustainable management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handover of the digitized cartography of the pilot zones, carried out by the Forest Conservancy of the pilot zones - Tlemcen, Béjaia and Jijel - to the consultancy firm responsible for the baseline study and field surveys, by the Forest Conservancies of Tlemcen, Béjaia and Jijel (pilot zones of the project), - Finalization of the work of the national consultants for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing integrated forest ecosystem management plans; • characterization and finalization of the typology of COF systems at 03 pilot sites; • specific inventory of NTFPs; • NTFP value chains; • setting up participatory governance mechanisms for the 03 pilot sites, under the supervision of 2 lead experts, one in forestry and the other in value chains, - Validation of consultation results by the chief technical consultant (CTA). - Recruitment of a National Consultant expert in environmental communication. - Recruitment of a National Consultant specialist in communication. - Continued acquisition of equipment for DGF offices (e.g., cameras), tools for monitoring and assessing ecosystem services and biodiversity (e.g., traps, cameras, etc.) and observation equipment (binoculars, spotting scopes). - Biodiversity monitoring training for local populations. - Make up for accumulated delays through condensed implementation of the actions and activities of the 3 project components. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot zone focal points and the project management unit. - National consultants and lead experts. - The chief technical consultant (CTA). - RH FAO Algeria - RH FAO Algeria - PMU in collaboration with the CTA and the focal points of the pilot zones. - PMU, Lead Experts, NCs, Focal Points, Forest Administration - PMU, Lead Experts, NCs, Focal Points, Forest Administration, local population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - July 2023 - September - October 2023 - October 2023 - July - August 2023 - December 2023 - End of the project. - End of the project.

<p>Output 2: Sustainable forest management plans to conserve biodiversity and generate income for local populations are being drawn up and implemented at three sites (Taourirt Ighil-Bejaia forest, Béni Idder-Jijel forest, Hafir-Tlemcen forest).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of a national consultant expert trainer for forestry training: Years 4 and 5 of the project. Recruitment of a national expert consultant specializing in forest management planning: Year 5 of the project. 		
<p>Component 2: Creating sustainable value from products, goods and services derived from the cork oak ecosystem.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Strengthening value chains for priority NTFPs in cork oak forests.</p> <p>Output 1: Restored and regenerated productive forest landscapes at three sites.</p> <p>Output 2: The capacities of local operators and companies are strengthened and benefit from a favorable environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops and meetings on site-specific inventory and NTFP value chain analysis, as well as forest management planning. - Rehabilitation of the nurseries of the forest conservancies of the pilot Wilayas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Recruitment of a National Consultant who will be responsible for drawing up an inventory of potential nurseries and their rehabilitation, * Recruitment of a National Consultant Phytosanitary expert specialized in pest control on sites. * Preparation of technical data sheets and acquisition of replanting tools, nursery equipment, seedlings, etc. - Recruitment of a national consultant to develop a national NTFP policy framework. - Recruitment of a National Consultant expert in corporate planning. - Workshops and meetings to develop NTFP policies at the national level, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PMU, lead experts, NCs, focal points, forest administration, consultancy firm, local population, operators and processors, etc. - RH FAO Algeria - RH FAO Algeria - Focal points, forest administration, PMU, NCs for nursery rehabilitation. - PMU, lead experts, NC to develop a national NTFP policy framework, NC expert in business planning, NCs, focal points, forest administration, Ministries concerned, consultancy firm, local population, operators and raw material processors, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 2024 - December 2023 - December 2023 - September 2023 - February 2024. - February 2024. - End of the project.

<p>Output 3: A traceability system is operational for at least two NTFPs, including cork.</p> <p>Output 4: Economic value-added tools (labels, certificates, for example) are in place for cork, honey and mastic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings and workshops to build the local capacity of SMEs and community organizations to develop sustainable ecological businesses in two selected NTFP value chains. - Raise awareness at local and national level of the importance and usefulness of forest ecosystem services, through training courses for local populations, meetings with all stakeholders, and a communication strategy and plan. - Work with local economic operators (public and private) to identify investment opportunities for quality cork production - Raise local and national awareness of the importance and usefulness of forest ecosystem services - Recruit a national consultant expert in traceability for the national cork traceability system - Set up a national traceability committee and an independent auditor function. - Set up the electronic traceability system. - Build the capacity of value chain players through training and the supply of equipment. - Manage the system at each site. - Finalize the national traceability policy. - Recruitment of a National Consultant specialist in labelling and certification. - Recruitment of a National Consultant expert in labelling and certification of local products. - Evaluation of tax incentives and disincentives. - Update or develop regulations, permits and licenses governing access to and marketing of NTFPs at the national level. - Implementation of eco-labelling and certification of local products on a pilot basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PMU, NC expert in environmental communication, focal points. - PMU, Lead Experts, NCs, focal points, forest administration , riparian population, economic operators and raw material processors, - PMU, CI labelling and certification, lead experts, NCs, focal points, forest administration, Ministries concerned, consultancy firm, local population, operators and processors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - December 2024 - End of the project. - End of the project. - End of the project. - December 2024 - End of the project.
<p>Component 3: Replicating and scaling up successful approaches</p> <p>Outcome 3:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of a national consultant to draw up management guidelines for cork oak forests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PMU, Lead Experts, NCs, focal points, forest administration, 	

