

UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2023

Reporting from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1. Project details

Identification Table	GEF ID: 9815	Umoja WBS: SB-0016456
	SMA IPMR ID: 44073	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000648
	Project Short Title: <i>South Sudan GEF CCCD</i>	
Project Title	Systemic, institutional and individual capacity for the implementation of the Rio Conventions in the Republic of South Sudan	
Duration months	<i>Planned</i>	36
	<i>Age</i>	<i>26 Months old. Implementation began in June 2021</i>
Project Type	<i>Medium Size Project [MSP]</i>	
Parent Programme if child project	N/A	
Project Scope	<i>National</i>	
Region	<i>Africa</i>	
Countries	<i>South Sudan</i>	
GEF Focal Area(s)	<i>Multi Focal Areas [MFA]</i>	
GEF financing amount	USD 1,000,000	
Co-financing amount	USD 1,450,000	
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	11 February 2019	
UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	<i>28 January 2020</i>	
Start of Implementation (ICA entering into force)	28 January 2020	
Date of Inception Workshop, if available	<i>28 – 30 June 2021</i>	
Date of First Disbursement	3 February 2021	
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2023	<i>USD 955,000</i>	
Total expenditure as of 30 June 2023	<i>USD 615,398.93</i>	
Midterm undertaken?	<i>No</i>	
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken	<i>NA</i>	
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	<i>February 2024</i>	
Completion Date	<i>Planned – original ICA</i>	30 September 2023
	<i>Revised – Current ICA</i>	30 June 2025
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	<i>Q3 of 2024</i>	
Expected Financial Closure Date	<i>Q2 of 2026</i>	

1.2. Project description

The Africa Office of 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. Project document link on the GEF website <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 the foundational laws governing the management of environment and forestry resources. Drafting of requisite laws begun after independence in 2011, but the process stalled along the way because of the political instability/ struggles and civil war that has persisted between 2013 and 2020 only suppressed by 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. Environmental governance is currently managed through ministerial decrees based on the 2012 Forestry and 2015 Environment Policies.

In South Sudan, publication of official statistics is a mandate of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). However, because of the long protracted civil war, political conflicts and other instabilities that have plagued the Country since independence from Sudan in 2011, no meaningful collection, compilation and publication of official statistics has been done. NBS continues to experience high staff turnover as experienced personnel leave their underpaid civil service jobs for greener pastures with the private sector or other development partners. This scenario is replicated in most government ministries with mandate or interest to produce, consume or disseminate environmental statistics.

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 organisation 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/ day.

On internet and mobile penetration, between February and May 2023, the [Datareportal](#) and the [World Bank](#) projected that South Sudan had about 700,000 internet/ social media users (majority between 18 -34 years) and 3.58 million cellular mobile connections translating to internet penetration/ social media users and mobile phones penetration rates of 4-6.5% and 30% respectively. This shows South Sudan is one of the Worlds least connected Country information wise. Similarly, only about 7% have 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 go-to platform preferred by most organisations to disseminate information to the public.

Needles to mention, the Country has very few online platforms (if any) that could fit the descriptions of environmental information systems, and none of them is pioneered by the core environmental data producers targeted as part of the SSNEIN. This is largely so because all government institutional have limited or no existing capacities (be it financial or technical) to develop such systems on their own. 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 cycles, in comparison to other political sensitive issues like meeting budgetary requirements for defense/ security, food security, poverty eradication, education, transportation, peace and cohesion etc.

Literacy rates are improving as most of parents embrace western education systems. Moreover, 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 literate youth on a clear path for sustainable development. For example, in GEF6 and GEF7, South Sudan was awarded about USD 12,000 grants which are various stages of implementation, one being the UAD 1,000,000 project executed by the UNEP Africa Office.

Component 1 and 2 of this GEF6 CCCD project is focused on the establishment of a national collaboration mechanism for the Rio Conventions (MEA Network initially proposed), the compilation of a core set of environmental indicators and data sharing protocols, and development of 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, leading to enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting.

- (2) Strengthening of coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs, leading to enhanced consultation and coordination for the sustained implementation of the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs.
- (3) Integration of key provisions of the Rio Conventions in national policies and legislation, leading to national policies that include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.

