Project Implementation Report (PIR)

01/07/2023– 30/06/2024

Knowledge-4-Nature: Provisioning the biodiversity data behind global goals for nature

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A. Basic Data

Project Information	
IUCN Project ID	**P04417**
GEF ID	**10897**
Title	**Knowledge-4-Nature: Provisioning the biodiversity data behind global goals for nature**
Country(ies)	**Global**
Regional Programme	**N/A**
Global Thematic Programme	**Biodiversity**
Joint Agency (if relevant)	
Executing Agency(ies)	**IUCN**
Project Type	**Medium-size Project**

Project Description
This project addresses critical challenges in biodiversity conservation and environmental management. The unprecedented loss of species, with extinction rates nearing 1000 times the normal rate, translates into a biodiversity crisis that has far-reaching negative impacts on communities, economies, and all life on Earth. IUCN has a long history of establishing and applying standards to measure the state of nature, and, through partnerships, of mobilising large volumes of data under these standards to guide conservation work through an informed process. The best-known of these IUCN knowledge products is the *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, it comprises assessments of extinction risk for over 163,000 species, of which more than 45,300 species are threatened with extinction, including 41% of amphibians, 37% of sharks and rays, 36% of reef building corals, 34% of conifers, 26% of mammals and 12% of birds. The project aims to overcome several key barriers to effective biodiversity conservation: 1. Lack of common metrics for measuring biodiversity status and setting targets across sectors. 2. Outdated data, with less than 25% of species in the IUCN Red List having up-to-date assessments. 3. Limited services for applying data to timely decision-making. 4. Insufficient investment in maintaining and promoting the application of biodiversity data. 5. Underutilization of new technologies for efficient data gathering and assessment. These barriers hinder governments, companies, and non-profits from making trackable commitments towards nature conservation and to achieve global goals such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The project seeks to address these issues by improving data availability, relevance, and robustness to support decision-making for sustainable development. The work aligns with several components of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including Goals A and B, action targets 1-8, and SDGs 14 and 15. It also aims to strengthen key indicators and metrics like the Red List Index and the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric, both developed from the Red List data. By overcoming these challenges, the project seeks to enable more effective biodiversity conservation efforts, support informed policy-making, and ultimately contribute to a nature-positive recovery as the world emerges from the pandemic. The project's outcomes will be crucial for implementing and monitoring a strong Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and empowering stakeholders to make meaningful contributions to biodiversity and climate solutions. **The project has three main components**: 1. **Providing state-of-the-art data services**: strengthening data availability for decision-making in conservation and sustainable development, extending science-based targets for biodiversity to marine environments, and tailor and serve biodiversity data to the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) as engagement with the private sector. 2. **Addressing urgent knowledge needs**: expanding critical biodiversity datasets for accelerated action on issues of highest conservation concern. This includes completing Red List assessments for underrepresented taxonomic groups like goby fishes, fungi and dung beetles.

3. **Strengthening sustainability including by exploiting new technologies and applications**: which aims to broaden the production of high-quality biodiversity data by exploiting new technologies and methods and develop and implement a long-term sustainability plan for Red List.

Project Contacts	
Portfolio Manager (Implementing Agency)	Joshua Schneck
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Project Manager (Executing Agency)	Richard Jenkins
GEF Operational Focal Point	N/A

B. Overall Ratings

Overall Development Outcomes Rating[1]	Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Rating[2]	Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating[3]	Low Risk

[1] This section will use the scale used by the GEF and outlined in Annex L of this document: 1) Highly satisfactory, 2) Satisfactory, 3) Moderately Satisfactory, 4) Moderately Unsatisfactory, 5) Unsatisfactory, 6) Highly Unsatisfactory

[2] Idem

[3] This section will use the scale used by the GEF and outlined in the Annex of this document: 1) High Risk, 2) Substantial Risk, 3) Moderate Risk, 4) Low Risk

C. Outcomes achievements and outputs delivery

The Knowledge for Nature Project (K4N) was launched in April 2023 with the goal of strengthening the delivery of global biodiversity species data through the IUCN Red List. Its aim is to enable more effective biodiversity conservation efforts, support informed policy-making, and ultimately contribute to a nature-positive relationship. The project has advanced in three key areas:

- Improving data services: detailed exploration for improvements to Red List Index (RLI) and Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metrics is ongoing. A marine STAR methodology has been published, and collaboration with the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) has been established.
- Addressing knowledge gaps: Numerous species assessments have been conducted, including 612 goby fish, 109 chanterelle mushrooms, and numerous dung beetle assessments.
- Strengthening sustainability: Efforts include exploring AI and remote sensing applications, connecting national Red Lists to the Global Red List, and developing a long-term resource mobilization strategy for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

While the project has made significant progress in several areas and is expected to deliver the proposed outcomes, it is currently facing some delays and challenges in fully achieving its stated objectives on time. The project has encountered challenges as the work has proven more complex than anticipated, with intricate dependencies between outputs, resulting in slower progress. Originally scheduled to conclude in March 2025, the project now expects a delay in closure until the end of 2025.

The K4N project operates through a collaborative network of partnerships, including the Red List Partnership, which comprises 16 organizations. These partners bring technical and scientific expertise, representing a substantial investment of time, expertise, and financial resources. Key partners directly involved in project activities and providing co-financing include BirdLife International, Sapienza University, Arizona State University, and Re:wild. Additionally, the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), developed through a partnership between UNEP-WCMC, Conservation International, BirdLife International, and IUCN, serves as a major provider of co-finance to the project. IBAT is crucial for delivering biodiversity data such as the World Database on Protected Areas, World Database on Key Biodiversity Areas, and IUCN Red List of Threatened Species for commercial use.

Despite the challenges, the project continues to work towards its objectives. Regular reassessment of timelines and strategies is ongoing to ensure the project can adapt to obstacles and maximize its impact on global biodiversity conservation efforts.

Main project achievements per component include:
1. **Providing state-of-the-art data services**: strengthening data availability for decision-making in conservation and sustainable development, extend science-based targets for biodiversity to marine environments, and tailor and serve biodiversity data to the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD). Work on the RLI data is underway, liaising with the teams at BirdLife, Re:wild and Sapienza on the data. The Sapienza team are checking the data they have compiled with various mammal Specialist Groups and one post-doc student is collaborating with the Red List Unit in entering the data. Bird RLI data is already in the RLI module in SIS and the bulk of the amphibian RLI has also been entered to develop the final mechanism to automatically generate the Red List Index. Testing the methodology of the STAR calculation is ongoing alongside software development. The methods for the marine STAR AoH have been drafted, and the manuscript has been submitted, and accepted into Nature Ocean Sustainability. Turner, J.A., Starkey, M., Dulvy, N.K. et al. *Targeting ocean conservation outcomes through threat reduction*. npj Ocean Sustain 3, 4 (2024).

https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-023-00040-8. The manuscript has been shared with key members of the Red List Technical Working Group. Work is underway to produce a new heatmap that incorporates marine and terrestrial STAR in addition to freshwater species and reptiles. TNFD IBAT pages established (https://tnfd.global/guidance/locate-assessment-tools/) to support implementation of L4 in TNFD LEAP Approach (interface with sensitive locations), based on Red List data and other data mobilised based on IUCN standards (WDPA, WDKBA). TNFD also participated actively in IUCN Leaders Forum, Geneva, Oct 2023, allowing further discussion of ongoing collaboration.

