

# GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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**UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2024**  
**Reporting from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024**

## 1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

### 1.1 Project Details

<b>GEF ID:</b> 9815	<b>Umoja WBS:</b> SB-0016456
<b>SMA IPMR ID:</b> 44073	<b>Grant ID:</b> S1-32GFL-000648
<b>Project Short Title:</b> South Sudan GEF CCCD	
<b>Project Title:</b> Systemic, Institutional and Individual Capacity for the Implementation of the Rio Conventions in the Republic of South Sudan	
<b>Duration months planned:</b>	36
<b>Duration months age:</b>	26
<b>Project Type:</b>	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
<b>Parent Programme if child project:</b>	NA
<b>Project Scope:</b>	National
<b>Region:</b>	Africa
<b>Countries:</b>	South Sudan
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Cross-Cutting Capacity Development
<b>GEF financing amount:</b>	\$ 1,000,000.00
<b>Co-financing amount:</b>	\$ 1,450,000.00
<b>Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:</b>	2019-02-11
<b>UNEP Project Approval Date:</b>	2020-01-28
<b>Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):</b>	2021-01-06
<b>Date of Inception Workshop, if available:</b>	2021-06-28
<b>Date of First Disbursement:</b>	2021-02-03
<b>Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:</b>	\$ 955,000.00
<b>Total expenditure as of 30 June:</b>	\$ 774,261.00
<b>Midterm undertaken?:</b>	Yes
<b>Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:</b>	2024-05-01

<b>Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:</b>	2024-05-01
<b>Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:</b>	2025-06-30
<b>Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:</b>	2025-06-30
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:</b>	2025-01-31
<b>Expected Financial Closure Date:</b>	2026-03-30

## 1.2 Project Description

The Africa Office of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is supporting the South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) in the execution of a 3-year project titled "Systemic, institutional and individual capacity for the Implementation of the Rio Conventions in the Republic of South Sudan", funded under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) program. The project document is accessible from this GEF website URL: <https://www.thegef.org/project/systemic-institutional-and-individual-capacity-implementation-rio-conventions-republic-south>.

### Environmental Information Systems (EIS) and Legislation Profile of South Sudan.

South Sudan lacks foundational laws governing the management of environment and forestry resources. The drafting of requisite laws began after independence in 2011, but the process stalled due to political instability and civil war, which persisted from 2013 to 2020. This conflict was suppressed by the signing of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) between the President and 10 other parties. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) is the primary government body responsible for environmental management in South Sudan.

MoEF oversees the implementation of environmental policies, laws, and regulations, as well as the coordination of environmental protection efforts with other government agencies and stakeholders. However, the MoEF mandate is greatly restricted by the lack of framework environmental laws governing the management of natural resources in the Country. Three versions of Environment Bills have been formulated since independence (2012, 2015 and 2023) but none has ever sailed through technical review nor debate at the National Legislation Assembly. The latest version of draft environmental laws (the Environment Bill 2023 and Forest Bill 2023) are currently undergoing technical review by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) before submission to the Council of Ministers and the Transitional National Legislation Assembly (TNLA). In the absence of these laws, MoEF operations are largely guided by Ministerial decrees backed by The Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2011[1], the National Environment Policy 2015-2025, the 2012 Forestry Policy, and the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) that established a transitional governance structure called the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU).

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In South Sudan, the publication of official statistics is the mandate of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Its establishment and mandate are governed by the Transitional Constitution which came into force at independence from Sudan on 9 July 2011. Part 14 of the Transitional Constitution promulgates the NBS as 'independent' oversight by a board to formulate policies and set its internal regulations, priorities, standards, and criteria for all the censuses and surveys.

Key constitutional functions of NBS related to environmental governance include: (a) Collection, compilation and publishing of all official statistics on economic, social, demographic, environmental, and general activities and conditions, (b) Conducting all censuses and surveys, (c) Monitoring and evaluating the social impacts of public policies, projects, and programmes, (d) Monitoring the progress of poverty alleviation and the attainment of the SDGs, and (e) Establishing statistical standards and monitoring adherence by all producers of statistics. [NBS: <https://nbs.gov.ss/>]. However, due to the prolonged civil war, political conflicts, and other instabilities since independence from Sudan in 2011, there has been no meaningful collection, compilation, or publication of official statistics. NBS continues to experience high staff turnover as experienced personnel leave their underpaid civil service jobs for better opportunities in the private sector or with other development partners. This scenario is replicated in most government ministries with mandates or interests to produce, consume, or disseminate environmental statistics.

The projected illiteracy rate in 2018, as reported by the World Bank, was about 65-70%, one of the highest in the world. The World Bank and other organizations estimate that as of 2023, South Sudan was the poorest country globally, with about 82% of the country's 11-13 million population living in extreme poverty, surviving on less than USD 1.9 per day, and over 98% surviving on less than USD 10 per day.

Regarding internet and mobile penetration, between February and May 2023, Datareportal and the World Bank projected that South Sudan had about 700,000 internet/social media users (the majority between 18-34 years) and 3.58 million cellular mobile connections. This translates to internet/social media user and mobile phone penetration rates of 4-6.5% and 30%, respectively. This indicates that South Sudan is one of the world's least connected countries in terms of information access. Similarly, only about 7% of the population has access to electricity, with the country having no public grid even in major cities. The majority of internet users consume their information from Facebook (65%) and YouTube (20%). Facebook is the preferred platform for most organizations to disseminate information to the public.

It is important to mention that the country has very few online platforms (if any) that fit the descriptions of environmental information systems, and none are pioneered by the core environmental data producers targeted as part of the SSNEIN. This is largely due to all government institutions having limited or no existing capacities (financial or technical) to develop such systems independently. Moreover, being the world's poorest and most illiterate country with very limited internet and mobile penetration, the compilation and dissemination of up-to-date environmental information is not considered a highly pressing issue in senior government circles, compared to other politically sensitive issues like meeting budgetary requirements for defense/security, food security, poverty eradication, education, transportation, peace, and cohesion.

Literacy rates are improving as most parents embrace western education systems. Furthermore, the country has recently been awarded several environmental grants by multilateral development partners like the GEF, which could be leveraged to close the funding gap in the development of robust EIS systems that could set the emerging

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literate youth on a clear path for sustainable development. For example, in GEF6 and GEF7, South Sudan was awarded about USD 12,000,000 in grants, which are at various stages of implementation, one being the USD 1,000,000 project executed by the UNEP Africa Office.

Component 1 and 2 of the GEF CCCD project focus on establishing a national collaboration mechanism for the Rio Conventions (MEA Network initially proposed), compiling a core set of environmental indicators and data sharing protocols, and developing the inaugural EIS for South Sudan.

This GEF6 CCCD project aims at enhancing systemic, institutional and individual capacities of South Sudan communities towards environment-friendly and sustainable development. The project's objective is to strengthen systemic, institutional and individual capacity for the effective implementation of the Rio Conventions in South Sudan. In the longer term, this is expected to enhance capabilities to deliver and sustain global environmental benefits within the framework of sustainable development priorities, and thus enhance biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation and sustainable land and forest management in the Country. Such capacities are paramount in guaranteeing the nations success, since besides being one of the world's poorest, South Sudan ranks high among Countries most adversely affected by the triple planetary crises of pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

The project objective will be achieved via three components addressing the barriers identified during project design:

- (1) Development of a coordinated environmental knowledge and information management system
- (2) Strengthening of coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs
- (3) Integration of key provisions of the Rio Conventions in national policies and legislation

While the first component primarily builds institutional capacity, the second component addresses both institutional and individual capacity, and the third component covers systemic capacity. The Early Warning and Assessments Division (EWAD – formerly Science Division) of UNEP serves as the projects GEF Implementing Agency (IA). The UNEP Africa Office serves as the project Executing Agency- EA (on behalf and in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF). The total GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF) project financing is USD 1,000,000, supplemented by a USD 1,450,000 co-financing budget pledged by the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) and UNEP.

The essential outputs and products expected from successful project implementation include:

- (i) Development of a core set of environmental indicators and a protocol/ MoU on data sharing and management.
- (ii) The design and operationalization of a national Environmental Information management System (EIS).
- (iii) Establishment of a MEA Network and other mechanisms to support enhanced MEA/ SDG implementation and coordination.
- (iv) A rapid assessment of the Sudd Wetland ecosystem and other public awareness products
- (v) A practical guidelines on community engagement and participation in the implementation of MEAs.
- (vi) Fast-tracking the finalization and enactment of at least two environmental bills, laws or strategies; and the development of an MEA sustainable financing strategy

### 1.3 Project Contacts

<b>Division(s) Implementing the project</b>	Early Warning and Assessment Division
<b>Name of co-implementing Agency</b>	
<b>Executing Agency (ies)</b>	Ministry of Environment and Forestry with execution support from UNEP Africa Office
<b>names of Other Project Partners</b>	(1) MAFS: The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry(2) NBS: The National Bureau of Statistics(3) MWCT: The Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism(4) MWRI: The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation(5) MGCSW: The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare(6) MOGEI: Ministry of General Education and Instruction(7) MLF: Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and(8) UoJ: The University of Juba (Schools of Natural Resources, and the School of Law)(9) SSNCO: The South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation(10) SSAPU: The South Sudan Agricultural Producers' Union(11) The South Sudan Geologic Society (12) TNLA: the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Forestry at the Transitional National Legislation Assembly.(13) MoJCA: Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
<b>UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)</b>	Jochem Zoetelief
<b>UNEP Task Manager(s)</b>	Jochem Zoetelief
<b>UNEP Budget/Finance Officer</b>	Florence Kahiro
<b>UNEP Support Assistants</b>	Ayda Villalobos-Castro
<b>Manager/Representative</b>	Charles Sebukeera
<b>Project Manager</b>	Nicholas Mutiso
<b>Finance Manager</b>	Stephen Ndeti

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<b>Communications Lead, if relevant</b>	
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## 2 Overview of Project Status