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), responsible for overall project oversight and implementation, including progress/impact monitoring and ensuring the proper use of GEF funds. The UNEP Africa Office serves as the project Executing Agency- EA (on behalf and in collaboration with the South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), and thus charged with the management and administration of the day-to-day project activities as per specific requirements, in addition to managing the delivery of project outputs, under the oversight and supervision of the UNEP Science Division. A Project Management Unit (PMU) has already been established within UNEP Africa Office, including a UNEP Project Manager and the Project Coordinator.

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:

- An analysis report of current environmental information systems, data flows, environmental statistics and reporting mechanisms.
- Development of a core set of environmental indicators and a protocol/ MoU on data sharing and management.
- The design and operationalization of a national Environmental Information management System (EIS).
- Establishment of MEA Network and other mechanisms to support enhanced MEA/ SDG coordination.
- A rapid assessment of the Sudd Wetland based on the analysis of high-resolution geospatial maps.
- A communication strategy and practical guidelines on community participation in MEA implementation.
- 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

Division(s) Implementing the project	<i>Early Warning and Assessment Division [EWAD] – formerly the Science Division</i>
Name of co-implementing Agency	<i>None</i>
Executing Agency(ies)	South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) supported by the UNEP Africa Office.
Names of Other Project Partners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (<i>Schools of Natural Resources, and the School of Law</i>) 9) SSNCO: The South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation 10) The Sudd Institute 11) SSAPU: South Sudan Agricultural Producers' Union 12) The South Sudan Geologic Society



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	13) South Sudan National Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Forestry. 14) MoJCA: Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Jochem Zoetelief
UNEP Task Manager(s)	<i>Jochem Zoetelief</i>
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	<i>Florence Kahi</i>
UNEP Support/Assistants	<i>Ayda Villalobos-Castro</i>
EA Manager/Representative	<i>Charles Sebukeyera</i>
EA Project Manager	(i) For UNEP: Nicholas Mutiso (ii) For MoEF: Paul Demettry Lado
EA Finance Manager	<i>Stephen Ndeti</i>
EA Communications Lead, if relevant	<i>Charles Sebukeyera</i>

2. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

2.1 UNEP PoW and UN

UNEP Current Sub programme(s)	<i>Science-Policy foundational subprogramme</i>	
PoW Indicator(s)	<p><i>SP (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.</i></p> <p><i>SP (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.</i></p>	
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)	The project was designed during UNEPs 2018-2019 PoW, begun implementation during the 2020 – 2021 PoW under Sub Programme 7 (<i>Environment Under Review</i>) and remains compliant with UNEPs 2022–2025 medium term strategy for tackling climate change, loss of nature and pollution.	
UNSDCF / UNDAF linkages	<u>South Sudan United Nations Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2025</u>	
	National Development Strategy (R-NDS) 2021-2024 priorities	Relevant UNSDCF outcomes and Outputs
	UNSDF strategic priority 1.0: Transparent, accountable & inclusive governance	
	8.6.1 Gender mainstreaming and women empowerment	UNSDF Outcome 1: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and participate in more transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance that protects and promotes human rights, enables the consolidation of peace, establishes the rule of law and ensures access to justice for all
	8.6.4 Capacity development	Output 1.6. The National Statistical System 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
	UNSDF strategic priority 2.0: Sustainable economic growth & diversification	
	4.5.2. Economic Governance (natural resource management)	UNSDF Outcome 2: Women and men in South Sudan, particularly youth and vulnerable groups, benefit from and contribute to more sustainable and inclusive economic development, with reduced dependence on oil, improved climate change adaptation and greater resilience to economic shocks
	8.6.1 Gender mainstreaming & women empowerment	Output 2.5. Relevant Ministries, Departments 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
	8.6.3 Environment	Output 2.6 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
	UNSDF strategic priority 4.0: Women/ youth empowerment for sustainable development	
	8.6.1 Gender Mainstreaming & Women empowerment	Outcome 4: Women, youth plus vulnerable groups are empowered to demand and exercise their political, economic, social, environmental and cultural rights
	8.6.2. Youth empowerment	Output 4.1. Civil society, political groupings and movements, particularly those that are representing women, youth and vulnerable groups, have enhanced knowledge and skills to meaningfully engage in a rights-based approach to decision-making across peace and governance structures, systems and processes
<u>UNSDCF linkages</u>		
The GEF6 CCCD project in South Sudan has three main outcomes/ components:		
a) enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting;		