2. **Addressing urgent knowledge needs**: expand critical biodiversity datasets for accelerated action on issues of highest conservation concern.
   - ✓ Old Dominion University leads goby fish assessments. As of June 2024, 612 goby fish assessments are drafted and 434 assessments were submitted to the Red List.
   - ✓ Fungi assessment of chanterelle mushrooms from experts from the SSC have completed 109 assessments and published in the 2023-1 Red List update, released in December 2023.
   - ✓ Experts from the SCC Dung Beetle Specialist Group have published 26 dung beetle assessments in the 2024-1 Red List update, 275 assessments are submitted for publication and 115 are in review. 108 dung beetle draft assessments are underway.

3. **Strengthening sustainability including by exploiting new technologies and applications:** broaden the production of high-quality biodiversity data by exploiting new technologies and methods and develop and implement a sustainability plan for Red List. A symposium was convened to discuss specific topics including AI, remote sensing and modelling, social media, and national-global flows, at the ICCB 2023 in Kigali, Uganda and a manuscript is under preparation. K4N is working with Brazil, Cuba, Greece, New Caledonia and South Africa to connect National Red List through SIS Connect with the Global Red List. New Greece National Red List website: https://redlist.necca.gov.gr. A new tool (sRed List) for generating national Red List assessments was launched and made available to national assessors. Also, a manuscript assessing proportion of species worldwide which are national endemics is under preparation, with important implications for targeting national red lists interoperability.
The Red List Partnership Committee is a key stakeholder on this project and K4N has encouraged discussion of a long-term strategy for Red List funding. A consultant is working to develop a draft long-term resource mobilization strategy for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2024-2030) by September 2024, that includes new funding obtained from a philanthropic source to deliver a new SIS by 2027, Red List @ 60 fund raising campaign to be run from CBD CoP in October 2024 to IUCN World Conservation Congress in October 2025. Additional funds raised from private sector use of the Red List and STAR through IBAT will support the implementation of the Red List Strategic Plan.

Please fill in the table below building on your result framework.

Component 1: Providing state-of-the-art data services							
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Midterm Target**	**End of project Target**	**Periodic Result (01/07/2023-30/06/2024)**	**Result to Date (from project start)**	**Progress rating (HS,S,MS,MU,U,SU)**
1.1 Data availability is strengthened for decision-making in conservation and sustainable					The project officially started work on **April 01, 2023**, so the periodic result report covers the period 01 April 2023 - 30 June 2024.	Results to be reported here are the same as those reported under the	S

development, facilitating the establishment, tracking and verification of NBSAPs and science-based targets for biodiversity.					Red List Index (RLI) Progress: Data review underway for birds, amphibians, and mammals. Workshop held in February 2024 to advance the work. Ongoing collaboration with mammal Specialist Groups. API development in progress for RLI data access RLI calculation code under investigation Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) Metric: Methodology testing ongoing and software development in parallel	periodic result report – the time intervals coincide.	
1.2 Science-based targets for species biodiversity are extended to marine environments.					The marine STAR methodology has been published in Nature Ocean Sustainability, shared with key stakeholders, and is being incorporated into a new comprehensive heatmap that includes marine, terrestrial, freshwater, and reptile species.		S
1.3 Biodiversity data is tailored for and served to the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD), building on IUCN engagement with TNFD					IUCN has strengthened collaboration with the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) through joint communications, establishment of TNFD-IBAT pages, and ongoing discussions on nature metrics, with potential for new opportunities.		HS
Outputs	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Midterm Target**	**End of project Target**	**Periodic Result (01/07/2023-30/06/2024)**	**Result to Date (from project start)**	**Implementation status (%)**
1.1.1 Mechanisms are built and implemented to automatically generate the Red List Index on demand, and serve it through web services to relevant platforms.	The number of mechanisms that exist to automatically generate and serve the Red List Index	No mechanism exists to automatically generate the RLI	Final mechanism exists to automatically generate the Red List Index	One mechanism for automatically generating the RLI on demand exists	RLI data under review by teams at BirdLife, Re:wild and Sapienza, working with the RLI data for birds, amphibians and mammals, respectively. Workshop held in February 2024 at the Red List Unit in Cambridge, follow-up work with mammal Specialist Groups ongoing with the Sapienza team to enter the compiled data. Consultant developing API components to serve Red List Index (RLI) data. Red List Unit is currently investigating the RLI code inherited from BirdLife to calculate RLI.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	30%
1.1.2 Development and implementation of plan for automated re-calculation	The existence of an	No mechanism exists to	Beta version of development	One mechanism for	Testing the methodology of the STAR calculation is ongoing alongside software development.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	30%

updating, and maintaining Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric and serving it through web-services to relevant platforms such as IBAT.	implemented plan for updating and serving STAR	automatically update STAR	for automatically updating and calculating STAR	automatically generating STAR exists	Technical meetings held and detailed plans develop with project partners in Newcastle University in April 2024 and Cambridge in June 2024. Planning for launch at WCC October 2025. Co-finance secured from IBAT innovation fund. Substance of output on track, but final delivery is dependent on output 3.1.2		
1.2.1 A marine layer is developed for the STAR metric, incorporated into the global heat map and published in the literature.	Whether or not the STAR metric is extended to marine environments	STAR is limited to terrestrial biomes, and no marine layer exists for STAR	Methods for marine AoH presented to RLTWG	One marine layer for STAR developed.	The methods for the marine STAR AoH have been drafted, and the manuscript has been submitted, and accepted into Nature Ocean Sustainability. Turner, J.A., Starkey, M., Dulvy, N.K. et al. Targeting ocean conservation outcomes through threat reduction. npj Ocean Sustain 3, 4 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-023-00040-8 The manuscript has been shared with key members of the Red List Technical Working Group and work is underway to produce a new heatmap that incorporates marine and terrestrial STAR in addition to freshwater species and reptiles.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	40%
1.3.1 Robust, scientifically anchored and spatially explicit biodiversity metrics are proposed for inclusion in the TNFD Reporting Framework	Proposal of robust, scientifically anchored spatially explicit metrics for inclusion in TNFD Reporting Framework	No spatially explicit scalable global biodiversity metrics incorporated into TNFD reporting framework	Joint communication developed with TNFD	Alignment between the emerging TNFD approach and IUCN's global datasets and standards.	Joint communication developed with TNFD and IBAT-TNFD report completed; ongoing discussions with TNFD regarding metrics for state of nature in terrestrial and marine biomes. TNFD-IBAT pages, and IBAT-TNDF report, established to support implementation of L4 in TNFD LEAP Approach (interface with sensitive locations), based on Red List data: https://tnfd.global/guidance/locate-assessment-tools/ IUCN President appointed as TNFD Co-Chair which may open new opportunities.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	50%

Narrative report

Significant progress has been made in strengthening data availability for decision-making in conservation and sustainable development.