### 2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

<b>UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):</b>	Foundational: Science-policy
<b>UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):</b>	The project was designed during UNEPs 2018-2019 PoW, begun implementation during the 2020 – 2021 PoW under Sub Programme 7 (Environment Under Review) and remains compliant with UNEPs 2022–2025 medium term strategy for tackling climate change, loss of nature and pollution.
<b>PoW Indicator(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science-policy: (i) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities that, as a result of UNEP support, have strengthened capacity to develop sound environmental data, statistics, scientific assessments and early warning systems</li> <li>• Science-policy: (ii) Number of relevant global, regional and national forums, institutions and Governments using data, statistics, scientific assessments and early warning and foresight systems provided by UNEP for catalysing policymaking and action</li> </ul>
<b>UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages</b>	<p>[ References: South Sudan UNSDCF 2023-2025 available via the link <a href="https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/south-sudan">https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/south-sudan</a> ]</p> <p>The formulation of environmental strategies and legislation frameworks, the enhancement of MEA/ SDG implementation and monitoring capacities, and the provision of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated environmental data directly contributes to</p> <p><b>(i) Strategic priority I: Consolidation of peace and transparent, accountable and inclusive governance and</b></p> <p><b>(ii) Strategic priority II: Sustainable economic growth and diversification;</b> through</p> <p><b>Output 1.6:</b> The National Statistical System is strengthened to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data to inform decision-making and enable reporting at all levels of government;</p> <p><b>Output 1.5:</b> relevant Ministries, Directorate and Agencies (MDAs), Local government authorities (LGAs) and communities have the knowledge and skills to co-create and implement policies, plans and programmes to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of South Sudan’s natural resources;</p> <p><b>Output 1.6:</b> relevant MDAs, LGAs and communities are better equipped to establish and maintain inclusive, gender-responsive, early warning systems and disaster preparedness, response and recovery mechanisms; and</p> <p><b>Output 1.7:</b> Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups will benefit from and contribute to more sustainable and inclusive economic development, with increased economic diversification, improved climate change adaptation and greater resilience to economic shocks.</p>
<b>Link to relevant SDG Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</li> <li>• Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</li> <li>• Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</li> </ul>

<b>Link to relevant SDG Targets:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</li> <li>• 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</li> <li>• 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</li> <li>• 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development</li> <li>• 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts</li> </ul>
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## 2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

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

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments	500	500	500	1300

Implementation Status 2023: 4th PIR

## 2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

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

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### Summary of status

Successful implementation of the South Sudan GEF CCCD project should at the minimum, intervene on the 3 components and deliver the three outcomes outlined below. Project components (1) Development of a coordinated environmental knowledge and information management system; (2) Strengthening of coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs, and (3) the integration of key provisions of Rio Conventions in national policies and legislation. Project Outcomes:

1. Enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting;
  2. Enhanced coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the sustained implementation of Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs; and
  3. National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.
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The **progress towards Outcomes is deemed Satisfactory (S)** since by the end of the reporting period, MoEF and other environmental actors in South Sudan were supported achieve the following milestones:

1. A National Environmental Information Network (NEIN) is established, operationalized, trained, that coordinated the design of an Environment Information System (EIS) that is already operational at the national level.
2. The compilation and validation of 178 core set of environmental indicators has not only been finalised, but also incorporated in the EIS system that is already operational. Moreover, the NEIN is well equipped on how to update these indicators on the EIS portal. Another major EIS training is planned in September, where UNEP SDG unit will support the NEIN to improve these indicator system by adopting suitable indicators from the basic set of indicators contained in the 2013 FDES framework.
3. Development of an ICT needs assessment and training plan for the NEIN completed in Q4 of 2024 , whose implementation is ongoing.
4. A release version of the EIS data portal was validated by the EIN during a national EIS training meeting attended by 30 national experts in March 2024. The system developer continues to deploy improvements proposed by the NEIN during the ongoing deployment phase. This data portal is compatible with various frameworks like the DPSIR and has been designed to collect/ accept, store and share data that meets reporting requirements for all MEAs, SDGs and Africa Agenda 2063.
5. Procurement of 8 computers (for the EIS training hub) and installation of a 10-kW solar energy system completed to mitigate EIS system outages and guarantee 100% uptime [online availability] of EIS operations for public use. This additionally ensures the MoEF office is carbon neutral/ green as the champion for sustainable energy transitions in the Country.
6. An EIS and environmental legal frameworks technical working groups established, operationalized. These 2 technical coordination forums operate under the auspices of the National Environmental Information Network (NEIN).
7. Development and launch of the first set of online EIS training tutorial videos for use as an EIS user interface training manual for back-end system managers.
8. Production and launch of a rapid assessment of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem, that inspired the production of a 2022-2050 management strategy for the wetlands by the Nile Basin Initiative.

9. Production and validation of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LSDN) strategy and action plan.
10. Establishment of a special taskforce that spearheaded the formulation of two draft legislations: The South Sudan Environment Bill 2023 and the South Sudan Forestry Bill 2023. This was done through three writeshop organised in Kenya and Uganda, followed by a national validation meeting in Juba attended by over 70 stakeholders/ participants from all the ten States.
11. Both Bills were formally submitted for review by the Minister in charge of Environment to the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA). A special MoJCA committee further reviewed the Environment Bill and provided feedback to the Minister MoEF for revisions. Its hoped enactment processes for these draft legislations will be finalised before the elections in December 2024.
12. Development of (i) national guidelines for the engagement and involvement of communities in the implementation of MEAs and (ii) an exit/ sustainability strategy for the continued implementation of MEAs post-project transition initiated, following organisation of a national stakeholder workshop in June 2024.
  - Google One drive download link for all PIR reports : (a) [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SB9XHFBJJdotp0GmbsuRSTCv8PKqk6C?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SB9XHFBJJdotp0GmbsuRSTCv8PKqk6C?usp=drive_link)
  - (b) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SB9XHFBJJdotp0GmbsuRSTCv8PKqk6C?usp=sharing>
  - Project status report for July - December 2023: [[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OsesYXbOxZqDWJjqjX-ScdUWvVdWC\\_im/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OsesYXbOxZqDWJjqjX-ScdUWvVdWC_im/view?usp=drive_link) ]

The progress towards **Outputs deemed Satisfactory (S)**.

During the reporting period, the project organised **Nine stakeholder consultation workshops/ forums and training meetings both at the national, regional and international level, targeting EIS and legal framework technical working groups, the NEIN collaboration mechanism and other partners**. In total project interventions have so far reached over 1,300 direct beneficiaries through these forums, of which 78% were men and 22% women.

**1. Output 1.1 Analysis of the current environmental information systems.**

- The ProDoc workplan expected MoEF to (a) Establish a project management unit (PMU), (b) organise a project inception workshop, (c) Establish an Environmental Information Systems (EIS) technical working group and (d) Conduct an analysis of existing EIS systems in South Sudan. All these were successfully delivered in 2022 as reported in previous PIRs.
- Inception workshop held in June 2021 paved way for EIS and ICT assessments completed between 2021 and 2023.
- This led to the establishment and operationalisation of the EIS and National Environment Information Network-NEIN coordination and technical working groups that have spearheaded trainings and stakeholder engagement forums that resulted in the design of a functional EIS portal whose deployment is ongoing.
  - Project inception meeting report: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qkk9VUIVvRJclz2FvxhZYJMD1ZL1be5j/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qkk9VUIVvRJclz2FvxhZYJMD1ZL1be5j/view?usp=drive_link)
  - EIS and ICT systems assessment report(s) link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gT9QwlgfkGHveQwKySYAuA\\_JFXJrXpZ7/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gT9QwlgfkGHveQwKySYAuA_JFXJrXpZ7/view?usp=drive_link)
  - EIS working group and NEIN establishment report: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_dCw6Tbq3qjFICN1Vqiw9FkQuUvn2itm/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_dCw6Tbq3qjFICN1Vqiw9FkQuUvn2itm/view?usp=drive_link)
  - Design brief, South Sudan & Botswana EIS portals: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nh0RZKLNNk9YV6TcbsDc8EOXjNawJ7UY/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nh0RZKLNNk9YV6TcbsDc8EOXjNawJ7UY/view?usp=drive_link)

## 2. **Output 1.2 Priority environmental indicators identified and agreed upon.**

- PRODoc deliverables included (a) EIS assessment report recommending indicators to be adopted, (b) organisation of EIS/ MEA network meetings leading to (c) the compilation and validation of a core-set of indicators and data sharing protocols underpinning design of the EIS system. These deliverables were 100% finalised as reported last year.
- Stakeholder engagement meetings organised in collaboration with the NEIN and EIS technical working group (composed of MEA fps, MoEF, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and other partners) compiled core set of 178 indicators that underpin design of the EIS.
- During the inception workshop of the NEIN, discussions began on the need for MoEF and NBS to spearhead national actions to culminate in the development and adoption of a multi-agency/ inter-ministerial data sharing protocol. However, challenges linger since South Sudan still lacks the foundational law/act on environmental governance upon which MoEF would draw its convening power to coalesce and catalyse such actions and drive change on this regard. As a result, the 2nd PSC session held in Juba on 9 November 2023 agreed that it was impractical to fully deliver the protocol during the project implementation phase as designed. However, a requirement for MoEF to have coordination power over such issues was formulated in the draft Environmental Bill validated in November 2023.
- Moreover, following a request from NBS on behalf of the NEIN to augment these indicator framework with those recommended under the 2013 Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES 2013), a national FDES 2013 training to be facilitated by UNEPs SDG unit and planned for July 2024 has been rescheduled to September 2024. Reports and deliverables available in the following links:
  - EIS portal training report for the NEIN, March 2024, Juba: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CXy3DP5iZeWtqQJPjU3TmYHXqWrJD9Zs/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CXy3DP5iZeWtqQJPjU3TmYHXqWrJD9Zs/view?usp=drive_link)
  - Concept note, NEIN training on FDES 2013 methodology: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B5E-zzky1IP8TqSGGcKM4naWnUiogO2i/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B5E-zzky1IP8TqSGGcKM4naWnUiogO2i/view?usp=drive_link)
  - Core set of indicators for South Sudan EIS system: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IJSePOItcEZ3jK41z3mUsYKbNRT19\\_3z/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IJSePOItcEZ3jK41z3mUsYKbNRT19_3z/view?usp=drive_link)

## 3. **Output 1.3 Training provided on data collection and management methodologies.**

- The project has organised or sponsored NEIN participation in many national, regional (Nairobi and Cairo) or international (George Mason Center in the USA) training events related with the collection and management of environmental data, especially through EIS systems and application of GIS and remote sensing technologies. Refer to 2023 PIR on the GEF portal.
- Refer to output 1.3 above regarding the introductory FDES 2013 environmental statistical methodology training workshop now rescheduled for Q3 of 2024, whose outcome/ output will be the adoption and incorporation of suitable FDES indicators into the current indicator framework and EIS.

During the reporting period:

- A national training on the Country's EIS portal was held for the entire NEIN in Juba in March 2024, followed by sponsored participation of 2 NEIN reps (MoEF and NBS) in a regional assessments training meeting on the Africa Matatu EIS portal held at Cairo in May 2024. The NEIN is now well acquainted with the design architecture of the EIS and facilitated to begin data entry. Link for the EIS training report available in output 1.2.
- The project further supported UNEP ROA in the compilation and validation of a status report on the environmental dimension of SDGs titled "South Sudan National Environment Summary -NES)". The NES report provided guidance to the Government, the NEIN and the UN Country Team (UNCT) during the production of South Sudans' first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDGs presented on 16 July 2024 at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York.