	<p>b) enhanced coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the sustained implementation of Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs; and</p> <p>c) National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.</p> <p>As a result, the project primarily contributes to priority areas (i) and (ii) of the 2019-2021 UNCF and priorities 1, 2 and 4 of the <u>2022-2023 UNSDCF</u>; through targeted capacity-building support provided to national environmental actors, MEA focal points, and the general public on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving open access to environmental data, information and knowledge for informed decision making and sustainable management of the natural capital; - Strengthening the resilience of the South Sudan communities through the enhanced implementation of the Rio Conventions and related SDGs.
Link to relevant SDG Goal(s)	<p><i>Although the project has been designed to create enabling environment and enhance the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Rio Conventions and all SDGs with an environmental dimension, majority of the project interventions primarily contribute to the following SDGs, targets and indicators:</i></p> <p>SDG 13 (13.2, 13.3); SDG 16 (16.10); and SDG 17 (17.14; 17.18)</p>
Link to relevant SDG Target(s)	SDG 13 (13.2, 13.3); SDG 16 (16.10); and SDG 17 (17.14; 17.18)

2.2. GEF Core Indicators:

2022 Update

Indicator	Expected values at	
	Mid-term	End-of-project
GEF6 Replenishment targets		
a) Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least one (1) country (South Sudan)	-	1 country
b) Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least one (1) country (South Sudan)	-	1 country
Under these two indicators, the overall project objective indicator is: Increased capacity for Rio Convention implementation as shown in the capacity development scorecard.	Mid-term (MTR) (a) Increase of 2 points at a minimum in the total score.	End of project: (b) Increase of 6 points at a minimum in the total score.
GEF7 Core Indicator 11		
Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment Males: 300 Females: 200 Total: 500	Males: 300 Females: 200 Total: 500	Males: 300 Females: 200 Total: 500

2023 Update

Indicators	Targets – Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total target	
GEF6: Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks)	(i) Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in 1 Country (South Sudan) MTR = 0 TE = 1		1 Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Technical working groups, 1 special legal taskforce, and 1 National Environmental Information Network (NEIN) established. • 2 Bills, 1 Strategy and 1 Assessment report developed, integrating Rio Conventions priorities
	(ii) Functional environmental information systems (EIS) are established to support decision-making in South Sudan [1 Country]		1 Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 EIS system developed, including an underlying environmental indicator system
GEF7: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by	Males: 300 Females: 200	Males: 300 Females: 200	500 People	So far, over 1,000 people have directly been directly impacted by project interventions. For example, launch of the Sudd assessment report during national commemorations for World

gender as co-benefit of GEF investment				Environment Day (WED) in July 2022 involved over 600 guests, while thousands followed the live broadcast aired by national TV channels like SSBC and EYE TV [https://youtu.be/bSuc9cqR8Us]
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2.3. Implementation Status and Risk

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
PIR #	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)	N/A	S	S
Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)	S	S	MS
Risk rating (section 4.2)	M	M	M

2022 PIR

During the reporting period, the project supported the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) and other environmental actors in South Sudan to:

- Prepare, publish and launch a rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem¹;
- Prepare, validate and complete a national strategy and action plan on Land Degradation and Neutrality (LDN strategy)² under the auspices of the ELFWG working group;
- Prepare a final draft of a working paper analyzing opportunities to integrate Rio convention priorities in national draft policies/bills³ under the auspices of the Environmental and Legal Frameworks technical working group (ELFWG) working group;
- Establish two technical working groups (*one on Environmental Information Systems and another on Environmental Legal frameworks*) to pioneer project interventions on environmental data reporting⁴ and legal issues⁵;
- Initiate the harmonization of environmental indicators to underpin ongoing design of the country's Environmental Information System (EIS) portal expected to be deployed in Q4 of 2022.
- Commission the design of an Environmental Information System (EIS) to facilitate open-source based data collection, sharing and reporting; informed by two scoping and stakeholder consultation workshops. The structure of the State of Environment (SoE) & SDG and indicators modules are in advanced stages with full deployment expected in 2023.
- Commission the installation of a renewable solar energy power supply system to replace a fossil-based system at the Juba offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)⁶.