Under Output 1.1.1, progress has been made towards automating the generation of the Red List Index (RLI). Teams from BirdLife, Re:wild, and Sapienza University are reviewing RLI data for birds, amphibians, and mammals, respectively. A workshop in February 2024 at the Red List Unit in Cambridge facilitated data compilation, follow-up with various IUCN SSC mammal Specialist Groups is underway. The development of API components to serve RLI data is underway, and the Red List Unit is investigating the RLI code inherited from BirdLife for calculations. These efforts are crucial for providing up-to-date biodiversity status information to decision-makers. Output 1.1.2 has

seen advancements in the development of the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric. Ongoing testing of the STAR calculation methodology is being conducted alongside software development. Technical meetings with project partners at Newcastle University and in Cambridge have resulted in detailed plans to advance this outcome. The project is on track for a launch at the World Conservation Congress in October 2025, with co-financing secured from the IBAT innovation fund. This progress is vital for providing tools to assess and prioritize conservation actions.
For Output 1.2.1, significant achievements have been made in extending the STAR metric to marine environments. A manuscript detailing the methods for marine Area of Habitat (AoH) was published in Nature Ocean Sustainability. This represents a major step forward in applying the STAR metric to marine conservation. Work is underway to produce a new heatmap incorporating marine and terrestrial STAR, as well as freshwater species and reptiles, which will provide a more comprehensive tool for global conservation planning.
Under Outcome 1.3, the project has made substantial progress in tailoring biodiversity data for the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD). A joint communication has been developed with TNFD, and an IBAT-TNFD report has been completed. Ongoing discussions are taking place regarding metrics for the state of nature in terrestrial and marine biomes. The establishment of TNFD IBAT pages and the IBAT TNFD report supported the implementation of the TNFD LEAP Approach, based on Red List data. The appointment of the IUCN President as TNFD Co-Chair may open new opportunities for alignment and influence.

Component 2: Addressing urgent knowledge needs							
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Midterm Target**	**End of project Target**	**Periodic Result (01/07/2023-30/06/2024)**	**Result to Date (from project start)**	**Progress rating (HS,S,MS,MU,U,SU)**
2.1 Critical biodiversity datasets are expanded for accelerated action on issues of highest conservation concern.					The project officially started work on **April 01, 2023**, so the periodic result report covers the period 01 April 2023 - 30 June 2024. Species assessments are progressing across taxonomic groups, with substantial progress in gobies, fungi, and dung beetles, despite some delays in the latter due to training needs for a new specialist group.	Results to be reported here are the same as those reported under the periodic result report – the time intervals coincide.	HS
Outputs	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Midterm Target**	**End of project Target**	**Periodic Result (01/07/2023-30/06/2024)**	**Result to Date (from project start)**	**Implementation status (%)**
Output 2.1.1 Data for species in aquatic ecosystems are generated to support the safeguard of freshwater and marine environments and the livelihoods that depend on them.	Number of fish species assessed	12,000 marine fishes published on RL website; 11,000 freshwater fishes published on the RL website		13,000 marine fishes published on RL website; 11,777 freshwater fishes published on the RL website	Assessments across all taxonomic groups are underway and general progressing on time. Of the 1,000 goby species, 434 have been submitted to the IUCN Red List for review and a further 612 are currently being drafted.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	50%

Output 2.1.2 Fungi species assessments are undertaken to guide soil and land health.	Number of fungi species assessed	550 fungi published on the RL website		1050 fungi published on the RL website	Of the 500 fungi assessments, 123 were published on the Red List in 2023 and additional 250 species are currently under assessment and workshop is planned in July 2025.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	50%
Output 2.1.3 Dung beetle species assessments are undertaken to guide soil and land health.	Number of dung beetle species assessed	750 dung beetles on the RL website		1250 dung beetles on the RL website	Of the 500 dung beetles, 275 have been submitted to the IUCN Red List, 26 have been published on the IUCN Red List and 108 are being drafted. Certain delays were encountered in assessing dung beetles because of the need to train and guide a newly formed IUCN SSC specialist group for this taxon.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	50%

Narrative report

Component 2, focused on addressing knowledge needs, has made significant progress in expanding critical biodiversity datasets, particularly focusing on aquatic ecosystems, fungi, and dung beetles. These efforts are crucial for accelerating action on high-priority conservation issues.

The project has successfully advanced the Red List assessment of species in key and underrepresented ecosystems and taxonomic groups, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of their conservation status. This expanded knowledge base is essential for informing policy decisions, guiding conservation efforts, and supporting sustainable management practices. In aquatic ecosystems (Output 2.1.1), substantial progress has been made in assessing fish species. The project is on track to meet its targets for both marine and freshwater fish assessments. Notably, of the 1,000 goby species targeted, 434 have already been submitted to the IUCN Red List for review, with an additional 612 in the drafting stage. This progress is crucial for safeguarding freshwater and marine environments and the livelihoods dependent on them. The fungi species assessments (Output 2.1.2) have also shown considerable advancement. Of the 500 targeted assessments, 123 were published on the Red List in 2023, with an additional 250 species currently under assessment. A workshop planned for July 2025 is expected to further accelerate this process. These assessments are vital for guiding soil and land health management strategies. For dung beetle species assessments (Output 2.1.3), despite some initial delays, significant progress has been made. Of the 500 targeted species, 275 have been submitted to the IUCN Red List, with 26 already published and 108 in the drafting stage. The delays encountered were due to the need to train and guide a newly formed IUCN SSC Specialist Group for this taxon, which actually represents a positive outcome in building long-term capacity for this group. As the project continues, these expanded datasets are expected to play a crucial role in shaping conservation strategies and environmental management practices at local, national, and global levels.

Component 3: Strengthening sustainability including by exploiting new technologies and applications							
Outcomes	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Midterm Target**	**End of project Target**	**Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)**	**Result to Date (from project start)**	**Progress rating (HS,S,MS,MU,U,SU)**
3.1 The production of high quality biodiversity data is broadened by exploiting new technologies and					The project officially started work on **April 01, 2023**, so the periodic result report covers the period 01 April 2023 - 30 June 2024. Significant progress in enhancing Red List methodologies through	Results to be reported here are the same as those reported under the periodic result report – the time intervals coincide.	S

methods (knowledge frontiers).					international collaborations, including symposiums, tool development (sRedList), and partnerships with academic institutions, focusing on AI, remote sensing, and improving national-global data flows for biodiversity assessments.		
3.2 Development and implementation of a sustainability plan for Red List					A comprehensive resource mobilization strategy for the IUCN Red List is being developed, including a 60th anniversary fundraising campaign and new funding sources, to ensure long-term sustainability and implementation of the Red List Strategic Plan.		S
Outputs	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Midterm Target**	**End of project Target**	**Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)**	**Result to Date (from project start)**	**Implementation status (%)**
3.1.1 Incorporation of knowledge frontiers (eg. remote sensing, national linkages, etc.) analysed to catalyse more efficient responses to biodiversity species data demands, and scoping review published in the literature.	Number of scoping reviews for incorporating knowledge frontiers into species data provisioning	No scoping review exists for the incorporation of knowledge frontiers into species data provisioning	Draft scoping review from individual contributions by symposium participants	One scoping review submitted for publication that analyses knowledge frontiers for more effecting species data provisioning	Symposium convened at ICCB 2023 Kigali, Uganda, including overview and discussion of specific topics including AI, remote sensing and modelling, social media, and national-global flows. Ongoing discussion and collaboration with sRedList team regarding applications of sRed List tool (https://sredlist.eu/#/home) in applying knowledge frontiers to advancing the Red List and maintain the sRedList platform so that it remains operational for the assessor network. On August 2024, project members participated in the international workshop "AI for Biodiversity: Overcoming Barriers to Impact" organized by MIT, University College London and McGill University, and hosted by the	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	50%