<p>Sustainable management and harvesting plans have been launched at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites in Algeria.</p> <p>Output 1: Political and technical mechanisms for scaling up best practice are in place, including data management, policy platforms and institutional/technical capacity.</p> <p>Output 2: A scaling-up strategy is drawn up, based on project monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management. A strategy for moving upmarket has been drawn up, based on monitoring, evaluation and project knowledge management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a national technical platform to support cork oak forest ecosystems. - Finalize the typology of cork oak forest ecosystems. - Develop and implement a database on cork oak forest ecosystems in Algeria, to be hosted and managed by the General Forestry Directorate and made available to other users. The database will be used by the DGF and made available to its partners. Some data will be public. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor project indicators on an ongoing basis - Document lessons learned, best practices and undertake data/knowledge management - Develop and deploy a project-based communications strategy, including outreach products, print, video and audio materials, etc. <p>Links with other stakeholders, networks, scientific institutions and neighboring countries, as illustrated by the start of collaboration with academics through the future Master 2 program on cork oak ecosystems, and with neighboring residents in pilot areas interested in the exploitation and processing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and perfume, aromatic and medicinal plants (PPAMs), with a view to sustainable, integrated and participatory management of the Algerian cork oak grove. This initial dialogue with the main players augurs well for coordination between the project partners.</p>	<p>concerned ministries.</p> <p>- PMU, Lead Experts, NCs, Focal points, forest administration, ministries concerned</p>	<p>- End of the project.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mid-term evaluation - Recruitment of international consultant expert for the project evaluation system (PES) 	<p>- PMU, CI - PES.</p>	<p>3rd quarter 2024</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final evaluation 	<p>- PMU, CI - PES.</p>	<p>July 14, 2025 unless project duration is extended</p>

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (As per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (As per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
<p>Outcome 1: Biodiversity inventories and inventories at local and national level have been completed, providing a basis for sustainable management.</p>	<p>A number of sustainable forest management plans are collectively approved by local stakeholders and implemented.</p>			
<p>Output 1: Local biodiversity censuses and inventories have been completed, providing a basis for sustainable management.</p>	<p>- Inventory of biodiversity at the three pilot sites Inventory of NTFPs, and analysis of value chains at the three (3) sites, including</p>	<p>- Finalized - Finalized</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Recruitment of a new Finance and Administration Assistant, ✓ Digitized mapping of the three (3) pilot zones by GIS resource persons, with division of the forest into series, production of plot plans by series and description of the plots leading to the delimitation of homogeneous subplots (management units), the land use map, thematic maps: Slopes, Orography (relief), road network and tracks, hydrographic network, localities. ✓ Ongoing identification of "training needs" for forest administration staff and stakeholders, ✓ Raising awareness of biodiversity issues among associations, vervain growers and managers of vervain packaging and carob processing units, so as to increase their involvement in forest management plans and contribute 	<p>The annual work plan, validated by the COPIL at its 2nd meeting (COPIL II), sets the end of February and March 2023 for the biodiversity diagnosis and inventory of NTFPs at national level, including protected areas (national parks, hunting reserves,</p>

¹² Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹³ Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