2023 PIR Update

The 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

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

Project Outcomes

- Enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting.
- Enhanced coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the sustained implementation of Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs.
- National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.

The **progress 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:

- A National Environmental Information Network (SS-NEIN) is established, operationalized and trained.
- Core set of 178 environmental indicators were formulated, validated by the SSNEIN, and incorporated in the inaugural Environmental Information System (EIS) for South Sudan.

¹ [A rapid assessment of the state of Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan, 2022](#)

² [Draft South Sudan Land Degradation and Neutrality \(LDN\) Strategy and Action Plan, 2022](#)

³ [Draft report on the implementation of the RIO Conventions in South Sudan, 2022](#)

⁴ South Sudan EIS-WG ToR: https://drive.google.com/file/d/13acqBJNMudgsoxFAHl7fA8UAj_Ajvh0p/view?usp=sharing

⁵ South Sudan ELF-WG ToR: https://drive.google.com/file/d/14bOijxvzbzOtSjd_Kec9mx8Y5uyLFtQI/view?usp=sharing

⁶ [Design of a renewable energy/ solar power installation at MoEF offices in Juba, 2022](#)

- (iii) A Beta version of the EIS portal has been validated by the SSNEIN and is now ready for deployment and end-user testing.
- (iv) Development of an SS NEIN ICT needs assessment and training plan⁷ for seamless deployment of the EIS reporting tool
- (v) 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.
- (vi) 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 (SS-NEIN).
- (vii) Environmental legislation and Policy formulation for decision making: (i) 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, (ii) production of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LSDN) Strategy 2023, (iii) establishment of a special taskforce that convened two writeshops and formulated the draft Environment Bill 2023 and draft Forestry Bill 2023.

Rating towards outputs: Aligned with progress reported on section 3.2.

2022 PIR

Workplan implementation and budget utilisation peaked during the reporting period as the UNEP project management team and national stakeholders collaborated on various fronts to deliver 40 - 100% results expected under the following outputs, as per the GEF approved Project Document (ProDoc) results framework and workplan.

- Output 1.1 Analysis of the current environmental information systems: *Project Management Unit (PMU) & Project Steering Committee (PSC) established and operationalized. EIS analysis successfully completed. Recommendations being applied in the design of the EIS*
- Output 1.2 Priority environmental indicators identified and agreed upon: *Draft core list of environmental indicators identified, awaiting final validation*
- Output 1.3 Training provided on data collection and management methodologies: *Two major EIS related trainings conducted by CEDARE and UNEP in Cairo and Juba. Four MoEF technicians planned to undergo a third training session with CEDARE facilitation on back-end management of the EIS portal in August 2022.*
- Output 1.4 Shared environmental information system developed and implemented: *EIS design commissioned in November 2021. Two stakeholder and design scoping workshops already completed. A skeleton EIS design already functional and being used for training level back-end data entry and publishing. Procurements for computers and a small solar system at MoEF nearing completion.*
- 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: *Two technical groups proposed by the ProDoc already established, operationalized and actively engaged in all project activities. Two MoEF delegates facilitated to participate and actively engage in the 2021 UNFCCC COP26.*
- Output 2.2: Activities for awareness and capacity building implemented to support the implementation of the Rio Conventions and the relevant SDGs: *MoEF and the working groups supported to coordinate the preparation and launch of a rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem, whose launch was the main agenda item during this year's World Environment Day (WED) commemorations. The project collaborated with UNDP to procure the following WED items requested by MoEF: (i) environmental education promotional materials (T-shirts, caps, flyers, posters, banners), (ii) Tree planting campaign supplies (300 seedlings, water cans, gloves, hoes, shovels, gumboots), (iii) refreshments (water, soda, biscuits, sweets), (iv) hiring the meeting venue (Freedom Hall) and professional sound system, and (v) the launch of an environment and livelihoods resilience talk show in the local SSBC TV and Miraya FM Radio in collaboration with FAO.*
- Output 3.1 At least 2 sectoral policies, laws or strategies clearly make provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles: *The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAFS) and MoEF facilitated to complete the preparation and validation of (i) a LDN strategy and action plan, and (ii) a final draft of a working paper analyzing opportunities to integrate Rio convention priorities in national draft policies/bills*