					Aspen Global Change Institute The workshop aimed to foster collaboration and identify challenges in applying AI to conservation practice. Discussions with journal editors to seek suitable vehicle to publish scoping review.		
3.1.2 Mechanisms developed for streamlining input of spatial information, maintenance and recalculation of AoH.	Existence of AoH on Red List species pages	No system available to automatically generate current or historic al AoH maps from distribution data. No AoH maps on RL website	System for AoH generation	Automated system for generating current and historical AoH maps for one 'type' of dataset (e.g. terrestrial polygons) produced. Current and historic al AoH maps for terrestrial mammals and birds made available on the RL website	Collaboration with University of Cambridge (UoC) to compare the AoH output from the RLTWG recommended methodology (the R package 'aoh') with UoC pipeline output. Additional collaboration established with UoC CompSci brings a major in-kind contribution of expertise and computing power to deliver AoH generation. Technical meetings held and detailed plans develop with project partners in Newcastle in April 2024 and Cambridge in June 2024.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	35%
3.1.3 Strengthened connections between national red lists and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species to allow interoperability.	Number of countries using the SIS systems to undertake assessments and manage their data	SIS connect does not allow editing of data, and does not allow automated import of national RL data. Limited functionality across RLTS systems to support	Enhanced SIS Connect functionality made live	Improved SIS Connect tool that allows automated import and editing of National RL data. With 'self-assessment' for encouraging adoption of IUCN RL standards.	Working with Brazil, Cuba, Greece, New Caledonia and South Africa. New Greece National Red List website: https://redlist.necca.gov.gr New tool (sRed List) for generating national Red List assessments launched and made available to national assessors. Manuscript describing sRedList submitted and provisionally accepted for publication in Biological Conservation. Manuscript assessing proportion of species worldwide which are	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	30%

		NBSAP process		New functions to allow national users to generate and download into SIS Connect Nationally relevant species data.	national endemics under preparation, with important implications for targeting national red lists interoperability.		
3.2.1 Sustainability plan developed for the Red List	Number of Sustainability Plans developed for the Red List	No Sustainability plan for the Red List	Documentation made available for the RL Committee	Sustainability plan developed for the Red List	Internal workshop held to scope current and future costs of delivering the IUCN Red List from 2024. Red List Partnership Committee discussed long-term strategy for Red List funding. Ongoing work to produce a 'Resource Mobilization Strategy for the IUCN'. This will be endorsed by the IUCN Red List Partnership Committee in Q1 of Year 2. The work will take place in Q1 and will be delivered in draft for Q2. It will include a consideration of different funding models. As the IUCN Red List turned 60 years old in Q4, a campaign will be designed in Q1 of Year 2 and launched in Q2 to run for 12 months.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	50%
3.2.2 Outreach to selected stakeholders in support of implementation of the plan, generating initial incremental revenue.	Whether or not the total Red List income generated against the Sustainability plan is reported to the Red List Governance Structure	Reporting on total RL income generated not reported to RL governance structure		Reporting, annually on income generate against projected income required to meet the target set in the Sustainability plan	Red List 60th anniversary fund raising campaign will run from CBD CoP in October 2024 to IUCN World Conservation Congress in October 2025. Additional funds raised from private sector use of the Red List and STAR through IBAT to support the implementation of the Red List Strategic Plan. New funding obtained from a philanthropic source to deliver a new SIS by 2027.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	30%

Narrative report

The project is broadening the exploitation of new technologies and methods. Output 3.1.1 seeks to incorporate knowledge frontiers into species data provisioning. A symposium convened at ICCB 2023 in Kigali, Uganda, brought together experts to discuss cutting-edge topics including AI, remote sensing, modelling, social media, and national-global data flows. Ongoing collaboration with the sRedList team is exploring applications of the sRedList tool in advancing the Red List and maintaining the platform for the assessor network. From July 28th to August 2nd, 2024, the IUCN Science Team participated in the international workshop "AI for Biodiversity: Overcoming Barriers to Impact" organized by AI researchers Sara Beery (MIT), Kate Jones (University College London), and David Rolnik (McGill University), and hosted by the Aspen Global Change Institute, the workshop brought together experts from AI, ecology, and conservation. Participants included specialists in computer science, species distribution modelling, citizen science, taxonomy, bioacoustics, and conservation biology, engaged in in-depth discussions on AI research, fundraising, and policy. The workshop aimed to foster collaboration and identify challenges in applying AI to conservation practice. These efforts are catalysing more efficient responses to biodiversity species data demands and are expected to result in a scoping review publication, pending discussions with journal editors.

These outputs collectively contribute to a more robust, technologically advanced, and sustainable approach to biodiversity assessment and conservation planning. The integration of new technologies, strengthened national-global connections, and efforts towards financial sustainability will position the IUCN Red List to continue its crucial role in global biodiversity conservation efforts. For Output 3.1.2, significant progress has been made in developing mechanisms for streamlining input of spatial information and maintenance of Area of Habitat (AoH) data. Collaboration with the University of Cambridge has led to comparisons between the RLTWG recommended methodology and the University's pipeline output. This partnership brings substantial in-kind contributions of expertise and computing power, crucial for automated AoH generation. Technical meetings in Newcastle and Cambridge have resulted in detailed plans for implementation. Output 3.1.3 has seen substantial advancements in strengthening connections between national red lists and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Work is ongoing with Brazil, Cuba, Greece, New Caledonia, and South Africa. A new Greece National Red List website has been launched, and the sRedList tool for generating national Red List assessments has been made available to national assessors. A paper describing sRedList has been submitted and provisionally accepted for publication in the journal Biological Conservation. These developments are crucial for improving interoperability and supporting the NBSAP process.

Regarding sustainability of the Red List, Output 3.2.1 has advanced with an internal workshop to scope current and future costs of delivering the IUCN Red List. The Red List Partnership Committee has discussed a long-term strategy for Red List funding, and work is ongoing to produce a 'Resource Mobilization Strategy for the IUCN Red List'. This strategy, to be endorsed by the IUCN Red List Partnership Committee, will consider different funding models. Additionally, a campaign is being designed to celebrate the IUCN Red List's 60th anniversary, which will run from the CBD CoP in October 2024 to the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October 2025. Output 3.2.2 will work on outreach to stakeholders and generating incremental revenue. Additional funds have been raised from private sector use of the Red List and STAR through IBAT, and new funding has been obtained from a philanthropic source to deliver a new SIS by 2027.

GEF Core Indicators

Please report on GEF core indicators that are relevant to your project using guidance provided by GEF on the implementation of the GEF-8 results measurement framework

Table 1. Eleven GEF Core Program Indicators

Indicator # As per GEF portal	Indicator	Baseline	Project Target	Progress to date (from project start)	Mean of Verification

1	**Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management** This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators. • Terrestrial protected areas newly created • Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	**n/a**			
2	**Marine protected areas created or under improved management** This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators. • Marine protected areas newly created • Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness	**n/a**			
3	**Area of land and ecosystems under restoration** This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators. • Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration • Area of forest and forest land under restoration • Area of natural grass and woodlands under restoration • Area of natural grass and woodlands under restoration	**n/a**			
4	**Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)** This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators. • Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity • Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations • Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems • Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided • Terrestrial OECMs supported	**n/a**			

5	**Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity** This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators. • Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations • Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia • Marine OECMs supported	**n/a**			
6	**Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated** This indicator will be reported through the following Sub-Indicators • Greenhouse gas emission mitigated in the AFOLU sector • Greenhouse gas emission mitigated outside of the AFOLU sector • Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (Direct) • Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (Indirect) • Emissions avoided outside AFOLU sector (Direct) • Emissions avoided outside AFOLU sector (Indirect) • Energy saved • Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology	**n/a**			
7	**Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management** This indicator will be reported through the following Sub-Indicators • Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation • Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation • Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees	**n/a**			

	• Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products				
8	Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels	**n/a**			
9	Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced This indicator will be reported through the following Sub-Indicators • Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type) • Quantity of mercury reduced • Hydrochlorofluorocarbons reduced/phased out • Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste • Low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities • POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided • Highly Hazardous Pesticides eliminated • Avoided residual plastic waste	**n/a**			
10	Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced This indicator will be reported through the following Sub-Indicators • Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air • Emission control technologies/practices implemented	**n/a**			