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

	stakeholder analysis and economic aspects".		<p>to the conservation of flora and fauna, by identifying exploitable NTFPs and implementing their innovative value chains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Invitation to women's organizations to get involved in local project committees, and presentation of a training program for those involved in wildlife inventories, and information on the creation of 40 SMEs covering the 3 pilot zones, with a minimum of 40% women entrepreneurs, as planned by the project. ✓ Start-up of the implementation of activities at the level of the twenty-one (21) other Forest Conservancies of the Wilayas that count cork oak forests in terms of biodiversity diagnostics and inventories, as well as digitized cartography. ✓ Recruitment of five (5) national consultants for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing integrated forest ecosystem management plans; • characterization and finalization of the typology of COF systems at the three pilot sites; • specific inventory of NTFPs; • NTFP value chains; • setting up participatory governance mechanisms for the 03 pilot sites, ✓ Recruitment of Value Chain Expert, ✓ Recruitment of the chief technical consultant (CTA), ✓ Contract with the consultancy in charge of the baseline study and field studies. 	<p>nature reserves) and value chain analysis at the level of the 3 pilot zones.</p> <p>The deadline for submission of the baseline study for the cork oak forest project by the consultancy firm is 31/09/2023.</p> <p>Cumulative delays are mainly due to the lack of consultants and consultancy firms, with consequences for contracting procedures.</p>
Output 2: Sustainable forest management plans to conserve biodiversity and generate income for local populations are being drawn up and implemented at three sites (Taourirt Ighil-Bejaia forest, Béni Idder-Jijel forest, Hafir-Tlemcen forest).				
Outcome 2: Strengthening value chains for priority NTFPs in cork oak forests.	Number of small and medium-sized enterprises and community			

	organizations deriving income from the sustainable marketing of NTFPs, using a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services			
Output 1: Restored and regenerated productive forest landscapes at three sites.				
Output 2: The capacities of local operators and companies are strengthened and benefit from a favorable environment.				
Output 3: A traceability system is operational for at least two NTFPs, including cork.				
Output 4: Economic value-added tools (labels, certificates, for example) are in place for cork, honey and mastic.				
Outcome 3:			- Digitized mapping of the pilot zones, carried out by Forest Conservancy	

<p>Sustainable management and harvesting plans have been launched at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites in Algeria.</p>			<p>officers in the pilot zones. Awareness-raising and involvement of teacher researchers and Master II biology students, associations and adjacent residents in the project's pilot zones, and NTFP and PPAM processors.</p>	
<p>Output 1: Political and technical mechanisms for scaling up best practice are in place, including data management, policy platforms and institutional/technical capacity.</p>				
<p>Output 2: A scaling-up strategy is drawn up, based on project monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management. A strategy for moving upmarket has been drawn up, based on monitoring, evaluation and project knowledge management.</p>				

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcome of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR.

The progress report concerns the results of the recent implementation of the cork oak forest project (approximately 01 year), which can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ Digitized mapping of the 03 pilot zones by GIS resource persons.
- ✓ Raising awareness of biodiversity issues among associations, verbena growers and managers of carob packaging and processing units, presenting opportunities for the creation of 40 SMEs in the 3 pilot zones, with a minimum of 40% of women entrepreneurs, and identifying "training needs" for forest administration staff and stakeholders,
- ✓ Implementation of activities in the 21 other Forest Conservancies in the sub-peripheral Wilayas in terms of biodiversity diagnostics and inventories, and well as digital mapping.
- ✓ Recruitment of 5 national consultants, each in their own field, to draw up integrated forest ecosystem management plans, characterize and finalize the typology of COF systems, carry out a specific inventory of NTFPs, identify NTFP value chains and set up participatory governance mechanisms.
- ✓ Recruitment of value chain expert and chief technical consultant (CTA).
- ✓ Contract with the consultancy firm in charge of the baseline study and field studies.

A significant delay has been recorded for the following reasons:

- ✓ A year's delay in signing the PROJECT AGREEMENT due to the revision of certain unaccepted clauses, with LEG's support.
- ✓ Ten months separate the signing of the PRODOC (14/07/2021) and the recruitment of PMU members (03/04/2022).
- ✓ Instability in the position of Administrative and Finance Assistant and difficulties in mastering and finalizing all the training courses, resulting in a considerable delay in purchasing and other services, which has repercussions on field work.
- ✓ Difficulty in identifying available national experts with a high level of skills/experience in a medium-term timeframe.
- ✓ Consequences of the COVID pandemic 19.
- ✓ Retirement of the national cork oak forest project manager (NPM) on 26/03/2023 and appointment of a new NPM by the General Forestry Directorate (DGF) on 26/03/2023.

Due to the cumulative delay in project implementation, the challenge of combining year 1 and year 2 into a single year - 2023 - was launched and approved by the second COPIL meeting on 19/03/2023.