- South Sudan National Environment Summary, NES 2023: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/13uvbBJYCEI6VeyTOBUE2mdukkEs42WzF/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13uvbBJYCEI6VeyTOBUE2mdukkEs42WzF/view?usp=drive_link)
- South Sudans first VRN report on the SDGs, July 2024: <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/south-sudan/voluntary-national-reviews-2024>
- EIS portal training report for the NEIN, March 2024, Juba: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CXy3DP5iZeWtqQPjU3TmYHXqWrJD9Zs/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CXy3DP5iZeWtqQPjU3TmYHXqWrJD9Zs/view?usp=drive_link)

#### 4. **Output 1.4 Shared environmental information system developed and implemented.**

- ProDoc requirements were for the project to (a) Organise a MEA network meeting to analyse and define scope (requirements and functionalities) of shared EIS systems, (b) to identify a host agency for the EIS, (c) to develop and implement the EIS system based on the identified requirements, (d) to provide training for different user groups on the use of the EIS portal, and (e) to make data available on the shared EIS portal/.
- As enumerated in previous PIRs and outputs 1.1 - 1.3 above, the project established an EIS working group and NEIN network/ collaboration mechanism that were facilitated to organise many national and regional EIS scoping meetings and trainings culminating in the definition and compilation of 178 core-set of indicators and inaugural EIS data portal that was validated by the NEIN in March 2024 for deployment.
- During the reporting period, the project partnered with CEDARE to revamp the old EIS model (<https://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/>) into a modern EIS data portal (<https://southsudaneis.net/>) based on the Microsoft Azure platform, which is a versatile open source, cloud-based platform of more than 200 products and cloud services designed to help institutions bring new solutions to life, solve today's challenges and create the future. Build, run, and manage applications across multiple clouds, on-premises, and at the edge, with the tools and frameworks of their choice.
- The EIS portal is designed a five module web-based system with interactive sections for statistics, indicators, assessments and SOE reporting, spatial information/ analysis and data sharing. It includes:
  - An integrated environmental assessment module (IEA: <https://southsudaneis.net/IEA/>) for assessing environmental conditions and trends like automation of the State of Environment Reporting process (SoER: <https://southsudaneis.net/IEA/National/ASOERS/>) and other reports.
  - An SDG data module (<https://southsudaneis.net/ASDGS/>) for tracking progress towards achievement of SDGs with an environmental dimension.
  - A Sustainable Development Indicators System (SDIS: <https://southsudaneis.net/ASDIS/>) that enables users to enter national statistics data from the environmental, economic, and social domains for use in national reporting obligations and needs.
  - A spatial module utilizing GIS and other remote sensing technologies to enhance reporting quality and provides spatial insights into environmental data.
  - Embedded Artificial Intelligence (AI) functionalities to facilitate retrieval of summarized information products and enhance exchange of knowledge across multiple platforms, websites, databases and sources.
  - Online EIS training module/ tutorials: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqlumiiYDFOZrMSrBKHDNVivUSsLC0QMB&si=c3r3d6A2vUgG7Wd>

#### 5. **Output 2.1: MEA Network established and other mechanisms implemented to support enhanced coordination in support of the implementation of the Rio Conventions, other relevant MEAs and related SDGs:**

- ProDoc expected the project to (a) organise a technical working group to discuss the establishment of an MEA Network, (b) prepare the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the network,(c) to formally establish the network through MoEF and organise regular meetings, (d) to facilitate the network in publishing factsheets/ sector reports and participate in Rio COP meetings, and to (e) implement other mechanisms supporting enhanced consultation and coordination in support of the Rio Conventions like enhancing MoEF operations, supporting preparation for COP meetings etc.

- The project facilitated the establishment and operationalisation of the South Sudan National Environment Information Network (NEIN) with clear terms of reference (ToR) that are updated on a rolling basis.
  - In 2022, the EIS working group and NEIN network produced a status/ sector report on the Country's wetland ecosystems dubbed "[A rapid environmental assessment of the Sudd wetland ecosystem in South Sudan](#)". The Sudd wetland is Ramsar site, a tentative UNESCO World Heritage site and Africa's largest fresh water wetland system whose ecosystem goods and services are estimated at USD 3 billion. The Sudd nourishes the Great Nile Migration Landscape (GNML) for which a 2024 wildlife survey by African Parks confirmed it hosts the largest land mammal migration on Earth (6 million animals), four times the 2million wildebeest, zebra and gazelle migration at the Mara-Serengeti.
  - The project also supported participation of 2-3 national experts nominated by the 3 Rio MEA offices, for meetings held in 2022 (Glasgow climate COP26 and Montreal Biodiversity COP15) and December 2023 (Agriculture experts attending the Dubai climate COP27).
  - Rapid assessment of the Sudd wetland: <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40419>
  - The World's Largest Land Mammal Migration Confirmed in South Sudan: <https://www.africanparks.org/campaign/great-nile-migration> | <https://www.africanparks.org/campaign/great-nile-migration/news>
  - Establishment and launch of the NEIN: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_dCw6Tbq3qjFiCN1Vqiw9FkQuUvn2itm/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_dCw6Tbq3qjFiCN1Vqiw9FkQuUvn2itm/view?usp=drive_link)
  - ToR for South Sudan NEIN: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pm\\_xMUXUTChMSXkiZq3Wjdt5WRtKBUTd/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pm_xMUXUTChMSXkiZq3Wjdt5WRtKBUTd/view?usp=drive_link)
6. **Output 2.2: Activities for awareness and capacity building implemented to support the implementation of MEAs/ SDGs:**
- Activities planned under this output were 100% finalised/ delivered as reported in the 2023 PIR report.
  - Some examples include
    - Rapid assessment of the Sudd wetland report: <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40419>
    - Launch of of the Sudd assessment report: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3nK\\_IKn\\_UE&list=PLqIumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarzaH&index=15](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3nK_IKn_UE&list=PLqIumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarzaH&index=15)
    - Radio and television bulletins, newspaper articles, etc: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqIumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarzaH&si=Rn-ccgub0gPffU6g>
    - Public lectures for university students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PBdC-3JTrM&list=PLqIumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarzaH&index=13>
    - Training on Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE): <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11MPMDZt3aoH7hv23HUBNXiffTdCcgSNO/view>
    - Public awareness documentary aired during the 2023 World Environment Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25OWyuFUDQY>
    - South Sudan 2024 PIR report for the GEF CCCD project: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1je5zdrnHe8cKs9RHPdtgPgoULxQZ0Sis/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1je5zdrnHe8cKs9RHPdtgPgoULxQZ0Sis/view?usp=drive_link)
7. **Output 2.3 Develop practical guidelines to facilitate community participation and engagement in the implementaion of MEAs.**
- The ProDoc expects MoEF to (a) organise a stakeholder consultation meeting to develop the guidelines and then (b) disseminate these guidelines through various public awareness and training events. This activity is 40% completed.

- During the reporting period, UNEP developed Terms of Reference (ToR) validated by MoEF to facilitate recruitment of a consultant to spearhead development of these guidelines as well as the MEA sustainable financing strategy planned in Output 3.2 below. The consultancy deliverables are:
    - (i) The development of national guidelines for the operationalisation of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration in South Sudan, aimed at ensuring that the public/ communities have access to information, participate in the implementation of Rio Conventions, and are afforded access to justice in environmental matters, thereby promoting a healthy and sustainable environment for current and future generations.
    - (ii) The development of a sustainable financing strategy for continued implementation of the Rio Conventions, relevant SDGs and national policies and laws in the republic of South Sudan.
  - A national stakeholder consultation workshop held at the Juba Imperial Plaza hotel in June 2024 brought together 45 participants (36 men and 9 women) that discussed both deliverables, whose report will be shared during the next PIR.
    - ToR Consultancy to develop practical guidelines & Exit strategy (outputs 2.3 and 3.2): [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Azc0\\_t40cLL7W6afOnYKfmh-ZBa1hp6f/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Azc0_t40cLL7W6afOnYKfmh-ZBa1hp6f/view?usp=drive_link)
    - Participants list, Agenda photos, inception workshop for outputs 2.3 and 3.2: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MitAkTTOHXXQ-56rSgYkXzclm7An7FJ/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MitAkTTOHXXQ-56rSgYkXzclm7An7FJ/view?usp=drive_link)
- 7. Output 3.1 At least 2 sectoral policies, laws or strategies clearly make provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles:**
- The project has so far met and exceeded ProDoc expectations for this output as per the milestones below:
    - Environmental legal frameworks technical working group established in February 2022, that nominated a special taskforce to spearhead formulation of two draft legislations through writeshops facilitated by regional and national legal experts provided by CEDARE and MoEF.
    - Establishment of a special taskforce that spearheaded the formulation the South Sudan Environment Bill 2023 and the South Sudan Forestry Bill 2023. This was done through three writeshop organised in Kenya and Uganda (July 2023), followed by a national validation meeting in Juba (November 2024) attended by over 70 stakeholders/ participants from all the ten States.
    - Both Bills were formally submitted for review by the Minister in charge of Environment to the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) in May 2024.
    - A special MoJCA committee further reviewed the Environment Bill and provided feedback to the Minister MoEF for revisions. Its hoped enactment processes for these draft legislations will be finalised before the elections in December 2024.
  - Production and validation of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy and action plan in 2023. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) was supported to organise a national dissemination workshop for the report in November 2024.
    - South Sudan Environment Bill validated in November 2023: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LKwrmkF7B3c7EMWqbzPRdLsyzya4qN6\\_/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LKwrmkF7B3c7EMWqbzPRdLsyzya4qN6_/view?usp=drive_link)
    - South Sudan Forestry Bill validated in November 2023: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Klykyh2ps\\_ySOJJpzXQ1yrITzCSxiBDJ/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Klykyh2ps_ySOJJpzXQ1yrITzCSxiBDJ/view?usp=drive_link)
    - South Sudan LDN Strategy and Action plan, Nov 2023: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qEzft00I-5si3y3zt39hOtuHNgbokW2y/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qEzft00I-5si3y3zt39hOtuHNgbokW2y/view?usp=drive_link)



- Participant list; Entebbe writeshop, Juba Bills validation & LDN meetings held in 2023: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ILLf5c85L9vlysD-74nRG3mlup9hQdVx/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ILLf5c85L9vlysD-74nRG3mlup9hQdVx/view?usp=drive_link)
- MoEF submits Environment & Forestry Bills 2023 for MoJCA review: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kzjfQj879wUx602DlujP7Jrxcs2OQyrO/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kzjfQj879wUx602DlujP7Jrxcs2OQyrO/view?usp=drive_link)

**8. Output 3.2 Sustainable financing strategy developed**

- This activity is 40% done as outlined in output 2.3 above.
- A consultant has been recruited to manage outputs 2.3 and 3.2, who supported MoEF organise an inception/ national stakeholder consultation workshop in June 2024.