11	People benefiting from GEF-financed investments This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators. • Female • Male	*Annual unique visitors to the IUCN Red List website over 2015-2020 ranged from 3.8 million up to 5.3 million.*	**Male: 2,000,000** **Female: 2,000,000** **Total: 4,000,000**	Project outcomes are on track but are not fully develop (RLI, marine STAR, AoH) and are not available yet for end users and platforms.	*Annual unique visitors to the IUCN Red List website over 2015-2020 ranged from 3.8 million up to 5.3 million. Therefore, an expected value of 4 million direct beneficiaries is estimated. These data are harvested from IP addresses and so no bottom-up gender disaggregation is available, but there is no reason not to assume a 50% gender balance in terms of Red List users.*

D. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	*YEAR Development Objective Progress Rating*[4]	*YEAR Implementation Progress Rating*[5]
Project Manager / Coordinator	*Overall Assessment*	*Overall Assessment*
	Satisfactory	*Satisfactory*
	Please provide justification for overall assessment	*Please provide justification for overall assessment*
	The project manager has shown leadership in guiding the initiative towards its goals through a strategic vision, coupled with their ability to motivate the team, manage resources efficiently, and maintain focus on long-term objectives while addressing immediate needs.	*All required reports and reviews have been submitted on time and provided comprehensive insights into project progress. The project manager has shown ability to adapt implementation strategies in response to emerging challenges or opportunities, coupled with their ability to maintain momentum, ensure quality outputs, and foster a positive team environment while adhering to project timelines and budget. Key contributions: procurement and contracting, financial management, stakeholder coordination, adaptive management and innovation.*
IUCN GEF GCF Portfolio Manager for Centers	*Overall Assessment*	*Overall Assessment*
	Satisfactory	*Satisfactory*
	Please provide justification for overall assessment	*Please provide justification for overall assessment*
	Project is advancing well with important contributions to underlying scientific datasets on the status of threatened species as well as the delivery of this information to practitioners and policymakers.	*Expected project outputs are on track for on-budget delivery thanks to the strong performance of the project executing team. Some delays that will likely necessitate a no-cost extension of 9 months but overall, satisfactory progress.*
IUCN Global Thematic Programme (IA)	*Overall Assessment*	*Overall Assessment*
	Satisfactory	*Satisfactory*
	Please provide justification for overall assessment	*Please provide justification for overall assessment*
	IUCN Global Thematic Programme has made outstanding contributions to the project's progress and objectives, providing invaluable technical and scientific inputs that have significantly advanced the project's goals. Their work has not only advanced the project's specific objectives but has also elevated its overall scientific credibility and influence and has been crucial in positioning the project as a leader in evidence-based conservation.	*IUCN Global Thematic Programme has provided technical and scientific support, significantly enhancing the project's implementation progress. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing the project's objectives and ensuring the highest standards of scientific rigor and technical excellence. Key contributions: scientific expertise, technical guidance, innovation, quality assurance, interdisciplinary integration, adaptive management support and global context.*

E. Adjustments

[4] This section will use the scale used by the GEF and outlined in Annex of this document: 1) Highly satisfactory, 2) Satisfactory, 3) Moderately Satisfactory, 4) Moderately Unsatisfactory, 5) Unsatisfactory, 6) Highly Unsatisfactory

[5] Idem

Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.
n/a

Project Minor Amendments

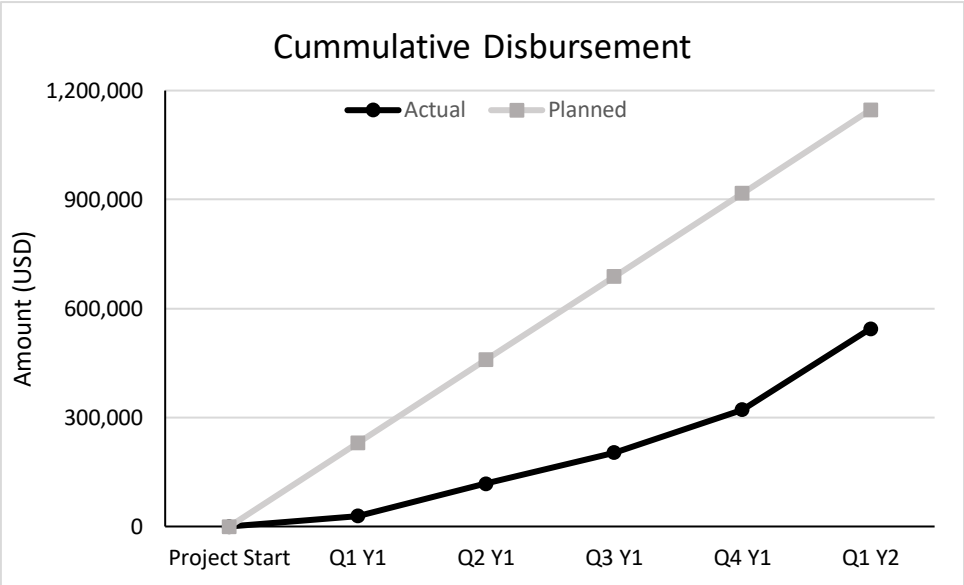
Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting documents as appropriate within this PIR submission.

- [ ] Results framework
- [ ] Components and cost
- [ ] Institutional and implementation arrangements
- [ ] Financial management
- [x] 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

Minor amendments	*Change description*
Implementation schedule	Substance of outcomes of the project are on track, but complexity of work and dependencies between outputs (e.g. Output 1.1.2 depends on Output 3.1.2, Output 3.2.3 depends on Outputs 3.2.2) has meant slower progress than anticipated. We anticipate a delay in project closure and thus seek a no cost extension through to end 2025; staff time over this period would be funded by leverage budgets for related work (e.g. IBAT allocation), as well as minor reallocations between budget lines.

F. Implementation Progress



Cumulative Disbursements	
Cumulative general ledger delivery against total approved amount (in Project Document) - %	29.7%
Cumulative general ledger delivery against expected delivery as of this year - %	48.5%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2024 (note: amount to be updated in later August)	544,707.77 USD

Key Financing Amounts	
PPG Amount	1,834,862.00 USD
GEF Grant Amount	1,834,862.00 USD
Planned Co-Financing	9,348,000.00 USD
Co-Financing to date	7,300,000.00 USD

Key Project Dates	
PIF Approval Date	06/01/2023
CEO Endorsement Date	03/10/2022
Project Document Signature Date (Project start date)	03/04/2023
Date of Inception workshop (Project launch)	16/06/2023
Expected date of mid-term review	30/08/2024
Actual date of mid-term review	30/08/2024
Expected date of Terminal Evaluation	31/12/2025
Original planned closing date	31/03/2025
Revised Planned closing date	31/12/2025

Dates of Project Steering Committee / Board Meetings during reporting period (June to July)
15/06/2023
09/07/2024

G. Critical Risk Management

Please complete the table below (Only risk with High or Medium rating / level should be recorded) by using the information in the Project Risk register (excel file provided with PIR templates). If a project risk register has already been completed for the project, please provide any updates for High or Medium risk from this reporting period – e.g. changing in risk rating, risk owners or additional risk identified etc. in the table below.