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR. For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2022 Development Objective rating¹⁵	FY2022 Implementation Progress rating¹⁶	Comments/reasons¹⁷ justifying the ratings for FY2022 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager/Coordinator	MS	MS	<p>A significant delay has been recorded for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A year's delay in signing the PROJECT AGREEMENT due to the revision of certain unaccepted clauses, with LEG's support. ✓ Ten months separate the signing of the PRODOC (14/07/2021) and the recruitment of PMU members (03/04/2022). ✓ Instability in the position of Administrative and Finance Assistant and difficulties in mastering and finalizing all the training courses, resulting in a considerable delay in purchasing and other services, which has repercussions on field work. ✓ Difficulty in identifying available national experts with a high level of skills/experience in a medium-term timeframe. ✓ Withdrawal of the Lead Value Chain Expert and late recruitment of his/her replacement due to the above-mentioned difficulties. ✓ Retirement of the national cork oak forest project manager (NPM) on 26/03/2023 and appointment of a new NPM by the General Forestry Directorate (DGF) on 26/03/2023. ✓ Consequences of the COVID pandemic 19.
Budget Holder	MS	MS	<p>This important project has accumulated a number of delays as listed above by the project manager. In addition, it is necessary to mention the very strong mobilization of the forest sector during the three/four months of forest fire season, to which the cork oak forests are particularly vulnerable, and which prevent any meeting or field mission. However, we believe that arrangements have been made to set up a solid work team, capable of moving forward with the implementation of the project activities.</p>
GEF Operational Focal Point¹⁸	MS	MS	<p>The project is of vital importance for the development and conservation of forest ecosystems, particularly the cork oak forest. Unfortunately, despite the efforts made by the Algerian cork oak</p>

¹⁵ **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.

For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁶ **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

¹⁸ In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

			forest project to compress the first two years into one, the project is still lagging behind schedule, and will need to catch up by mobilizing all stakeholders to achieve its objectives.
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	MS	MS	The project delays have to be overcome through implementing project management good practices and set clear milestones with close follow-up. The technical team needs to be strengthened because of departures. Future interventions have to be clearly justified by strong contribution to set targets.
FAO-GEF Technical Officer	MS	MS	Despite the commendable efforts deployed by the project team and delivery partners, the project faced challenges related to legal agreements, staffing, procurement and turnovers which resulted in significant delays. To fast-track implementation and boost delivery to deliver quality results ahead of the MTR milestone, the project team should use adaptive management to proactively anticipate potential implementation bottlenecks, monitor risks and develop actionable and timely managerial responses. The perseverance of the project team together with the practical support from national delivery partners can put the project on track to meet its MTR targets and delivering expected GEBs and socio-economic co-benefits.

¹⁹ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

*Please describe the progress made by complying with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement.*

This does not apply to **low**-risk projects. Add new ESS risks if any risks have emerged during this FY.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social (ESS) Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low risk	The classification remains valid.

Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and also reflects any new risks identified in the course of project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Irregular or low cork prices on the international market.	Moderate	Y	Exchanges with cork-producing countries to determine sales prices for raw and semi-finished cork.	Given the current state of progress of the project, the risks have not yet been determined and therefore no mitigation measures have been taken.	
2	Safety issues cause delays in operations and hamper efforts to develop sustainable activities (e.g., ecotourism, harvesting).	Low	Y	-		
3	Reduced project ownership and support from government agencies.	Low	Y	-		
4	Climate change can increase threats to forests, including fire, pests, disease and weather conditions (temperature, precipitation). Some forests are currently vulnerable to pests and diseases, two vectors likely to be exacerbated by the effects of climate change.	Substantial	Y	Strengthen the means of preventing and fighting forest fires by setting up appropriate systems involving local communities and setting up a phytosanitary monitoring system.		

²¹ Risk ratings means a rating of accesses the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
5	For the duration of the project, it is not possible to monetize the value of COFs ecosystem goods and services, and thus create incentives for local people to support forest conservation.	Moderate	Y	Implement activities and actions relating to the goods and services offered by COFs.		
6	Low involvement of local communities and institutions in the programming and monitoring mechanism	High	Y	The project will encourage local participation, empowerment and ownership of the process by stakeholders for the development of sustainable operation and coordination of project activities. Local project implementation committees have been set up to ensure commitment at local level, based on the best practices of Integrated Rural Development Proximity Projects.		

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

FY2021 rating	FY2022 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2022 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
N/A	Moderate	The risk level is rated as moderate and may be revised once field activities are rolled out in the next reporting period.