2023 PIR Update

Progress towards outputs, since during the reporting period, MoEF and other environmental actors in South Sudan were supported to:

⁷ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vzohVGAM2iUnHPKDrluq3RRt1vcYA3Ph/view?usp=drive_link

- (i) Organise national events to commemorate World Environment Day (WED) 2022 during the national environment week (27 June to 4 July 2022) including the launch of the Sudd assessment report, town cleaning and tree planting campaigns, Tv and radio talk shows and production of a 30-minute public awareness creation documentary highlighting all these activities and advocating for observance of sound environmental management and governance.
- (ii) Launch and undertake outreaches on the rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem⁸ in South Sudan.
- (iii) Organise a virtual public lecture for the faculty and IESD centre at the University of Tonji in China and environmental technocrats in South Sudan, presenting results of the Sudd rapid assessment study from a Science-Policy-Politics interface.
- (iv) Organise a national training for academia and environmental actors on how to access free research articles on the environment through the Research4Life and Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE)
- (v) Facilitate two MoEF delegates (*the Undersecretary for MoEF and the IPBES national focal point*) attending the high-level segment of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD)
- (vi) Develop a national strategy and action plan on Land Degradation and Neutrality (LDN strategy)⁹,
- (vii) Develop a working paper analyzing opportunities to integrate Rio convention priorities in national draft policies/bills¹⁰,
- (viii) Validate a core set of environmental indicators underpinning the design of a national Environmental Information System (EIS)/ portal developed aimed at facilitating open source data collection, sharing and reporting.
- (ix) Procure eight computers and one satellite phone for setting up an information communication technology- ICT hub at MoEF to be used by the SS-NEIN secretariat and the directorate of environmental education and information.
- (x) Develop and launch five self-paced online EIS training tutorial videos to be used as an EIS user interface training manual for back-end system managers
- (xi) Organised the first and second regional writeshops¹¹ that formulated South Sudan's draft Environment Bill 2022, in October 2022 followed by the Draft Environment Bill 2023 and the Draft Forest Bill 2023 prepared in February 2023.
- (xii) Participate in a 3-days South-South experiences & knowledge sharing forum on the management of GEF CCCD funded programmes, especially on the deployment of data/ information management systems in support of environmental assessments and reporting¹²
- (xiii) Participate in an 8 days training on GIS, Remote sensing application and environmental data visualization for environmental reporting and assessments at the US based George Mason University (GMU) Center for Environmental Science and Technology titled "*UNEP/GMU Training Workshop on Mapping and Monitoring Natural Capital of Africa Using Remote Sensing Data*"
- (xiv) Install a 10-kw solar plant at the MoEF offices in Juba¹³, providing adequate supply of clean renewable energy capable of meeting all essential daily power demands at the MoEF headquarters, and
- (xv) Facilitated two national stakeholder consultation missions culminating in the establishment of the South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS NEIN) and development of an SS NEIN ICT needs assessment and training plan¹⁴ for seamless deployment of the EIS reporting tool

Overall risk rating: justify consolidated project risk given on Table A in section 3.3.

2021 Update

Nothing to report during this reporting period as the project officially started last month (*inception workshop held during the last week of June 2021 following the recruitment of the Project Coordinator*). Comprehensive initial update to be provided in the next PIR report.

2022 Update

Work plan implementation and progress reporting during the reference period far exceeded the status reported in 2021. The project did not experience any emergence of substantial risks. As a result, an overall medium (M) risk rating as reported in 2021, has been proposed. Insecurity and frequent tribal tensions persist in most parts of the country relative to the same scenario in June 2021, when the project begun.

2023 PIR Update

No change from the previous reporting period as the project did not experience emergence of new substantial risks. As a result, a **Low - Medium (L / M) risk rating is recommended/ proposed in 2023** as was the case in the PIR reports of 2021 and 2022.