Risk Category[6]	Risk description	Rating / Level (H, M)	Mitigation measures undertaken in this reporting period	Risk Owner	Updates / Changes
Operational	The substance of project outputs is on track, but the complexity of work and dependencies between outputs has meant slower progress than anticipated.	M	Seek no cost extension through to end 2025 1. Staff time over this period would be funded by leverage budgets for related work (e.g. IBAT allocation). 2. Minor reallocations between budget lines.	Project Manager	

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High). *Please see Annex – Ratings definition for guidance.*

2023 rating (H, S, M, L)	2024 rating (H, S, M, L)	Comments/reasons for the rating for 2024 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
L	L	The project was identified as very low/negligible ESMS risks. It is not area-based, and it is focused on improving provisioning of important biodiversity data that will be available to all without discriminating. The project aims at improving the delivery of global biodiversity species data through the Red List and focuses on key Red List gaps in data services, on research and sustainability. Although the project provides data to better and more accurately describe the natural world, this data is policy relevant but not policy prescriptive and thus does not dictate or advise specific governments on specific projects or policies. As such there is a low risk that the project could trigger negative social impacts.

H. Gender

Progress in advancing Gender equality and women's empowerment
Please note that all projects approved since GEF 6 are required to carry out a gender analysis and provide gender-responsive measures to address differences, identified impacts and risks, and opportunities through a Gender Action Plan (GAP) or equivalent.

Does this project specifically target woman or girls as direct beneficiaries?
No
In case a gender analysis was not undertaken during project preparation (PPG), has it been carried out in this reporting period? If yes, what were the main findings? If an analysis during project design had been undertaken, but further updates have been carried out during the reporting period, please indicate this below. Please also report on additional site level gender analyses if they were undertaken during this reporting period.

[6] IUCN risk categories: Strategic, Financial, People management, Operational, Legal/Compliance, Information systems, External

n/a

Please describe progress in implementing the Gender Action Plan (GAP); you could also add the GAP in form of a GAP progress report as annex. Please also specify results achieved this reporting period through implementing gender-responsive measures.

Results reported can include site level results working with local communities as well as work to integrate gender considerations into national policies, strategies and planning. Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.

The work implemented through the project follows the principles set out through IUCN Resolution Establishing gender equity as a mandate in the strategic activities and themes of IUCN (WCC 2004 Res 009), and in the IUCN Policy on Gender Equity and Equality, and the IUCN Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy: Mainstreaming gender-responsiveness within the IUCN programme of work.
The project takes a gender-responsive approach to all decision-making forums, workshops and meetings organised by IUCN to implement the project.
This includes:

- Screening for gender gaps in such activities and working to ensure that women and men have equal opportunities in terms of participation and decision-making. This includes the attendance of experts from the Species Survival Commissions Specialist Groups at Red List assessment and review workshops (Outcomes 2.1/2.2/2.3).
- Structuring inclusive and gender-sensitive project teams across the project
- Where possible collect and analyse gender disaggregated data for project forums, workshops and meetings.

Please report on gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated targets as established in the results framework

The project objective is to strengthen delivery of the global biodiversity species data through the IUCN Red List in the most comprehensive, sustainable, convenient and interoperable way for the many existing and planned platforms and users.

Beneficiaries
Direct beneficiaries as a co-benefit of GEF investment:

- Total: Approximately 4,000,000 people
- Female: 50% (2,000,000)
- Male: 50% (2,000,000)

Note: Exact gender balance of Red List users cannot be determined.

Species Survival Commission Experts
Experts performing Red List assessments this reporting period:

- Total: 8 experts
- Female: 3 (37.5%)
- Male: 5 (62.5%)

I. Implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The GEF Stakeholder Engagement Policy Guidelines[7] *requires that Agencies prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to describe how Stakeholders will be engaged in the project, and means of engagement throughout the project/program cycle. Agencies should include information on progress, challenges and outcomes of stakeholder engagement in their annual Project Implementation Reports.*

[7] Stakeholder Engagement Policy Guidelines (SD/GN/01), December 20, 2018

Either provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and its respective progress report as annex or complete the below table by specifying the engagement strategies and achievements for the most important stakeholder groups. This can include demonstrating how different stakeholders were engaged in decisions on project governance (e.g. as member of the steering group), in the management or monitoring of the project or in programmatic activities. Forms of engagement include direct consultation or exchange with representative groups as well as indirect forms such as through media or other communication channels. Please also specify how the engagement is documented to provide evidence of such activities.

Please note that the data may be used for reporting to the GEF or IUCN web site, and for other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts. The global thematic programme involved should review and edit/elaborate on the information entered here. All projects must complete this section. Please enter N/A in cells that are not applicable to your project.

Information on progress, challenges and outcomes of Stakeholder Engagement
Civil society organisations
Birdlife International: as a Red List Partner contributes essential technical and scientific expertise on bird data and Area of Habitat incorporation into the Red List, to build and implement mechanisms to automatically generate the Red List Index on demand (Outputs 1.1.1 and 3.1.2) Birdlife Int is an essential bird data provider to the Red List and a consumer of this project's outputs. Regular meetings held as part of project implementation. **Re:Wild:** as a Red List Partner contributes essential technical and scientific expertise on amphibian data, necessary to build and implement mechanisms to automatically generate the Red List Index on demand (Output 1.1.1). Re:Wild is an essential amphibian data provider to the Red List and a regular consumer of this project's outputs. Regular meetings held as part of project implementation. **Arizona State University:** as a Red List Partner contributes essential scientific expertise on marine species for creation of the STAR marine layer. ASU contributed to building the methods for the marine STAR AoH calculation (Output 1.2.1). A scientific manuscript has been prepared, submitted, and accepted into Nature Ocean Sustainability: Turner, J.A., Starkey, M., Dulvy, N.K. et al. Targeting ocean conservation outcomes through threat reduction. npj Ocean Sustain 3, 4 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-023-00040-8. Regular meetings held as part of project implementation. **Sapienza University:** as a Red List Partner contributes essential technical and scientific expertise on mammal data and Area of Habitat incorporation into the Red List, to build and implement mechanisms to automatically generate the Red List Index on demand (Outputs 1.1.1 and 3.1.2). Sapienza U is an essential mammal data provider to the Red List and a regular consumer of this project's outputs. Regular meetings held as part of project implementation. **Old Dominion University**: Contributing essential technical and scientific expertise on marine data, necessary to building the methods for the marine STAR AoH calculation (Output 1.2.1). ODU produces data (Red List Assessments) for species in aquatic ecosystems to support the safeguard of freshwater and marine environments and the livelihoods that depend on them (Output 2.1.1). ODU is an essential data provider to the Red List and a consumer of this project's outputs. Regular meetings held as part of project implementation. **Simon Fraser University**: Contributing essential scientific expertise on marine species for the creation of the STAR marine layer. SFU contributed to building the methods for the marine STAR AoH calculation (Output 1.2.1). A scientific manuscript has been prepared, submitted, and accepted into Nature Ocean Sustainability: Turner, J.A., Starkey, M., Dulvy, N.K. et al. Targeting ocean conservation outcomes through threat reduction. npj Ocean Sustain 3, 4 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-023-00040-8. Regular meetings held as part of project implementation.