7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
Recommendation 1:	Mid-term review is not yet completed
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation 4:	

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please describe	
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8. Minor Project 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 Appendix 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²². Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories. And, provide supporting documents as an appendix to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule			
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other	<p>Amendments to appendix III of PRODOC:</p> <p>Component 1 (steering the sustainable management, conservancy and sustainable use of cork oak forests) - outcome 1 - output 1 and output 2, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Activity 1: "Diagnosis of biodiversity at the three (3) pilot sites", instead of "Undertake a site-specific inventory and analysis of the 	17/04/2022	COPIL (1st meeting)

²² Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

	<p>NTFP value chain at each site (informs management plans and is based on product biodiversity assessments".</p> <p>✓ Activity 2: "Inventory of NTFPs at national level, including protected areas (national parks, game reserves, nature reserves) and analysis of value chains at three (3) sites, including stakeholder analysis and economic aspects".</p> <p>Instead of "Undertake a national-level analysis and inventory of NTFPs and value chains, including stakeholder analysis and economic aspects".</p> <p>✓ <u>Activity 3:</u> Remains unchanged.</p> <p>Output 2: Change of prioritization between Activity 1 and Activity 3.</p>		
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9. Stakeholders' Engagement

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Role in project execution	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government Institutions			
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE): GEF focal point Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Energies (MEER): GEF and CBD Operational contact points	Involved in project control and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The MAE is involved as the focal point for the political aspect. - The MEER is the GEF's operational focal point. 	
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR). ❖ Training centers for technical agents specialized in forestry (CFATSF).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ CFATSF is willing to take charge of training and capacity building for forestry personnel and neighboring residents in forest management, protection and the fight against forest fires and parasitic attacks, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure that production areas serving as forest buffers are managed sustainably to preserve biodiversity, while contributing to sustainable livelihoods for local populations. ❖ Capacity building by institutions under the supervision of the MADR, e.g., training centers for technical agents specialized in forestry (CFATSF): These institutions will be partners in developing and delivering capacity-building activities. By way of information, the DGF organizes training sessions in line with the annual capacity building and technical assistance program (PRCHAT).
Ministries responsible for trade, crafts, tourism and industry.	Representatives of the relevant ministries are appointed as members of the various committees, namely the quadripartite strategic committee (CSQ), the steering committee (COPIL), the local implementation committees (CLI) and the technical advisory committee (CTC).	The ministries concerned were invited to the four (4) workshops held in Algiers to launch the project. Consultations are underway with the Wilaya directorates concerned in the pilot areas, to determine how they can become involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In particular, support income-generating activities from forestry goods and services. They will also support efforts to involve marginalized and vulnerable sections of the population. Overall, the forestry sector will involve them in management planning as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ MEER: given the existence of several dams close to the pilot areas and the fact that water is considered an important ecosystem service, ✓ Ministry of Industry and Mines: to collaborate in the development of the cork and other products value chain, ✓ the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security and its agencies (e.g., ANSEJ, CNAC): will collaborate in the development of NTFP value chains through the creation of 60 SMEs and skills development - particularly for young people, in addition to 40% of women,

			✓ Ministry of Tourism and crafts: to support ecotourism development activities.
National parks Protection of designated natural areas	The National Parks Directorate will be a technical partner in the project, as 36,904 ha of COFs are located in protected areas. The Tlemcen National Park will be particularly involved from the outset, as part of the Hafir site is under its protection.	The Tlemcen National Park is directly concerned, as the pilot zone partly touches on its area. Representatives of the National Parks in the 24 sub-regional Wilayas were invited to the launch workshops. NP representatives from the Wilayas of the pilot areas also attended meetings on the development of digitized cartography and on the progress of the project and the involvement of the associations concerned.	Protection of designated natural areas The National Parks Directorate will be a technical partner in the project, as 36,904 ha of COFs are located in protected areas. The Tlemcen National Park will be particularly involved from the outset, as part of the Hafir site is under its protection.
National Forest Research Institute (INRF)		The INRF, represented on the project's steering committee (COFIL), is committed to supporting the project in terms of PPAM selection and domestication, and for trials involving the use of a mechanical debarking machine to facilitate cork harvesting.	Technical support for the project, including research into cork quality.
Universities, particularly universities of Béjaia, Tlemcen and Jijel.		Representatives from the Universities of Tlemcen, Béjaia and Jijel were invited to take part in the above-mentioned meetings. The University of Tlemcen is ready to collaborate on experiments involving mechanical cork harvesting (debarker). The University of Béjaia, through one of its teacher-researcher, assisted by her Master II students in biology at the meeting in Béjaia on the progress of the project and the involvement of the associations concerned, is committed to registering research and Master II themes relating to the work planned by the project.	Involved in scientific monitoring of COFs ecosystems throughout the project. In addition, the project will draw on ongoing research at national universities to promote best SLM practices.
Royal Botanical Gardens: Kew Botanical Research and Education (based in the UK).	-	-	✓ A biodiversity census will be carried out by the project, and COFs native plant species that are candidates for conservation and propagation will be identified. On the basis of these results, RBGK will then join forces with the project to set up a