**2.4 Co Finance**

<b>Planned Co-finance:</b>	\$ 1,450,000
<b>Actual to date:</b>	1,600,000
<b>Progress</b>	<p><b>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</b></p> <p>USD 1,600,000 in-kind co-financing has been realised by 30 June 2024, being contributions from MoEF and UNEP Africa Office. This translates to 110% of the pledged total co-financing.</p>

**2.5. Stakeholder**

<b>Date of project steering committee meeting</b>	2023-11-09
<b>Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)</b>	<p>The second session of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held in Juba on 9th November 2023 and coincided with the Mid-Term Review (MTR) exercise for the project as documented in the report available via the link below: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SWcNMQVQnUKbRKDeCO7YIE6dzkIFRU/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SWcNMQVQnUKbRKDeCO7YIE6dzkIFRU/view?usp=drive_link</a></p> <p>Sections “A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination” and “B. Stakeholders” of the Project Document identifies various stakeholders that should either be directly involved, consulted or informed during project implementation as below:</p>

- Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), | Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), | Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT),
- Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), | Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA), | Ministry of Finance and Planning (MFP),
- National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), | Ministry of Petroleum (MP),
- Ministry of Mining, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI), | Ministry of Trade (MT), | Ministry of Lands, Housing and Physical Planning, |
- Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MHADM), | Ministry of Transport (MT) | South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, |
- South Sudan Meteorological Service (SSMS), | South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation (SSNCO), | Institutions of Higher Learning/ Universities/ Research centres etc.
- UN Agencies, Community-based organizations (CBOs) and other civil society groups (NGOs etc.)

During the reporting period, the following stakeholder consultation meetings were organised, that involved all partners as outlined in the combined participant lists available via the link

[[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kqES0Le8qyWyFYNyRnkmvVpdWXEMGPSX/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kqES0Le8qyWyFYNyRnkmvVpdWXEMGPSX/view?usp=drive_link)]

1. July 2023, Entebbe, Uganda: Third writeshop to formulate the Environment and Forestry Bills;
2. October 2023, Juba, South Sudan: EIS Hub and solar installation system review mission;
3. November 2023, Juba South Sudan: National validation meeting for the Environment and Forestry Bills;
4. November 2023, Juba South Sudan: Second Project Steering Committee (PSC);
5. November 2023, Juba South Sudan: Post-validation and dissemination meetings for the LDN strategy;
6. December 2023: Dubai, UAE: Facilitation for 2 MAFS delegates participating in UNFCCC COP28;
7. March 2024, Juba, South Sudan: National EIS training for the NEIN network;
8. May 2024, Cairo Egypt: Regional EIS and assessments training meeting; and
9. June 2024, Juba, South Sudan: National inception workshop for the practical guidelines and Sustainability strategy

## 2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	Yes
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	<p>Yes. Kindly refer to appendix 8 of the Project Document (ProDoc) titled “<b>Analysis for the GEF CCCD project: Gender and Ethnicity in South Sudan</b>” as well as section A.4 of the ProDoc. The gender action plan recommended the following actions for execution during project implementation.</p> <p><b>Recommendations with regard to gender: Appendix 8 of the ProDoc</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed activities of this project are aligned with the strategies of the National Gender Policy, which is based on the principles of: (i) the Transitional Constitution; (ii) the Bill of Rights; (iii) the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); (iv) the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA); and (v) the Protocol to the African charter on Human and People’s Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).</li> <li>• Although activities on the ground are limited under this project, there is a significant opportunity to mainstream gender considerations into the national policy framework, the awareness and capacity building activities, and the environmental information network. In particular, it is recommended that the project:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate representation of women in the project implementation.</li> <li>• Ensure that the interests of local communities (including women, vulnerable groups and youth) are considered.</li> <li>• Include women, vulnerable groups, and youth in the target audiences for awareness and capacity building activities.</li> <li>• Raise awareness on the importance of gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, and on the important role played by women regarding natural resources management.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>ProDoc Reference in Section A.4</b> “...Accordingly, gender will be a cross-cutting theme in the formulation, revision and strengthening of key policies and legislative instruments at all levels during the implementation of this project. Bringing the need for sound environmental management down from the national to the local level will ensure that the requirements of the most vulnerable groups in society, such as women and youth groups, can be incorporated in policy making and programme design from a bottom-up perspective. As part of the project implementation arrangements, directed attention will be paid to ensuring an appropriate gender balance in the training and capacity development activities. A background analysis on gender and ethnicity in South Sudan[1] was prepared during the project design phase and is included as a separate document. Gender disaggregated indicators have been included in the project results</p>

framework, with at least 40% of the targeted project stakeholders and beneficiaries being women. In addition, wherever possible, the environmental indicators to be developed under Outcome 1 of the project will be disaggregated by gender, by age and by socio-economic group.

The project will also seek to build on existing policies and structures with regard to gender mainstreaming. In particular, the National Gender Policy of the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare has formulated strategies on Gender, Environment and Natural Resources Management. The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW) has a gender focal point in all institutions, including the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), who are involved in training and other activities related to gender. Additionally, the National Women's Association has representatives at state and county levels.

#### **2024 PIR**

- South Sudan presents a serious challenge in advancing gender equity. As a result, almost all senior government and non-state/corporate leadership positions are held by men who make most decisions, despite data from the 2008 population census showing that the country's gender distribution is almost at par.
- For example, some of the key Government leadership positions in ministries managing the GEF CCCD projects in South Sudan are led by Women. The South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry is amongst the few headed by a woman (Hon. Josephine Napwon) in South Sudan. Hon Josephine has been supportive and remains actively engaged in most project activities, as well as Hon Hellen Ngaidok Lokurnyang who is the Chairperson of the Committee on Environment & Forestry in the National Legislative Assembly of South Sudan and Mrs Regina Ossa, the Director General, Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare – MGCSW. For example, Hon Hellen Ngaidok and DG Regina Ossa are active and core members of the PSC and the two project technical working groups.
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- South Sudan MoEF project Liaison team is also split 50% of both genders.
- Moreover, in line with the gender action plan outlined above: The 178 core list of environmental indicators developed under the project have been disintegrated by gender, age (19 indicators) and socio-economic groups (theme 1). Gender equity has also been promoted within the 2023 Bills formulated with support from the GEF CCCD project. Infact, the principle of gender balance was emphasised to align with the minimum constitutional requirement / aspirations of 30% gender parity.
- Reference: Analysis for the GEF CCCD project: Gender and Ethnicity in South

## 2.7. ESSM

<b>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)</b>	<p><b>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</b>                  No  <b>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</b></p>
<b>New social and/or environmental risks</b>	<p><b>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</b>                  No  <b>If yes, describe the new risks or changes?</b></p>
<b>Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts</b>	<p><b>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</b>                  No  <b>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?</b>                  NA</p>
<b>Environmental and social safeguards management</b>	<p>2023 PIRNo change from the previous reporting period besides the enhanced efforts to mainstream gender equality in natural resource management highlighted in the previous section. Project operations remain within the low-risk category proposed at GEF CEO approval. On a positive trend, at the request of MoEF, the project prepared a rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetland ecosystem whose launch by the Presidency, based on the key recommendations, straightaway informed the President’s decision to immediately freeze planned dredging and other infrastructure projects in the White Nile river basin and Sudd wetland ecosystem until MoEF undertakes Environmental and Social Safeguards Assessments (ESIA) based on robust scientific facts as recommended in the report. According to the report, the Sudd wetland is the largest in Africa, is one of the largest freshwater ecosystems in the world, a designated Ramsar site and a tentative UNESCO world heritage site. The Sudd is an environmental and economic asset that supports livelihoods, the national economy, and ecosystem services including climate change mitigation and hydrological functions in the bigger Nile Basin area. Non-economic values include its role in supporting the culture, unique wildlife and as a symbol of national identity for South Sudan. The total economic value of the Sudd wetland in 2015 was estimated at about US \$3.3 billion. However, human activities are some of the main driving forces behind environmental change and degradation in the Sudd wetland. The report recommends that, “Rigorous environmental and social impact assessments based on credible scientific information should be conducted before embarking upon infrastructure projects. Such ESIA should consider impacts to livelihoods, security issues, population displacement and degradation of</p>

	<p>ecosystem services, among others”This documentation[1] contains numerous audio-visual media coverage of how the launch of the report informed public discourse on flood management in South Sudan, brought solid science at the decision table and ultimately informed executive policy decisions at the apex of government, thereby enhancing environmental governance in South Sudan. A week-long series of national consultations spearheaded by the presidency concluded that MoEF will be empowered to enforce ESAs and EIAs as obligatory requirements for all major infrastructure projects like dredging of rivers and draining of such wetlands.2024 PIR Update Same as reported in 2022.Project implementation and interventions remain within the low-risk category. [1] Media coverage, Rapid Assessment of the Sudd wetland ecosystem &amp; 2022 WED, RSS :<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NBV69hxvw7PaBXwO2x3XMeroGezaR_7i/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NBV69hxvw7PaBXwO2x3XMeroGezaR_7i/view</a></p>
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## 2.8. KM/Learning

<p><b>Knowledge activities and products</b></p>	<p>To name a few, some knowledge sharing products developed so far include.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rapid assessment on the sudd wetland ecosystem: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1koGHeDmoXW5nhOod-BxctkhLRXBSWg6s/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1koGHeDmoXW5nhOod-BxctkhLRXBSWg6s/view?usp=drive_link</a>   <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NBV69hxvw7PaBXwO2x3XMeroGezaR_7i/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NBV69hxvw7PaBXwO2x3XMeroGezaR_7i/view</a></li> <li>2. National Environment Summary/ status of environment elated SDGs: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/13uvbBJYCEI6VeyTOBUE2mdukkEs42WzF/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/13uvbBJYCEI6VeyTOBUE2mdukkEs42WzF/view?usp=drive_link</a></li> <li>3. Training manual on the South Sudan EIS data portal: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nhORZKLNNk9YV6TcbsDc8EOXjNawJ7UY/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nhORZKLNNk9YV6TcbsDc8EOXjNawJ7UY/view?usp=drive_link</a></li> <li>4. Online training tutorial on the South Sudan EIS portal: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pxwn_rgccc&amp;t=14s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pxwn_rgccc&amp;t=14s</a></li> <li>5. Webinar on the South Sudan Sudd wetland: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PBdC-3JTrM&amp;t=38s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PBdC-3JTrM&amp;t=38s</a></li> </ol>
<p><b>Main learning during the period</b></p>	<p>Same as reported in the 2023 PIR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Necessity for lean project workplans in the context of GEF Medium Sized Projects [MSPs]:</b> Operating in volatile countries like South Sudan requires razor-focused workplans consisted with the limited GEF funding available. The current USD 1 million GEF grant only serves as seed funding/ capital for comprehensive future interventions aimed at enhancing environmental governance and mainstreaming Rio Convention implementation &amp; reporting.</li> <li>• <b>Adaptive project management and agility makes or breaks execution:</b> Emergency of Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant inflation/ global travel disruptions presented both challenges and opportunities. Constitution of a PMU willing to embrace virtual/ remote work modalities and agile enough to bend the curve towards delivery expedited 1st and 2nd year execution despite the odds.</li> <li>• Advance planning at UNEP ROA and impressive responsiveness from the US office at MoEF US, and liaison officer-Paul Demetry ensured compliance with deadlines and set deliverables.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EIS development is dynamic and progressive:</b> Despite pioneering EIS design, sustained peace is a vital ingredient to the availability/ use of an authentic basic data feedstock for these EIS systems. Almost all South Sudan institutions lack fundamental data that's within their mandate to collect, manage or disseminate, leave alone capacity for quality assurance or validation of questionable/ disputed datasets or sources. For example, South Sudan's last Census was held in 16 years ago [2008 - Pre-independence] notwithstanding being disputed by the South.</li> </ul>
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## 2.9. Stories