2.4. Co-financing

Planned Co-finance Total: USD 1,450,000 Actual to date: 30 June 2023 MoEF: USD 864,000	USD 1,181,467 in-kind co-financing has been realised by 30 June 2023, being contributions from MoEF and UNEP Africa Office. This translates to 82% of the USD 1,450,000 planned co-financing. Four more national partners are scheduled to report their contributions during the next reporting period.
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⁸ [A rapid assessment of the state of Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan, 2022](#)

⁹ [Final report: South Sudan Land Degradation and Neutrality \(LDN\) Strategy and Action Plan, 2022](#)

¹⁰ [Draft report on the implementation of the RIO Conventions in South Sudan, 2022](#)

¹¹ [14-16 February 2023 South Sudan Bills Writeshop](#)

¹² [17-19 January 2023 Naivasha GEF CCCD meeting](#)

¹³ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DbmfYr0Hli0IQeNFG7-7AICzFpQcZ9b9/view?usp=drive_link

¹⁴ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vzohVGAM2iUnHPKDrulq3RRt1vcYA3Ph/view?usp=drive_link

<p>UNEP: USD 317,467</p>	
<p>Total = USD 1,181,467 [82%]</p>	
<p>Progress</p> <p>Reported co-financing translates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 82 % of total planned co-financing pledges (ii) 192 % of reported actual GEF grant expenditures. (iii) 1:1 co-financing ratio against the total GEF grant budget (iv) 1: 2 Co-financing ratio against the total actual reported GEF Grant expenditures 	<p>This implies that, by the end of the 2nd year of implementation, utilisation of each US\$ 1 GEF grant funds leveraged a meagre USD 1 to USD 2 additional funding for global environmental benefits. This 1:1-2 co-financing ratios falls short of the aspirations of the <u>revised 2018 GEF co-financing policy</u> that recommended projects to target a ratio of US\$6 in co-financing for each dollar in GEF financing, and creating expectations for greater co-financing for upper middle-income countries that are not SIDS.</p> <p>However, this is expected to improve considerably during the next reporting period since, as a result of GEF CCCD investment (<i>especially on the formulation of two draft Bills and production of a rapid assessment on the Sudd wetlands</i>), MoEF and its partners have so far fundraised additional funding from UNDP, the <u>Nile Basin Initiative</u>, and the Government of Netherlands to facilitate finalisation of the Bills drafting/ review processes and development of a <u>comprehensive management strategy/master plan for the Sudd Westlands ecosystem</u>.</p>

2.5. Stakeholder engagement	
Date of project steering committee meeting	<p>Unfortunately, a PSC didn't materialise during the reporting period since the project team had prioritised finalisation of two key procurements (i) for ICT infrastructure necessary to establish an EIS training hub at MoEF in readiness for national deployment, (ii) as well as installation of a 10 Kw renewable solar supply plant at the MoEF offices which were only completed on the tail end of the reporting period. It was felt that it would be more practical to reschedule the PSC to later in 2023 [<i>still within a calendar year following the 1st session held in February 2022</i>] so that the committee supervises/ inspects these installations, reviews PMU execution of the procurement plan, and provides strategic direction to the PMU in readiness for the Mid Term Review (MTR) due in Q4 of 2023.</p> <p>The <u>second PSC session</u> is now scheduled to be held in Juba during the month of November 2023.</p>
Stakeholder engagement	<p><u>2022 Update</u></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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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), • The Sudd Institute • Institutions of Higher Learning/ Universities/ Research centres etc. • UN Agencies, Community-based organizations (CBOs) and other civil society groups (NGOs etc.)