			conservation program via a central herbarium located in Algeria.
Non-Government organizations (NGOs)			
Private sector entities			
Others [1]			
<p>Associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In Tlemcen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "La Forêt Modèle de Tlemcen" (AFMT). ✓ In Béjaia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of rural women of Bejaia - "Afad", • "Assikem Gouraya" association (promotion of local ecotourism) <p>In Jijel, formal associations are rare and non-formal local committees are more effective partners for the project.</p>		<p>The twelve (12) associations and their eighteen (18) members, present at the meetings held in Tlemcen, Béjaia and Jijel to discuss the progress of the project and the involvement of the associations concerned, have pledged their support for the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In Tlemcen: seven (7) associations - eleven (11) members: <u>AFMTlemcen</u> proposes to share their experience acquired during their activities in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Capacity-building for their partners and local stakeholders, in the protection, management and enhancement of natural resources, sustainable steppe management and development, local development, environmental education, communication and networking. ✓ Support for communities in national parks, local development, the creation of 03 ecotourism paths, the setting up of a PPAM nursery, the training of biodiversity facilitators, as well as training in communication and networking. <p>➤ The associations of <u>Béjaia (four (4) - eight (8) members)</u> are committed to taking part in concrete</p>	<p>Associations, academics, verbena growers, neighboring residents in pilot areas and processors of non-timber forest products and perfume, aromatic and medicinal plants, invited to regional meetings dedicated in particular to their involvement in the cork oak forest project, have declared that they are open to any action aimed at rehabilitating the cork oak forest and improving the living conditions of neighboring residents.</p> <p>With regard to the "gender" component, a participatory approach that takes account of gender-specific issues will be sought, with women's organizations invited to contribute actively to local project committees.</p> <p>Although women's organizations are structured differently at each pilot site, the Gender and Social Assessment carried out during the PPG phase enabled us to identify and establish links with certain associations that expressed a strong desire to participate in the projects. These associations include the <i>Association Femme Rurale</i> of Bejaia, the <i>Association Afad</i> and the <i>Association Forêt Modèle</i> of Tlemcen.</p>