Newcastle University: Contributing essential technical and scientific expertise on the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration metric (Output 1.2.1) and leading complementary workstreams around the extension of STAR to freshwater environments incorporated into this work. Regular meetings held as part of project implementation.
Local communities
n/a
Indigenous Peoples
n/a
Private sector
The private sector are key consumers of the data provisioned by this project, particular current IBAT subscribers (>100) and other IUCN corporate partners. They have been part of extensive consultations throughout the project phases and will be recipients of strengthened services through the data provided by this project. TNFD and the finance sector are anticipated to be a key consumers of data served through this project. Continuous engagement through IUCN's appointment as a TNFD Knowledge Partner is essential to ensure that provisioning is fit for purpose, and the two streams evolve together. IBAT is the tool that allows Red List data to be used for commercial use, so they are the essential link between the outputs of the project and the private sector. They are a key data output for this project and deeply involved in the development and maintenance of STAR. IBAT subscriptions are providing project co-financing.
Other relevant stakeholders as identified in the projects' Stakeholder Analysis
IUCN Species Survival Commission Experts: The project is taking advantage of the expertise from IUCN's Species Survival Commission. Taxonomic specialist groups are leading, and contribute, to the drafting, assessing or reviewing stages of Red List assessments for fish, fungi and beetles (Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3). SCC experts are essential consumers of the project outputs, who will need to be kept up to date as data provision extends. At least 11 experts contributing to K4N. Regular meetings held as part of project implementation. **National Statistical Offices:** Recipient for IUCN SDG Custodian Agency roles for metrics whose provision will be enhanced via this project. **Governments:** Governments are both essential consumers and producers of the data whose provision is being enhanced through this project, and it is important for them to have input into and understand the improvements delivered through this project's outcomes.

J. Environmental and Social Safeguards

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the Environmental and Social Management Plans or other safeguard tools, when appropriate. Note that this only applies to projects classified as moderate or high risk, not to low risk projects.

For reporting progress on the implementation of ESMS plans or tools, please either provide the ESMP Monitoring Table as annex (see ESMP guidance note and template[8]) or complete the below table.

[8] https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/esms_esmp_guidance_note_and_template.docx

Progress of implementing the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other safeguard tools			
Environmental and Social Risks	**Risks identified by ESMS Screening or during any update of ESMP since project start**[9]	**Actions taken during this FY; explain in particular how you engaged with groups affected by the identified risks**	**Are the measures considered sufficient? Are there any outstanding issues relevant for next FY?**
Adverse gender-related impacts	**n/a**		
Risks of affecting vulnerable groups	**n/a**		
Risk of undermining human rights	**n/a**		
Community health, safety and security risks	**n/a**		
Labour and working conditions	**n/a**		
Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals	**n/a**		
New risks emerged	**n/a**		
ESMS Standards[10]	**Required management measures/plans (when standard triggered)**	**Actions taken during this FY; explain in particular how you engaged with groups affected by the identified risks**	**Are the measures considered sufficient? Are there any outstanding issues relevant for next FY?**
Involuntary Resettlement & Access Restrictions ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ TBD	☐ Resettlement Action Plan ☐ Resettlement Policy Framework ☐ Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts Access Restriction ☐ Access Restrictions Mitigation Process Framework ☐ Other:		
Indigenous Peoples ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ TBD	☐ Indigenous Peoples Plan ☐ Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework ☐ Other:		
Cultural Heritage ☐ yes ☒ no	☐ Chance Find Procedures ☐ Other:		

[9] Add n/a if the respective risk issues has neither been identified during the ESMS screening nor in any update of the ESMP.

[10] Please check the respective box to indicate the decision at Screening stage: whether a standards has been triggered or not, or the decision was deferred to the implementation phase. If the latter, please explain the status of this decision.

☐ TBD			
Biodiversity & Sustainable Use Natural Resources ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ TBD	☐ Pest Management Plan ☐ Other:		
Project Risk Category (as per ESMS Screening)		☒ Low Risk ☐ Moderate Risk ☐ High Risk	
Have findings during implementation triggered any changes to the **Project Risk Category**? If yes, explain the issues and the new rating.		No	
List all risk issues that are now rated as **high risk** (if any)		n/a	
Has a list of relevant **host country regulations** on environmental and social matters been established? What is the status of the project's compliance with the applicable laws and regulations?		n/a	
In case any changes of regulations have occurred since project design, have these changes been reflected in project implementation?		n/a	

In addition, please indicate whether any grievances as per IUCN and GEF ESS policies have been received during this reporting period. If yes, please answer the below questions and attach the grievance log as annex in order to describe status and progress of the case. The latter should also be done in case grievances had been received in earlier reporting period.

Please explain the grievance
n/a
Please indicate how it is being/has been addressed
n/a

K. Knowledge Management

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval during this reporting period.

Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? How does the project collect, document and share good practices? Please list relevant good practices from this year that can be learned and shared from the project.
Our approach to collecting, documenting, and sharing good practices includes: 1. Regular meetings: The Project Management Unit holds biweekly coordination meetings to review progress and discuss relevant issues. Also, we hold frequent meetings with implementing partners and consultants. These meetings serve as platforms for sharing progress, discussing challenges, and exchanging innovative ideas and successful approaches to achieve project outputs. 2. Cross-pollination with IUCN initiatives: The project actively draws insights and lessons from other IUCN initiatives across various regions and units. This cross-organizational learning enhances our knowledge base and allows us to apply proven strategies from different contexts and create synergies with relevant initiatives. 3. Documentation: We systematically document project activities, outcomes, and lessons learned through reports. 4. Digital platforms: We utilize internal digital platforms, like Teams, to store and share project documents, allowing easy access for team members and relevant stakeholders. 5. Stakeholder workshops: We organize periodic workshops to engage with a wider range of stakeholders working on specific outputs of the project, facilitating knowledge exchange and collaborative learning.

Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.
During the first year of implementation, the project operated without a formal communication strategy. This approach allowed for flexibility in the initial stages as the project established its core activities and began generating preliminary results. However, recognizing the importance of effective communication in maximizing project impact and stakeholder engagement, the project team has identified this as an area for improvement. To address this, a communication strategy is currently being developed and is scheduled for implementation in the second year of the project. This strategy will be designed to effectively disseminate the project's main results and achievements to key stakeholders and the wider public, enhance visibility of the project's contributions to biodiversity conservation, facilitate knowledge sharing and best practices among partners and relevant sectors and support the project's broader objectives by raising awareness and promoting engagement with its initiatives.

Communication material

Please provide a list of publications, project website, project page on the IUCN website, any other facebook, twitter, flickr or youtube account related to the project, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents.
The methods for the marine STAR AoH have been drafted, and the manuscript has been submitted, and accepted into Nature Ocean Sustainability. Turner, J.A., Starkey, M., Dulvy, N.K. et al. *Targeting ocean conservation outcomes through threat reduction*. npj Ocean Sustain 3, 4 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1038/s44183-023-00040-8. The project was featured as part of IUCN ORMACC's Knowledge Day on May 03, 2024. The project and its components were presented to IUCN staff from the ORMACC and SUR regions. The activity was an opportunity to spread knowledge of the project within IUCN staff and to build synergies with related projects and ongoing work such as the Contributions for Nature platform (featuring the STAR metric) and incorporation of indigenous and traditional knowledge into RL assessments processes. A recording of the session is available here:

https://iucnhq-my.sharepoint.com/personal/clericig_iucn_org/_layouts/15/stream.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fclericig%5Fiucn%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FRecordings%2FD%C3%ADa%20del%20Conocimiento%20%5F%20Knowledge%20Day%2D20240503%5F110643%2DMeeting%20Recording%2Emp4&referrer=StreamWebApp%2EWeb&ct=1721068757937&or=Outlook%2DBody&cid=9EA11ABE%2D8C13%2D4DD8%2D8BAD%2D3C25C6AB131E&ga=1&referrerScenario=AddressBarCopied%2Eview%2Ee4afa2a9%2D10a6%2D434c%2D9c01%2D5450a6c5b052

Lessons learned

Please share any particular lessons learnt in the context of project implementation (e.g. successfully tested tools, unexpected positive or negative impacts) and/or lessons learnt regarding one of your key outcomes

Lessons learned in the context of project implementation and key outcomes:

Collaborative partnerships: The collaboration with academic institutions, some of them long-term Red List partners and collaborators, has demonstrated the significant benefits of leveraging external expertise for complex tasks like Area of Habitat (AoH) generation, creation of marine STAR metric and consequently the integration of terrestrial and marine STAR layers. Moreover, the success of initiatives like the symposium at ICCB 2023 and ongoing collaborations with various institutions underscores the value of fostering diverse partnerships. These collaborations have led to unexpected positive outcomes in terms of knowledge sharing and resource mobilization (IBAT co-financing).
National-global synergies: The project's efforts to strengthen connections between national red lists and the IUCN Red List reveal the importance of interoperability in biodiversity datasets. The development and implementation of tools like sRedList for national assessments have shown unexpected positive impacts in building local capacity and improving data integration.
Technological challenges and complexity or work: The project has faced some unexpected challenges in automating processes like the Red List Index generation and STAR automation, highlighting the complexity of working with large, diverse datasets in biodiversity conservation. These challenges have provided important lessons in managing technological expectations and timelines.