<p><b>Stories to be shared</b></p>	<p><b><u>2022 Update</u></b></p> <p>Following a request from the South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry in June 2021 and with funding from the project, UNEP engaged the Environment Pulse Institute (EPI) for technical support to prepare a rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan published in 2022. The report was officially launched by H.E Hussein Abdelbagi Akol Agany, the fifth Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) and chair of the services delivery cluster on behalf of the presidency. Other senior dignitaries present included Hon. Josephine Napwon, the Minister of Environment and Forestry; Hon Dr. Albino Bol, the Minister of Youth and Sports; Hon. Emmanuel Adil Anthony, the Governor of Central Equatorial State; Hon Joseph Bartel, the Undersecretary for Environment at the MoEF, Diplomats (Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, Sweden), UN Agencies (UNDP Resident Coordinator office), many other Ministers and members of parliament among others.</p> <p><b><u>2023 PIR Update:</u></b> Here are the key points regarding the natural capital and development potential of South Sudan, based on the information provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Extractive resources.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ South Sudan has significant oil and gas reserves, which contribute up to 98% of government revenues and 80% of GDP.</li> <li>○ It has the third-largest oil reserves in sub-Saharan Africa, after Nigeria and Angola.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Forestry and tourism.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ South Sudan has the largest intact tropical woodlands and savannas in the region, with enormous potential for tourism-based economic activities.</li> <li>○ Over 13% of the country (87,030 km<sup>2</sup>) consists of 18 gazetted protected areas, including 6 national parks and 12 game reserves.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Agriculture and land resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Over 90% of South Sudan's land is suitable for agriculture and forestry, but only about 5% is currently used for crop production.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Sudd wetland:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Sudd is Africa's largest freshwater wetland, covering 8% of the country and designated as a Ramsar site.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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- A 2020 Nile Basin Initiative report estimated the total economic value of the Sudd wetland to be around \$3.3 billion.
- There is a need for more scientific research to better understand the Sudd wetland's spatial extent, water availability, impacts of climate change, carbon sequestration potential, and other ecosystem dynamics.

**Recommendations:**

- The international community, including UNEP and the GEF, should support South Sudan in implementing the recommendations of the 2022 rapid assessment study of the Sudd wetland.
- This includes promoting scientific research, raising global awareness, and supporting the wise use of the Sudd wetland ecosystem for the future security, sustainability, and stability of South Sudan.
- Overall, South Sudan has significant natural capital and development potential, but faces challenges in terms of poverty, conflict, and the need for further scientific research and international support to sustainably manage its natural resources.

**2024 PIR**

A comprehensive aerial survey conducted in South Sudan by Africa Parks has revealed the world's largest land mammal migration, referred to as the Great Nile Migration. The survey found approximately 6 million antelope migrating across the Boma Badingilo Jonglei Landscape (BBJL). This far exceeds the 2 million Mara-Serengeti migration by a factor of four. ( <https://www.africanparks.org/campaign/great-nile-migration> ).

The survey was a partnership between African Parks and the Government of South Sudan, with support from The Wilderness Project. It provides a detailed understanding of the ecosystem and wildlife populations in the region.

While the migration numbers are remarkable, the region faces threats from unmanaged exploitation and poaching. Comparison to 1980s data shows declines in some sedentary wildlife species. The President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, announced the survey results and called for prioritizing wildlife protection and ranger training to combat poaching. He also urged the private sector to engage in sustainable tourism opportunities.

Funding support for the operations and infrastructure of Boma and Badingilo National Parks has come from organizations like the Elephant Crisis Fund, Fondation Segré, Rainforest Trust, and others. The survey demonstrates the ecological significance of this region and the need for collaborative conservation efforts to protect the world's largest land mammal migration

**Recommendations**



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	<p>The Sudd wetland ecosystem, of which the Boma and Badingilo National Parks are a part, is a global environmental treasure that deserves urgent attention and protection. As home to the world's largest land mammal migration, this region represents an unparalleled natural wonder that is of immense ecological significance. UNEP should consider deploying its communications and outreach capabilities to raise international awareness about this spectacular phenomenon and the threats it faces. Through targeted media campaigns, educational initiatives, and collaborative partnerships, UNEP can help mobilize global support and resources to safeguard the long-term sustainability of the Great Nile Migration.</p> <p>Additionally, the GEF could consider allocating dedicated funding and technical assistance to support the conservation and management of the Sudd wetland ecosystem. Given the transboundary nature of the Great Nile Migration, which spans across the borders of South Sudan and Ethiopia, GEF's convening power and ability to facilitate regional cooperation can be instrumental in developing a comprehensive, cross-border strategy to protect this unique and irreplaceable natural heritage. By investing in the long-term resilience of the Sudd wetlands, the GEF can ensure that this global wonder continues to thrive and provide vital ecosystem services for the local communities and the broader region.</p>
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### 3 Performance

#### 3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
1: Enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting.	(a) MEA Network operational and facilitating access, sharing and management of environmental data and information for MEA/SDG reporting, monitoring and decision making.	CBD national Clearing House Mechanism and MoEF website currently being developed.	(a) MEA Network operational with at-least 30 stakeholders (of which at least 40% women).	(a) MEA Network operational with at-least 40 stakeholders (of which at least 40% women).	100%	The EIS technical working group and the National Environmental Information Network (NEIN) are fully functional and driving project activities. The NEIN is composed of > 50 members where roughly 70% are men and 30% women. A national EIS training organised in March 2024 validated the EIS data portal design architecture paving way for national deployment.	S
	(b) Technical system functional to manage and access environmental data, with defined roles and responsibilities and protocols for data collection and sharing.	National biodiversity database being established at MoEF and MWCT	NA	(b) A functional, shared environmental information system (EIS) with defined roles and responsibilities and protocols for data collection and sharing is in place.	100%	A National Environmental Information Network SSNEIN is established, operationalized and trained. Core set of 178 environmental indicators have been formulated, validated by the SSNEIN, and incorporated in the EIS system. The functional EIS system has been developed and national experts trained on its use. National deployment ongoing. Development EIS training manual and online tutorial videos developed, for back-end system managers .Set-up of the MoEF EIS training hub finalised and operationalised, with fast fibre internet service and four-way laptop stations.MoEF offices weaned off dependency on dirty fossil fuel supply,	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						through the procurement and Installation of a 10 Kw solar system backed by a 10 Kwh battery bank. The whole office is now Carbon neutral.	
2: Enhanced coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the sustained implementation of Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs.	Number of mechanisms implemented by the government of South Sudan under the lead of MoEF to support the sustained implementation of the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs (e.g., regular network/ working group/consultative meetings)	No specific mechanisms, although some existing ad hoc committees have been established	At least 1 mechanism.	At least 3 mechanisms.	100%	(1) Establishment and operationalization of the National Environmental Information Network (NEIN) finalised. Two technical working groups finalised. These include (2)The EIS working group and the (3) the environmental legal frameworks working group. These working groups/ technical coordination forums operate under the auspices of the NEIN to advise, steer, coordinate and support project interventions on environmental data collection, management and sharing/ reporting and mainstreaming Rio Convention priorities into national policies, strategies, and programmes. So far, these mechanisms have supported MoEF and its partners to accomplish the following: (i) Preparation of the Sudd wetlands report, (ii) Compilation of 178 indicators that underpin design of the now functional EIS portal, (iii) Formulation of Environment and Forestry Bills 2023; the LDN strategy; Practical guidelines on community participation; and a MEA sustainable financing strategy.	S
3: National policies include provisions for mainstreaming	Number of policies, laws or strategies finalized for	Some existing laws	NA	at least 2	100%	(1) Production of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Strategy and Action	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.	enactment during the project duration and submitted for enactment that include provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles.	and policies; many exist only in draft format.				plan 2023. Establishment of a special taskforce that convened two writeshops that formulated: (2) the draft Environment Bill 2023, and (3) the draft Forestry Bill 2023. Both Bills were formally submitted for review by the Minister in charge of Environment to the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) in May 2024. A special MoJCA committee further reviewed the Environment Bill and provided feedback to the Minister MoEF for revisions. Its hoped enactment processes for these draft legislations will be finalised before the elections in December 2024.	