		<p>initiatives and actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving the governance of cork oak forest management by implementing a participatory approach that encourages the convergent mobilization of the various stakeholders (managers, users) in diagnostics (participatory diagnosis of the state of the forests, goods and services offered, etc.), the definition of management actions (empowering co-management) and their implementation. With this in mind, a focus group can be set up within the local implementation committee to carry out outreach work with neighboring residents, taking advantage of the social organization already in place in neighboring localities, ✓ The integration of industrialists (processors) in the sustainable management of forest resources (cork and other products and services), ✓ The creation of bridges between all players: managers-users-researchers-communities-associations to better address concerns in terms of diagnosis (censuses, inventories) and sustainable management of forest resources. Recommendations were made by all participants, including members of the other associations present, and focused on: ✓ The organization of training and awareness-raising sessions for young people on how to add value to cork oak forest 	
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		<p>products, with a particular focus on women in the harvesting and drying of spontaneous PPAM, as well as providing rural women producers with marketing outlets for local products and creating cooperatives to enhance the value of NTFPs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The training of new cork strippers and the possibility of entrusting cork harvesting to neighboring residents of the cork oak forest, ✓ Encourage the artisanal manufacture of beehives, cradles for babies and the creation of articles for the tourist industry (key rings, boats, trivets....) made from cork, in particular male cork and cork from gatherings, the use of which remains unprofitable, ✓ Exploiting tourism potential and promoting local products, as well as the possibility of creating touristic tours. <p>➤ In <u>Jijel</u>, the three associations of eight (8) members are committed to working together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Train and qualify the region's young people and craftsmen according to their level of education and the activities they practice, ✓ Classification and labelling of agricultural and local products, ✓ Creating spaces for mountain tourism, ✓ The promotion of mountain farming activities, olive oil extraction, PPAM cultivation and exploitation of forest products), ✓ The promotion and encouragement of crafts, notably using forest 	
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		<p>products and the preservation and enhancement of popular and traditional rural heritage.</p> <p>It was also recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Extend the range of products by including the transformation of the aerial part of the heather into brooms and the underground part (root) into pipes, oregano and mushroom cultivation, composting and extraction of essential oils from the leaf mass recovered during silvicultural work, harvesting of the fruits of the woods, domestication of other PPAM, as well as pottery and basketry, ✓Promote the cultivation of verbena, ✓Encourage the creation of PPAM nurseries, family cooperatives (productive families) and cooperatives for rural women, and make recovered cork available to craftsmen who use this product, <p>the creation of tourist and educational trails.</p>	
<p>People living near forests in the pilot areas of Tlemcen, Béjaia and Jijel.</p>		<p>Invited to meetings held in Tlemcen, Béjaia and Jijel on the progress of the project and the involvement of the associations concerned, the neighboring residents of the Hafir Forest in Tlemcen - a pilot zone - pledged to work together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Encourage the involvement of local populations, who need training in appropriate techniques and governance, enabling them to become potential and essential economic players. ✓ Create cooperatives to manage the harvesting, development, processing and marketing of NTFPs and PPAMs, ✓ Take charge of the cork harvesting and sales business, a highly profitable operation. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Contribute to the work of the National Consultants, after training in the field of wild fauna and flora inventories, ✓ Create sixty (60) SMEs in the three (3) pilot zones, with a minimum of 40% of women entrepreneurs. 	
Growers and users of NTFPs and PPAMs in and around the pilot areas	Identify ways and means of involving them in the development and use of NTFPs and PPAMs, and promoting their value chains.	This category of partner, which is satisfied with the project's objectives in terms of adding value to NTFPs and PPAMs with a view to setting up value chains and creating SMEs, is committed to contributing to the sustainable development of the cork oak forest.	
NTFP and PPAM processors	Identification of ways and means of supporting future SMEs.	The representative of BOUBLENZA - Tlemcen-, a carob processor and owner of carob fields and greenhouses for PPAM multiplication to be planted as intercrops on these fields, undertakes to provide assistance to future SMEs specializing in processing. Likewise, a producer of essential oils in Jijel and an olive producer in Tlemcen are offering their help and know-how to future SMEs.	
National Bureau for Rural Development Studies (BNEDER)	Service provider	The contract between FAO Algeria and BNEDER was signed to carry out the baseline study for the implementation of the 30/04/2023 project. To date, 100% of the digitized cartography and the socio-economic survey have been completed in the Tlemcen pilot zone.	BNEDER, which is responsible for carrying out the baseline study for the project as a service provider, is involved in improving knowledge, particularly with regard to inventories and socio-economic surveys.
<i>Groupement de Génie Rural (GGR)</i>		Discussions are underway with GGR regarding cork harvesting methods	GGR is currently in charge of cork harvesting and sales.
National Interprofessional Wood and Cork Council (CNIBL)		Discussions are underway to examine the terms and conditions for integrating the National Interprofessional Councils into the project.	In particular, the CNIBL is asked to examine the terms and conditions for integrating them into wood and cork operations.
Interprofessional Council for Perfumed, Aromatic and Medicinal Plants (CIPPAM),			
Association of Professional Beekeepers of Jijel			

10. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) during this reporting period.

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe the progress and results achieved during this reporting period
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	N	- (*)
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Y	- (*)
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Y	✓ (*)
b) improving women's participation and decision-making	Y	✓ (*)
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Y	✓ (*)
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	N	<i>Please provide progress on the gender-sensitive indicators of the project results framework.</i>
Staff with gender expertise	-	- (*)
Any other good practices on gender	- (*)	- (*)