Communicating impact

Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives and biodiversity and how it contributed to the target(s) pledged through internal conventions (UNCCD LDN, UNFCCC NDCs, CBD NBSAPs, SDGs, etc) and/or national policies

(The text will be used for IUCN Corporate Communications, the IUCN-GEF web-site, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts)

Please also note you can share your success story and solution on the IUCN PANORAMA web platform. This will allow for knowledge retention and dissemination of project outcomes and success factors.

This project has far-reaching implications for global environmental policy and sustainable development. At its core, the project will be instrumental in advancing global biodiversity metrics, thereby informing decision-making at the highest levels and contributing significantly to international conventions and national policies.
Central to the project's success has been its focus on enhancing the IUCN Red List, a critical tool for assessing the conservation status of species worldwide, and has been for over than 60 years. By developing mechanisms for automated generation of the Red List Index and improving the Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric, the project provides policymakers and conservation practitioners with up-to-date, actionable data. This directly supports countries in tracking progress towards their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), a key component of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
The project's expansion of the STAR metric to include marine environments has been particularly groundbreaking. This development is crucial for informing SDG 14 (Life Below Water), providing a comprehensive tool for assessing and prioritizing conservation actions in marine ecosystems. The

publication of this work in Nature Ocean Sustainability underscores its scientific rigor and potential for global impact.
In the terrestrial realm, the project's work on Area of Habitat (AoH) calculations and improved spatial data will enhance our understanding of species distributions and habitat requirements. This directly supports SDG 15 (Life on Land) and contributes to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification's (UNCCD) Land Degradation Neutrality targets by providing better data for land-use planning and restoration efforts.
The project's engagement with the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) represents a significant step in bridging the gap between biodiversity conservation and the financial sector. By tailoring biodiversity data for TNFD reporting, the project is helping to align investment decisions with conservation goals, potentially redirecting financial flows towards more sustainable practices. This aligns closely with SDG 13 (Climate Action) by promoting nature-based solutions to climate change.
Moreover, the project's efforts to strengthen connections between national red lists and the global IUCN Red List are empowering countries to better monitor and manage their biodiversity. This improved data interoperability is crucial for countries to effectively implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), particularly where nature-based solutions are concerned.
The incorporation of new technologies and methods, such as remote sensing and AI, into biodiversity assessment accelerates our ability to monitor and respond to environmental changes. This technological advancement enhances the capacity of nations to track progress towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets, providing more frequent and accurate biodiversity assessments.
By improving our understanding of biodiversity and ecosystems, the project supports better management of natural resources that millions of people depend on for their livelihoods. For instance, the enhanced assessment of aquatic species is crucial for sustainable fisheries management, directly impacting food security and economic stability in coastal communities.
The project's focus on fungi and dung beetles, often overlooked groups, is shedding light on soil health and ecosystem functioning. This knowledge is vital for sustainable agriculture practices, contributing to food security and rural livelihoods, which aligns with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 1 (No Poverty).
This project is not only about collecting and managing data; it's about transforming how we understand, value, and protect the natural world. By providing robust, scientifically grounded metrics and tools, it's enabling more effective conservation strategies, informing policy decisions, and ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and equitable world. As we face unprecedented global challenges, the project's work in advancing biodiversity metrics is proving instrumental in guiding our path towards a nature-positive future, in line with the most critical international environmental agreements and sustainable development goals.

What is the most significant change that has resulted from the project this reporting period?

The most significant change resulting from the project during this reporting period is the publication of the Marine Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) layer in the scientific literature. This development represents a substantial advancement in marine biodiversity conservation and management.
Key technical aspects of this achievement include:

- Species Coverage: The Marine STAR metric incorporates data on 1,646 species, spanning a diverse range of taxonomic groups from corals to sharks. This broad coverage ensures a robust representation of marine biodiversity.
- Global Marine Realm Analysis: The metric provides a spatially explicit analysis across the entire global marine realm, offering unprecedented insight into areas where threat mitigation could most effectively reduce species extinction risk by identifying areas with high potential for threat reduction, enabling more targeted and efficient conservation interventions in marine ecosystems.
- Integration with IUCN Red List: This development highlights the delivery of global biodiversity species data through the IUCN Red List, enhancing its functionality as a foundational database for conservation planning and policy-making.

The publication of this work in a peer-reviewed journal (Nature Ocean Sustainability) validates the scientific rigor of the methodology, setting the standard for marine conservation metrics and providing

a quantitative tool for assessing progress towards international biodiversity targets, particularly relevant to the marine components of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and SDG 14. The metric's design allows for its application across various sectors, including policy-making, environmental risk assessment, and priority-setting.

This achievement significantly enhances our ability to quantify and prioritize marine conservation efforts at a global scale, representing a major step forward in evidence-based marine biodiversity conservation and management.

Annex - Ratings definitions

Implementation Progress Ratings

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 presented 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.

Global Environment Objective/Development Objective Ratings

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 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.

Development/Adaptation Objective Ratings (For LDCF/SCCF/GCF Adaptation)

Highly Satisfactory (HS): Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major development/adaptation objectives, and yield substantial adaptation benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as "good practice".

Satisfactory (S): Project is expected to achieve most of its major development/adaptation objectives, and yield satisfactory adaptation benefits, with only minor shortcomings.

Marginally Satisfactory (MS): Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant development/adaptation objectives, but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major development objectives or yield some of the expected adaptation benefits.

Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU): Project is expected to achieve its major development/adaptation objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major adaptation objectives.

Unsatisfactory (U): Project is expected not to achieve most of its major development/adaptation objectives or to yield any satisfactory adaptation benefits.

Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major development/adaptation objectives with no worthwhile adaptation benefits.

Risk ratings

Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project that may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risks 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 and/or the project may face substantial risks.

Modest Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

The table below illustrates how the risk categories used by GEF and IUCN align with one another.

GEF risk categories	**IUCN risk categories**
Climate	External
Environment & Social	Part of ESMS risk assessment
Political and Governance	External
Macro-economic	External

Strategies and policies	Strategic
Technical design of project or program	Operational
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Operational
Fiduciary: financial management and procurement	Finance
Stakeholder engagement	Part of ESMS risk assessment
Other	People management; Legal / Compliance; Information systems
Financial risks for NGI projects	N/A

The table below illustrates how the risk rating/level used by GEF and IUCN align with one another.

GEF risk rating / level	**IUCN risk rating / level**
High	High
Substantial	High
Moderate	Medium
Low	Low