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

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Development of a coordinated environmental knowledge and information management	Output 1.1: Analysis of the current environmental information systems	2023-12-31	100	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ProDoc workplan expected MoEF to (a) Establish a project management unit (PMU), (b) organise a project inception workshop, (c) Establish an Environmental Information Systems (EIS) technical working group and (d) Conduct an analysis of existing EIS systems in South Sudan. All these were successfully delivered in 2022 as reported in</li> </ul>	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
system					previous PIRs. • Inception workshop held in June 2021 paved way for EIS and ICT assessments completed between 2021 and 2023. • This led to the establishment and operationalisation of the EIS and National Environment Information Network-NEIN coordination and technical working groups that have spearheaded trainings and stakeholder engagement forums that resulted in the design of a functional EIS portal whose deployment is ongoing.	
	1.1.1 Recruit project staff and consultants: UNEP to recruit Project Coordinator & probably an MoEF Assistant	2023-12-31	100	100	Reported in previous PIRs	S
	1.1.2 Organize a project inception workshop	2023-12-31	100	100	Reported in previous PIRs	S
	1.1.3 Establish an Environmental Information Working Group	2023-12-31	100	100	Reported in previous PIRs	S
	1.1.4 Conduct a detailed analysis of existing environmental information systems	2023-12-31	100	100	Reported in previous PIRs	S
	Output 1.2: Priority environmental indicators identified and agreed upon	2023-12-31	100	100	• PRoDoc deliverables included (a) EIS assessment report recommending indicators to be adopted, (b) organisation of EIS/ MEA network meetings leading to (c) the compilation and validation of a core-set of indicators and data sharing protocols underpinning design of the EIS system. These deliverables were 100% finalised as reported last year. • Stakeholder engagement meetings organised in collaboration with the NEIN and EIS technical working group (composed of MEA fps, MoEF, National Bureau of Statistics	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>(NBS) and other partners) compiled core set of 178 indicators that underpin design of the EIS. • During the inception workshop of the NEIN, discussions began on the need for MoEF and NBS to spearhead national actions to culminate in the development and adoption of a multi-agency/ inter-ministerial data sharing protocol. However, challenges linger since South Sudan still lacks the foundational law/act on environmental governance upon which MoEF would draw its convening power to coalesce and catalyse such actions and drive change on this regard. As a result, the 2nd PSC session held in Juba on 9 November 2023 agreed that it was impractical to fully deliver the protocol during the project implementation phase as designed. However, a requirement for MoEF to have coordination power over such issues was formulated in the draft Environmental Bill validated in November 2023. • Moreover, following a request from NBS on behalf of the NEIN to augment these indicator framework with those recommended under the 2013 Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES 2013), a national FDES 2013 training to be facilitated by UNEPs SDG unit and planned for July 2024 has</p>	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					been rescheduled to September 2024	
	1.2.1 Develop recommendations on improving data availability and on formulating key environmental indicators	2023-03-31	100	100	Reported in previous PIRs EIS and ICT systems assessment report(s) link: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gT9QwlgfkGHveQwKySYAuA_JFXJrXpZ7/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gT9QwlgfkGHveQwKySYAuA_JFXJrXpZ7/view?usp=drive_link</a>	S
	1.2.2 Organize an MEA Network meeting (see Output 2.1) to discuss and agree on priority environmental indicators	2023-03-31	100	100	Reported in previous PIRs	S
	1.2.3 Develop and agree on standardized definitions for these indicators and protocols for data collection, sharing and management.	2023-09-30	100	100	Reported in previous PIRs	S
	1.2.2 Organize an MEA Network meeting (see Output 2.1) to discuss and agree on priority environmental indicators	2023-03-31	100	100	Reported in previous PIRs. Moreover, following a request from NBS on behalf of the NEIN to augment these indicator framework with those recommended under the 2013 Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES 2013), a national FDES 2013 training to be facilitated by UNEPs SDG unit and planned for July 2024 has been rescheduled to September 2024. Concept note, NEIN training on FDES 2013 methodology: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B5E-zzky1P8TqSGGcKM4naWnUiogO2i/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B5E-zzky1P8TqSGGcKM4naWnUiogO2i/view?usp=drive_link</a>	S
	1.2.3 Develop and agree on standardized definitions for these indicators and protocols for data collection, sharing and management.	2023-09-30	100	100	Stakeholder engagement meetings organised in collaboration with the NEIN and EIS technical working group (composed of MEA fps, MoEF, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and other partners) compiled core set of 178 indicators that underpin design of the	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					EIS.A supplementary training on FDES 2013 methodology is planned in September 2024.	
	1.2.4 Develop and approve a protocol/ agreement on the collection, use and sharing of environmental data in decision-making, planning and reporting.	2024-09-30	40	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the inception workshop of the NEIN, discussions began on the need for MoEF and NBS to spearhead national actions to culminate in the development and adoption of a multi-agency/ inter-ministerial data sharing protocol. However, challenges linger since South Sudan still lacks the foundational law/act on environmental governance upon which MoEF would draw its convening power to coalesce and catalyse such actions and drive change on this regard.</li> <li>As a result, the 2nd PSC session held in Juba on 9 November 2023 agreed that it was impractical to fully deliver the protocol during the project implementation phase as designed. However, a requirement for MoEF to have coordination power over such issues was formulated in the draft Environmental Bill validated in November 2023. Ref: 2024 PSC report: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SWcNMQVQnUKbRKDeCOn7IYIE6dzklfRU/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SWcNMQVQnUKbRKDeCOn7IYIE6dzklfRU/view?usp=drive_link</a></li> </ul>	S
	Output 1.3 Training provided on data collection and management methodologies	2024-12-31	100	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project has organised or sponsored NEIN participation in many national, regional (Nairobi and Cairo) or international (George Mason Center in</li> </ul>	S



Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>the USA) training events related with the collection and management of environmental data, especially through EIS systems and application of GIS and remote sensing technologies. Refer to 2023 PIR on the GEF portal. • Refer to output 1.3 above regarding the introductory FDES 2013 environmental statistical methodology training workshop now rescheduled for Q3 of 2024, whose outcome/ output will be the adoption and incorporation of suitable FDES indicators into the current indicator framework and EIS. During the reporting period: • A national training on the Country's EIS portal was held for the entire NEIN in Juba in March 2024, followed by sponsored participation of 2 NEIN reps (MoEF and NBS) in a regional assessments training meeting on the Africa Matatu EIS portal held at Cairo in May 2024. The NEIN is now well acquainted with the design architecture of the EIS and facilitated to begin data entry. Link for the EIS training report available in output 1.2. • The project further supported UNEP ROA in the compilation and validation of a status report on the environmental dimension of SDGs titled "South Sudan National Environment Summary -NES)". The NES report provided</p>	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>guidance to the Government, the NEIN and the UN Country Team (UNCT) during the production of South Sudans' first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDGs presented on 16 July 2024 at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York.....</p> <p>.....• South Sudan National Environment Summary, NES 2023: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/13uvbBjYCEI6VeyTOBUE2mdukkEs42WzF/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/13uvbBjYCEI6VeyTOBUE2mdukkEs42WzF/view?usp=drive_link</a>• South Sudans first VRN report on the SDGs, July 2024: <a href="https://hlpf.un.org/countries/south-sudan/voluntary-national-reviews-2024">https://hlpf.un.org/countries/south-sudan/voluntary-national-reviews-2024</a></p> <p>• EIS portal training report for the NEIN, March 2024, Juba: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CXy3DP5iZeWtqQJPjU3TmYHXqWrJD9Zs/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CXy3DP5iZeWtqQJPjU3TmYHXqWrJD9Zs/view?usp=drive_link</a></p>	
	1.3.1 Prepare a training on data collection and management	2023-12-31	100	100	Updates provided at output level and in the 2023 PIR	S
	1.3.2 Organize training workshop and designate champions	2023-03-31	100	100	Provided at the output level and 2023 PIR	S
	1.3.3 Organize on-the-job follow-up activities per sector to apply the acquired knowledge and compile data for the priority indicators identified	2024-12-31	100	100	<p>Provided at the output level. National EIS training completed in March 2024. • EIS portal training report for the NEIN, March 2024, Juba: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CXy3DP5iZeWtqQJPjU3TmYHXqWrJD9Zs/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CXy3DP5iZeWtqQJPjU3TmYHXqWrJD9Zs/view?usp=drive_link</a></p>	S
	Output 1.4 Shared environmental information system developed and implemented	2024-12-31	80	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ProDoc requirements were for the project to (a) Organise a MEA network</li> </ul>	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>meeting to analyse and define scope (requirements and functionalities) of shared EIS systems, (b) to identify a host agency for the EIS, (c) to develop and implement the EIS system based on the identified requirements, (d) to provide training for different user groups on the use of the EIS portal, and (e) to make data available on the shared EIS portal/.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As enumerated in previous PIRs and outputs 1.1 - 1.3 above, the project established an EIS working group and NEIN network/ collaboration mechanism that were facilitated to organise many national and regional EIS scoping meetings and trainings culminating in the definition and compilation of 178 core-set of indicators and inaugural EIS data portal that was validated by the NEIN in March 2024 for deployment.</li> <li>During the reporting period, the project partnered with CEDARE to revamp the old EIS model (<a href="https://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/">https://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/</a>) into a modern EIS data portal (<a href="https://southsudaneis.net/">https://southsudaneis.net/</a>) based on the Microsoft Azure platform, which is a versatile open source, cloud-based platform of more than 200 products and cloud services designed to help institutions bring new solutions to life, solve today's challenges and</li> </ul>	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>create the future. Build, run, and manage applications across multiple clouds, on-premises, and at the edge, with the tools and frameworks of their choice. • The EIS portal is designed a five module web-based system with interactive sections for statistics, indicators, assessments and SOE reporting, spatial information/ analysis and data sharing. It includes [a] An integrated environmental assessment module (IEA: <a href="https://southsudaneis.net/IEA/">https://southsudaneis.net/IEA/</a>) for assessing environmental conditions and trends like automation of the State of Environment Reporting process (SoER: <a href="https://southsudaneis.net/IEA/National/A/SOERS/">https://southsudaneis.net/IEA/National/A/SOERS/</a>) and other reports.[b] An SDG data module (<a href="https://southsudaneis.net/ASDGS/">https://southsudaneis.net/ASDGS/</a>) for tracking progress towards achievement of SDGs with an environmental dimension.[c] A Sustainable Development Indicators System (SDIS: <a href="https://southsudaneis.net/ASDIS/">https://southsudaneis.net/ASDIS/</a>) that enables users to enter national statistics data from the environmental, economic, and social domains for use in national reporting obligations and needs.[d] A spatial module utilizing GIS and other remote sensing technologies to enhance reporting</p>	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					quality and provides spatial insights into environmental data.[e] Embedded Artificial Intelligence (AI) functionalities to facilitate retrieval of summarized information products and enhance exchange of knowledge across multiple platforms, websites, databases and sources.[f] Online EIS training module/ tutorials: <a href="https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqlumiiYDFOZrMSrBKHDNVivUSsLCOQMB&amp;si=c3lr3d6A2vUgG7Wd">https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqlumiiYDFOZrMSrBKHDNVivUSsLCOQMB&amp;si=c3lr3d6A2vUgG7Wd</a>	
	1.4.1 Analyze the requirements and key functionalities of a shared environmental reporting system	2022-12-30	100	100	Updates provided at output level and previous PIRs	S
	1.4.2 Organize an MEA Network meeting to discuss and agree on the requirements of the system, identify a host agency and establish clear responsibilities information management system	2023-06-30	100	100	Updates provided at output level and previous PIRs	S
	1.4.3 Develop and implement the system based on the identified requirements	2024-12-31	80	100	The South Sudan EIS portal ( <a href="https://southsudaneis.net/">https://southsudaneis.net/</a> ) is now functional. End user training has also been undertaken at the national level. Incorporation of user preferences, deployment and data entry is ongoing.	S
	1.4.4 Provide training for different user groups on the use of the information management system. Make data available on the shared environmental information system	2024-12-31	100	100	Besides other trainings undertaken and reported in 2023, a comprehensive EIS training was undertaken for the NEIN on both end user functions and back-end management of the EIS data portal. For now the EIS is more of a data repository that collects, stores and shares data based on the indicator framework. The	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating	
					EIS also integrates an AI assistant that could be relied on to process or synthesise heavy/ big/ complex data sets available on the portal or imported into it.		
2	Strengthening of coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs	Output 2.1 MEA Network established and other mechanisms implemented to support enhanced coordination	2023-12-31	100	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project facilitated the establishment and operationalisation of the South Sudan National Environment Information Network (NEIN) with clear terms of reference (ToR) that are updated on a rolling basis.</li> <li>In 2022, the EIS working group and NEIN network produced a status/ sector report on the Country's wetland ecosystems dubbed "A rapid environmental assessment of the Sudd wetland ecosystem in South Sudan". The Sudd wetland is Ramsar site, a tentative UNESCO World Heritage site and Africa's largest fresh water wetland system whose ecosystem goods and services are estimated at USD 3 billion. The Sudd nourishes the Great Nile Migration Landscape (GNML) for which a 2024 wildlife survey by African Parks confirmed it hosts the largest land mammal migration on Earth (6 million animals), four times the 2million wildebeest, zebra and gazelle migration at the Mara-Serengeti.</li> <li>The project also supported participation of 2-3 national experts nominated by the 3 Rio MEA offices, for meetings held in</li> </ul>	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					2022 (Glasgow climate COP26 and Montreal Biodiversity COP15) and December 2023 (Agriculture experts attending the Dubai climate COP27).• Establishment and launch of the NEIN: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_dCw6Tbq3qjFiCN1Vqiw9FkQuUvn2itm/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_dCw6Tbq3qjFiCN1Vqiw9FkQuUvn2itm/view?usp=drive_link</a>	
	2.1.1 Organize a technical workshop to discuss and agree on the establishment of an MEA Network.	2023-12-31	100	100	• Establishment and launch of the NEIN: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_dCw6Tbq3qjFiCN1Vqiw9FkQuUvn2itm/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_dCw6Tbq3qjFiCN1Vqiw9FkQuUvn2itm/view?usp=drive_link</a>	S
	2.1.2 Prepare the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the network, and formally establish it through notification or ministerial order by MoEF. Organize regular meetings of the network	2023-12-31	100	100	• ToR for South Sudan NEIN: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pm_xMUXUTChMSXkiZq3Wjdt5WRtKBUTd/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pm_xMUXUTChMSXkiZq3Wjdt5WRtKBUTd/view?usp=drive_link</a>	S
	2.1.3 Issue a biannual newsletter, publish brief "state of the sector" reports, and/or sponsor the participation in regional meetings/trainings	2023-12-31	100	100	• In 2022, the EIS working group and NEIN network produced a status/ sector report on the Country's wetland ecosystems dubbed "A rapid environmental assessment of the Sudd wetland ecosystem in South Sudan". The Sudd wetland is Ramsar site, a tentative UNESCO World Heritage site and Africa's largest fresh water wetland system whose ecosystem goods and services are estimated at USD 3 billion. The Sudd nourishes the Great Nile Migration Landscape (GNML) for which a 2024 wildlife survey by African Parks confirmed it hosts the largest land	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					mammal migration on Earth (6 million animals), four times the 2million wildebeest, zebra and gazelle migration at the Mara-Serengeti. • The project also supported participation of 2-3 national experts nominated by the 3 Rio MEA offices, for meetings held in 2022 (Glasgow climate COP26 and Montreal Biodiversity COP15) and December 2023 (Agriculture experts attending the Dubai climate COP27). • Two NEIN representatives were facilitated to participate in a regional assessments training meeting held in Cairo, in May 2024 • Rapid assessment of the Sudd wetland: <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40419">https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40419</a>	
	2.1.4 Implement other mechanisms to support enhanced consultation and coordination in support of the Rio Conventions.	2023-12-31	100	100	See 2023 PIR	S
	Output 2.2: Activities for awareness and capacity building implemented to support the implementation of MEAs/ SDGs:	2024-12-31	50	100	Most public awareness building activities planned under this output were delivered during the previous reporting period as per the 2023 PIR report. Some examples include • Rapid assessment of the Sudd wetland report ( <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40419">https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40419</a> ) • Launch of the Sudd assessment report ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3nK_IKn_UE&amp;list=PLqlumiiYDF0avcx5LD57Vabw5oxarzIaH&amp;index=15">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3nK_IKn_UE&amp;list=PLqlumiiYDF0avcx5LD57Vabw5oxarzIaH&amp;index=15</a> ) • Radio and television	S



Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					bulletins, newspaper articles etc ( <a href="https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqLumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarZlaH&amp;si=Rn-ccgub0gPffU6g">https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqLumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarZlaH&amp;si=Rn-ccgub0gPffU6g</a> )• Public lectures for university students ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PBdC-3JTrM&amp;list=PLqLumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarZlaH&amp;index=13">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PBdC-3JTrM&amp;list=PLqLumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarZlaH&amp;index=13</a> )• Training on Online Access to Research in the Environment - OARE ( <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/11MPMDZt3aoH7hv23HUBNXiffTdCxgSNO/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/11MPMDZt3aoH7hv23HUBNXiffTdCxgSNO/view</a> )• Public awareness documentary aired during the 2023 World Environment Day ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25OWyuFUdQY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25OWyuFUdQY</a> )• South Sudan 2024 PIR report for the GEF CCCD project: ( <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1je5zdrnHe8cKs9RHPdtgPgoULxQZ0Sis/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1je5zdrnHe8cKs9RHPdtgPgoULxQZ0Sis/view?usp=drive_link</a> )	
	2.2.1 Prepare an awareness and capacity development plan and conduct a rapid assessment on the Sudd wetland, based on analysis of high-resolution geospatial maps to support the implementation of the Rio Conventions (including Ramsar) Reformulated as above during the inception workshop. Original activity description read: Prepare an awareness and capacity development plan to support the implementation of the Rio Conventions (including Ramsar)	2024-12-31	100	100	See 2023 PIR.(a) Rapid assessment report of the Sudd wetland ecosystem report ( <a href="https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40419">https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40419</a> )(b) Launch of the Sudd assessment report: ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3nK_IKn_UE&amp;list=PLqLumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarZlaH&amp;index=15">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3nK_IKn_UE&amp;list=PLqLumiiYDFOavcx5LD57Vabw5oxarZlaH&amp;index=15</a> )(c) Public awareness documentary aired during the 2023 World Environment Day: ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25OWyuF">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25OWyuF</a>	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					UDQY)	
	2.2.2 Conduct a baseline awareness survey among key stakeholders (at national and state/local level)	2024-12-31	0	100	Capacity building events have been based on several baseline studies conducted before development of the EIS and the baseline GEF CCCD capacity building scorecard survey conducted during the project inception workshop in 2021. A mid-term review (MTR) update of the scorecard is ongoing, that will appraise South Sudan current institutional capabilities with regard to MEA conventions implementation for the period 2021-2023. EIS and ICT systems assessment report(s) link ( <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gT9QwlgfkGHveQwKySYAuA_JFXJrXpZ7/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gT9QwlgfkGHveQwKySYAuA_JFXJrXpZ7/view?usp=drive_link</a> )	S
	2.2.3 Implement the awareness and capacity development plan	2024-12-31	100	100	Rapid assessment finalised during the previous reporting period. During the reporting period, the UNCCD focal point office under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) was facilitated with partial funding to participate in UNFCCC COP28 held in the UAE in December 2023. This was the last cycle of COP support for the three Rio convention offices following similar facilitation provided to the UNFCCC and UNCB nfp offices during the period 2021- 2022. Other public awareness activities undertaken in previous reporting period include, OARE trainings in Juba,	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>production of short documentaries, facilitation of global World Environment Day (WED) commemorations. Moreover, a national post-validation and dissemination meeting for the LDN strategy and action prepared by the project in 2022 was held in Juba on 1-2 November 2023, bringing together over 30 local participants from various ministries, academia, NGOs/ CBOs and UN Agencies. The LDN strategy for places a strong emphasis on information and technology dissemination to enhance awareness and build capacity in line with the Rio Conventions. A comprehensive dissemination strategy is planned, utilizing audio-visual, social media, print media like brochures, posters, handbooks, manuals, radio and TV scripts, as well as engaging activities such as agricultural and forestry open days, road shows, and various other promotional materials. This approach is designed to ensure that local communities, who are integral to the implementation of these activities, are well informed and engaged. Additionally, the strategy includes a specific objective to build capacity and raise awareness for sustainable natural resource management. This involves sensitizing policymakers, managers, and</p>	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					landowners, providing dissemination training to extension staff in the agriculture and forestry sectors, developing materials for agroforestry use at national and state levels, and establishing platforms for knowledge exchange and technology development. These efforts aim to create a well-informed community equipped to effectively manage and conserve natural resources, in alignment with the goals of the Rio Conventions.	
	2.2.4 Conduct an end-of-project awareness survey among key stakeholders (at national and state/local level)	2024-12-31	0	100	Capacity building events have been based on several baseline studies conducted before development of the EIS and the baseline GEF CCCD capacity building scorecard survey conducted during the project inception workshop in 2021. A mid-term review (MTR) update of the scorecard is ongoing, that will appraise South Sudan current institutional capabilities with regard to MEA conventions implementation for the period 2021-2023	S
	Output 2.3 Practical guidelines on community participation and engagement developed	2023-12-31	0	40	Project developed a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy whose action plan (see the 2024 Half Year progress report) proposes and formulates extensive pathways in which MoEF and its partners could apply Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) approaches by collaborating and engaging local	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>communities in environmental conservation, restoration, and other sustainable land management. • During the reporting period, UNEP developed Terms of Reference (ToR) validated by MoEF to facilitate recruitment of a consultant to spearhead development of these guidelines as well as the MEA sustainable financing strategy planned in Output 3.2 below. The consultancy deliverables are: • (i) The development of national guidelines for the operationalisation of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration in South Sudan, aimed at ensuring that the public/communities have access to information, participate in the implementation of Rio Conventions, and are afforded access to justice in environmental matters, thereby promoting a healthy and sustainable environment for current and future generations. • (ii) The development of a sustainable financing strategy for continued implementation of the Rio Conventions, relevant SDGs and national policies and laws in the republic of South Sudan. • A national stakeholder consultation workshop held at the Juba Imperial Plaza hotel in June 2024 brought together 45 participants (36 men and 9 women) that discussed both deliverables, whose report will be</p>	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					shared during the next PIR. • ToR Consultancy to develop practical guidelines & Exit strategy (outputs 2.3 and 3.2): ( <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Azc0_t40cLL7W6afOnYKfmh-ZBa1hp6f/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Azc0_t40cLL7W6afOnYKfmh-ZBa1hp6f/view?usp=drive_link</a> ) • Participants list, Agenda photos, inception workshop for outputs 2.3 and 3.2: ( <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MitAkTTOHXXQ-56rSgYyKXzclm7An7FJ/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MitAkTTOHXXQ-56rSgYyKXzclm7An7FJ/view?usp=drive_link</a> ).	
	2.3.1 Develop a communication strategy and practical guidelines to facilitate community participation and engagement	2024-12-30	0	40	See output justification.	S
	2.3.2 Organize a stakeholder consultation meeting to discuss the proposed guidelines	2024-12-31	20	100	See output justification	S
	2.3.3 Disseminate these guidelines through the awareness and training events organized under Output 2.2	2024-12-31	20	40	See output justification	S
3 Integration of key provisions of Rio Conventions in national policies and legislation	Output 3.1 At least 2 sectoral policies, laws or strategies clearly make provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles	2024-12-31	100	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project has so far met and exceeded ProDoc expectations for this output as per the milestones below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental legal frameworks technical working group established in February 2022, that nominated a special taskforce to spearhead formulation of two draft legislations through writeshop facilitated by regional and national legal experts provided by CEDARE and MoEF.</li> <li>Establishment of a special taskforce that spearheaded the formulation the South Sudan Environment Bill 2023 and the South Sudan Forestry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>Bill 2023. This was done through three writeshop organised in Kenya and Uganda (July 2023), followed by a national validation meeting in Juba (November 2024) attended by over 70 stakeholders/ participants from all the ten States. o Both Bills were formally submitted for review by the Minister in charge of Environment to the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) in May 2024. o A special MoJCA committee further reviewed the Environment Bill and provided feedback to the Minister MoEF for revisions. Its hoped enactment processes for these draft legislations will be finalised before the elections in December 2024. • Production and validation of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy and action plan in 2023. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) was supported to organise a national dissemination workshop for the report in November 2024</p>	
	3.1.1 Establish an Environmental Policy Working Group	2022-09-30	100	100	<p>EIS technical working group established in February 2022. Attached is the Terms of reference for the ELF working group [<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/14bOijxivbzOtSjd_Kec9mx8Y5uyLFtQl/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/14bOijxivbzOtSjd_Kec9mx8Y5uyLFtQl/view?usp=sharing</a>]. A special task force of the ELFWG was set-up during a meeting held at the MoEF boardroom on 13 April 2022</p>	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					to fast-track and coordinate the process. Its first major assignment is to organize a Writeshop with regional environmental legal experts to review/re-define the scope of the two Bills, now planned for Q3 of 2022. [Taskforce meeting , April 2022: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/18D15btJNqEwVREAKIKOQDjkTfw731lbb/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/18D15btJNqEwVREAKIKOQDjkTfw731lbb/view</a> ]	
	3.1.2 Conduct a detailed analysis of existing sectoral policies, laws and strategies to identify gaps	2022-06-30	100	100	Working paper outlining opportunities to incorporate Rio Convention principles into existing draft policies, laws and strategies finalised in 2022: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SqD9qibWAj66eOZ3xWGxxgNA93ZYhQ51/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SqD9qibWAj66eOZ3xWGxxgNA93ZYhQ51/view?usp=drive_link</a>	S
	3.1.3 Draft a working paper outlining opportunities to incorporate Rio Convention principles into existing draft policies, laws and strategies	2022-06-30	100	100	Working paper outlining opportunities to incorporate Rio Convention principles into existing draft policies, laws and strategies finalised in 2022: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SqD9qibWAj66eOZ3xWGxxgNA93ZYhQ51/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SqD9qibWAj66eOZ3xWGxxgNA93ZYhQ51/view?usp=drive_link</a>	S
	3.1.4 Organize an MEA Network meeting and public consultations (including at the state level and with civil society organizations) to discuss the outcomes of the analysis and decide on the priority bills and policies to be supported by the project	2023-06-30	100	100	Activity 100% finalised in previous reporting periods. During the reporting period, a Bills writeshop was organised in Uganda (July 2023) followed by two national validation meetings held in Juba (November 2023) for the Bills and the LDN strategy. Attached is the combined participant lists for Writeshops, validation meetings and	HS



Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					other stakeholder consultation forums for the formulation of Bills & the LDN strategy, held between 2021 and 2024: [ <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hLYRCz85Gsf87kPnUg22wznTjohoXtZ-/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hLYRCz85Gsf87kPnUg22wznTjohoXtZ-/view?usp=drive_link</a> ]	
	3.1.5 Support the finalization of the selected priority bills and policies, including their submission to the Ministry of Justice for final drafting. Work towards the adoption of the draft bills and policies	2024-12-31	100	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of a special taskforce of the ELF working group spearheaded the formulation the South Sudan Environment Bill 2023 and the South Sudan Forestry Bill 2023. • This was done through three writeshops organised in Kenya (in October 2022 and February 2023) and Uganda (July 2023), followed by a national validation meeting in Juba (November 2024) attended by over 70 stakeholders/ participants from all the ten States. Both Bills were formally submitted for review by the Minister in charge of Environment to the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA) in May 2024. A special MoJCA committee further reviewed the Environment Bill and provided feedback to the Minister MoEF for revisions. Its hoped enactment processes for these draft legislations will be finalised before the elections in December 2024. • During the reporting period, a Bills writeshop was organised in Uganda (July 2023) followed by two national validation meetings held in</li> </ul>	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>Juba (November 2023) for the Bills and the LDN strategy. • Environment Bill 2023  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LKwrnkF7B3c7EMWqbzPRdLsyzya4qN6_/view?usp=drive_link">[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LKwrnkF7B3c7EMWqbzPRdLsyzya4qN6_/view?usp=drive_link]</a>. • Forestry Bill 2023  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Klykyh2ps_ySOJJpzXQ1yrITzCSxiBDJ/view?usp=drive_link">[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Klykyh2ps_ySOJJpzXQ1yrITzCSxiBDJ/view?usp=drive_link]</a>. • MoEF submission of Bills for MoJCA review [  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kzjfQj879wUx602DlujP7Jrxcs2OQyrO/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kzjfQj879wUx602DlujP7Jrxcs2OQyrO/view?usp=drive_link]</a></p>	
	Output 3.2 Sustainable financing strategy developed	2024-12-31	0	40	<p>• This activity is 40% done as outlined in output 2.3 above. • During the reporting period, UNEP developed Terms of Reference (ToR) validated by MoEF to facilitate the recruitment of a consultant to spearhead the development of these guidelines as well as the MEA sustainable financing strategy planned in Output 3.2 • A national stakeholder consultation workshop held at the Juba Imperial Plaza hotel in June 2024 brought together 45 participants (36 men and 9 women) that discussed both deliverables, whose report will be shared during the next PIR. • Consultancy ToR  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Azc0_t40cLL7W6afOnYKfmh-ZBa1hp6f/view?usp=drive_link">[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Azc0_t40cLL7W6afOnYKfmh-ZBa1hp6f/view?usp=drive_link]</a> • Participants list for</p>	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					inception workshop [tps://drive.google.com/file/d/1MItAkTTOHXXQ-56rSgYykXzclm7An7FJ/view?usp=drive_link]	
	3.2.1 Conduct an analysis of the current funding sources and gaps related to the implementation of the Rio Conventions, the relevant SDGs and national policies and laws	2024-12-31	0	40	Ongoing. Report expected in Q4 of 2024.	S
	3.2.2 Draft a sustainable financing strategy	2024-12-31	0	40	Activity ongoing. Report expected in Q4 of 2024. • ToR Consultancy to develop practical guidelines & sustainable financing strategy (outputs 2.3 and 3.2) [ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Azc0_t40cLL7W6afOnYKfmh-ZBa1hp6f/view?usp=drive_link]	S
	3.2.3 Organize consultations to discuss the strategy with the sector agencies and other relevant stakeholders. Once finalized, the progress in implementing the strategy will be regularly monitored at the MEA Network meetings.	2024-12-31	0	40	• Participants list for inception workshop [tps://drive.google.com/file/d/1MItAkTTOHXXQ-56rSgYykXzclm7An7FJ/view?usp=drive_link]	S
	3.2.4 Organize a training for staff of relevant government agencies and NGOs on writing project proposals to access funding for environmental projects	2024-12-31	0	40	First stakeholder consultation meeting held in June 2024. Other meetings including training on resource mobilisation to follow.	S

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

## 4 Risks

### 4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

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

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

### 4.2 Table B. Risk-log

#### Implementation Status (Current PIR)

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

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
All outcomes 1-3	Limited institutional capacities to support project implementation and programme continuity.	L	L	L	L	L		L	=	Same risk rating at last PIR.
All outcomes. particularly outcome 3	Lack of horizontal coordination across ministries and agencies.	M	M	M	M	L		L	↓	Inter-ministerial collaborations for Rio Conventions implementation in South Sudan are on a positive trajectory since Government

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										ministries have more accessibility to financial resources. a scenario that harbours close relations as partners coalesce around the few donor agencies supporting environmental MEA implementation in the Country.
Outcome 1 and 2	Inadequate government and other stakeholder commitment to the process. including reluctance to share information and data.	M	M	M	L	L		L	=	Inter-ministerial coordination is being handled through the NEIN network. MoEF coordination mandate on environmental governance has been enhanced through draft legislations under review.
All outcomes	Instability and insecurity in certain parts of the Country	M	M	M	M	L		L	=	The whole country is still classified by UNDSS as a non-family duty station but the civil war has largely stopped since 2018.
All outcomes	Inability to mobilize adequate co-financing for the implementation of project activities and outputs	L	L	L	L	L		L	=	The project has mobilised \$ 1.6 million compared with the \$1.45 million pledged as in-kind co-financing
All outcomes	Inability to maintain the finances required for a sustained continuation of project activities and outputs after the project ends. including maintaining IT infrastructure and internet access.	H	M	M	L	L		L	=	Mobilised cofinancing has already exceeded the pledged amount.
All outcomes	COVID-19 pandemic	N/A	M	M	L	L		L	=	COVID-19 has been contained in South Sudan

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

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

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

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

## 5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

### Project Minor Amendments

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

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

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

Minor amendments

- Normal annual budget revision completed in June 2024.
- Revised 2024 GEF Budgets [ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gxOieged0Q37G80LcuBcSPyzTyeixUbv/view?usp=sharing> ]

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

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

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
ICA amendment	Extension	2023-07-18	2023-07-18	2025-06-30	No cost extension to compensate time lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

GEO Location Information:

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
South Sudan	7.5	30	7909807	Entire region for South Sudan	GEF CCCD is a capacity building project executed at the national level. covering the whole country.

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

The Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) project was designed to strengthen the legal, policy, and planning frameworks to support collection and sharing of environmental data covering a whole country.

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

**Additional Supporting Documents:**

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
Word Template; 9815_PIR_UNEP_2024-July-28.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-28 13:24:01	<a href="#">Download</a>
Word Template; 9815_PIR_UNEP_2024-	Executing Agency	2024-07-28 13:24:01	<a href="#">Download</a>



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July-28.docx			