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities/products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.	
<p>Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.</p> <p>Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.</p>	<p>The project will develop a comprehensive communications and public awareness strategy, including local communication and facilitation, as well as the development of targeted public relations products for the general public. This can include newsletters, social networking pages and publications, blogs, as well as more traditional media such as brochures printed in local languages, posters describing biodiversity and sustainable debarking practices, and any other communication media required.</p> <p>Links with scientific institutions, research institutes and universities in Algeria and neighboring countries will be encouraged to promote South-South exchanges and lessons learned between countries, notably through the <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> network. Where possible, study visits and exchange visits will be organized for key project personnel to promote learning from the experience of other Mediterranean countries.</p> <p>For knowledge sharing, project results will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention areas through existing information-sharing networks and forums (any location linked to government, FAO and partner institutions). In addition, the project will identify and participate, where appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which could be useful to the implementation of the project through lessons learned.</p> <p>Sharing information and knowledge will be an integral part of the project's activities and results. Sharing and disseminating knowledge is essential to empower smallholders, NTFP entrepreneurs and rural communities, with demonstrations on best use and informing them on the application of best practices and technologies. The key elements of knowledge creation and sharing envisaged in the project include the following important tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characterization of biodiversity at the three sites and identify priority species for conservation, • Analyses of (local and national) NTFP value chains and • Characterization and valuation of services in healthy cork oak forests. <p>The environmental directorates at wilaya levels are responsible for promoting environmental awareness, information exchange and public education. They are also responsible for supporting school projects and experiments in the field of environmental conservancy, and for promoting the dissemination of ecosystem services. Consequently, any relevant material produced by the project will be shared with the environmental directorates at wilaya level for dissemination to the appropriate bodies (including schools and local environmental associations).</p>
<p>Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.</p>	<p>N/A at this stage</p>

Please provide links to related website, social media account	N/A at this stage
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	Flyers, notebooks, pens and totbags were produced for distribution at meetings, but no communication media were published on the web.
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's Name and contact details	- (Not planned)

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

If applicable, please describe the process and current status of ongoing/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities.

Do indigenous peoples and or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.

At the project's three pilot sites, sustainable management plans for cork oak forests will be drawn up in a participatory process with local communities and stakeholders, while the value chains for cork and other selected non-timber forest products will be strengthened.

The lessons learned from the three pilot sites and the capacity building of forestry agents from 24 cork oak-producing Wilayas will create the conditions for the intensification of best practices at the national level, with the aim of improving the management and use of cork oak forests throughout Algeria. In particular, the project aims to create a favorable economic environment (e.g., traceability system, certification framework) for the development of value chains linked to cork oak forests.

Throughout the project, the General Forestry Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will work closely with the FAO to achieve a beneficial outcome for local communities, NTFP-exploiting companies and the global environment.

Component 1 of the project focuses on the sustainable use and maintenance of forest productivity, with work to strengthen or launch new artisanal or commercial value chains to enable local communities to derive income from sustainable management.

GEF will provide technical support in all three sites to ensure that forestry is planned and implemented in an integrated and sustainable way, leading to both biodiversity conservation and increased incomes for local communities. GEF will also support certain pilot activities linked to biodiversity conservation (including capacity building), as well as income-generating activities for local communities (particularly women). GEF's support for these activities is entirely innovative in Algeria, and contributes to curbing ecosystem degradation and preserving biodiversity.

In addition, an awareness-raising strategy on cork oak forests aimed at forestry officers, local communities and the general public will be designed and implemented. This will lead to the deployment of the integrated participatory approach to sustainable forest management and harvesting.

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²³	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement/approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (Confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
National government	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries	In-kind	USD 4,200,000	USD 120 571	-	USD 4,200,00
National government	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries	Grant	USD 19,800,000			USD 19,800,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	USD 473,571			USD 473,571
		TOTAL	USD 24 473 571	USD 120 571	-	USD 24 473 571

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

²³ 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.

Appendix 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
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. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
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.

Risk rating. It should assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
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.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, 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 moderate risk.
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 low risks.

Appendix 2.**GEO-LOCATION INFORMATION**

Location name, latitude and longitude are mandatory fields if an agency chooses to enter a project location in the defined format. The geographic name ID is required in cases where the location is not exact, as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location and Activity Description fields are optional. The longitude and latitude of the project must follow the WGS84 Decimal Degrees format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users can add as many locations as they wish. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap and GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool if required, such as : <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please consult the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location name	Latitude	Longitude	Geographic name identifier	Location and Activity Description
Hafir National Forest - Wilaya of Tlemcen	34.87N	1.36W		Hafir National Forest - Wilaya of Tlemcen: Rehabilitation of the cork oak forest
Tourirt Ighil National Forest - Wilaya of Béjaia	36.72N	4.74E		Tourirt Ighil National Forest - Wilaya of Béjaia: Rehabilitation of the cork oak forest
Béni Idder National Forest - Wilaya of Jijel	36.77N	5.96E		Béni Idder National Forest - Wilaya of Jijel: Rehabilitation of the cork oak forest

Please provide any other geo-referenced information and a map of the project site, if applicable.