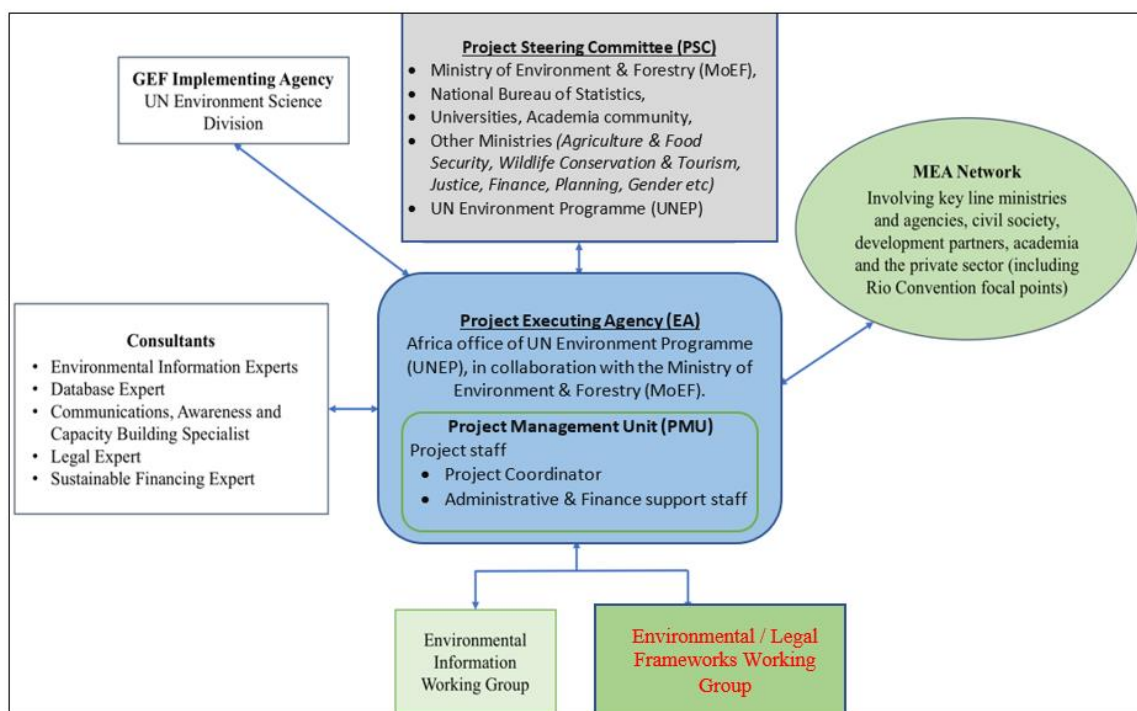


Figure 3: Project organisational structure

Updated by the Inception Workshop on 30.06.2021

During the reporting period, the following project workshops and meetings were held in which almost all these partners participated as outlined below.

2023 Update

During the reporting period, the following project workshops and meetings were held in which almost all these partners participated as outlined below.

Meeting/ Workshop/ Activity	Time & Venue	Participating partner
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9815 GEF CCCD South Sudan

	<p>Organisation of environmental and public awareness promotion events during South Sudan's environment week 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Solid waste clean-up activities, tree-planting campaigns, Radio/TV talk shows ✚ National commemorations for World Environment Day (WED) ✚ Launch of the Rapid Assessment on the Sudd Wetland Ecosystem¹⁵, the 1st National Adaptation Plan (1st NAP) for Climate Change¹⁶, and the 2nd Nationally Determined Contributions (2nd NDC) report to the UNFCCC¹⁷ <p>Production of a 30-minute documentary¹⁸ to enhance visibility of activities held to mark the environment week</p>	27 June - 4 July 2022 Juba	Over 1,000 South Sudanese citizens and representatives from all Governments Ministries and Non state actors.
	Hands on training on the back-end management of environmental information systems like the South Sudan EIS portal	16 - 18 August 2022, Cairo, Egypt	3 MoEF Staff
	First writeshop meeting for the formulation of the draft Environment Protection Bill 2022	18 - 21 October 2022 Naivasha, Kenya	MoEF - Forestry, MoEF- Environment, MoJCA, UoJ, CBO
	National inception workshop for the South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS-NEIN) that validated 178 core list of environmental indicators	24 - 26 October 2022, Juba	28 Participants drawn from MoEF, MAFS, MWCT, NBS, UoJ, SSNCO, MHADM, MWRI, MLF, SSMS, MOGEI, MLHUD, SS CAA, MoP, MoH, UNEP & CEDARE
	Training of Trainers (ToTs) on Research4Life and Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE)	27-28 October 2022	26 Participants drawn from MoEF, MAFS, UoJ, SSNCO, GEO-SS, and UNEP
	Virtual public lecture on the results of the Sudd wetlands rapid assessment study from a Science-Policy-Politics interface, besides highlighting the enormous research potential available for the academic community towards advancing the knowledge gaps identified in the report. Delivered by Mr Peter Gilruth (lead consultant) on 13 July 2022, to University faculty and the research community of the Chinese-based Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD)	13 July 2022, Virtual, Tongji IESD, China	University staff and Students, Faculty
	Training workshop on "Using GEO methodologies for national State of the Environment (SoE) Reporting"	6-7 December 2022, Cairo, Egypt	1 from MoEF
	Closing session and High-Level Segment of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD)	15-19 December 2022 Montreal, Canada	2 from MoEF and UoJ
	GEF CCCD knowledge and experiences sharing forum organised by UNEP's Early Warning and Assessments Division (EWAD - formerly Science Division) in Naivasha Kenya	17-19 January 2023 Naivasha, Kenya	2 MoEF staff

¹⁵ Rapid assessment of the state of the Sudd wetland ecosystem: <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/...>

¹⁶ The 1st National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change, Republic of South Sudan: <https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/publ...>

¹⁷ The 2nd Nationally Determined Contributions report to the UNFCCC, Republic of South Sudan: <https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/publ...>

¹⁸ Documentary: 2022 World Environment Day (WED) Commemorations in South Sudan: <https://youtu.be/25OWyuFUDQY>



PIR FY 2023



9815 GEF CCCD South Sudan

	Second Writeshop for the formulation of the South Sudan Environment and Forestry Bills.	14-16 February 2023 Naivasha, Kenya	<u>14 Participants</u> drawn from: 7 MoEF, 1 MoJCA, 1 KEFRI, 1 UoJ, 2 UNEP 1 CEDARE, 1 Juba Advocate.
	Eight days training on GIS, Remote sensing application and environmental data visualization for environmental reporting and assessments at the George Mason University (GMU) Center for Environmental Science and Technology titled “ <i>UNEP/GMU Training Workshop on Mapping and Monitoring Natural Capital of Africa Using Remote Sensing Data</i> ”	20-28 February 2023, George Mason University (GMU), Washington DC, USA	2 MoEF staff

2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?

2023 Update

Yes. Kindly refer to appendix 8 of the Project Document (ProDoc) titled “*Analysis for the GEF CCCD project: Gender and Ethnicity in South Sudan*”¹⁹ as well as section A.4 of the ProDoc as shown below.

The screenshot shows the UN Environment Document Repository page for the document "Background Analysis for the GEF CCCD Project: Gender and Ethnicity in South Sudan". The page includes a description of the document, its URI, and a list of collections. The description states that South Sudan's civil wars of 1955-1972 and 1983-2005 and the most recent conflicts (2013 and 2016) devastated the country and caused massive displacements, internally and into the neighbouring countries of Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with others resettled abroad in USA, Canada, Australia and Europe. The war resulted in poverty and suffering especially among women and children who are more vulnerable members of the society. Women had to step in to fill roles that had traditionally been performed by men. Most women especially widows who lost their husbands during the wars and single mothers still bear the burden of carrying out both roles.

URI
<https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/40424>

Collections
Factsheets, Infographics and Brochures

Date
2018

Author
United Nations Environment Programme

Citation Tool
Cite document

BROWSE
All of UN Environment Document Repository
Communities & Collections
Authors
Titles
By Issue Date
Language
SDGs
Subject Keywords (UNBIS and GEMET Thesauri)
Country/Region
Document Type
This Collection
Authors
Titles
By Issue Date

Reference: UNEP document repository, 2018: <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/40424>

The gender action plan recommended the following actions for execution during project implementation:

Recommendations with regard to gender: Appendix 8 of the ProDoc

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).

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:

- Ensure adequate representation of women in the project implementation.
- Ensure that the interests of local communities (including women, vulnerable groups and youth) are considered.
- Include women, vulnerable groups, and youth in the target audiences for awareness and capacity building activities.
- 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.

¹⁹ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40424>

<p>Gender mainstreaming</p>	<p>ProDoc Reference in Section A.4</p> <p>“...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...”</p> <p>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. <u>A background analysis on gender and ethnicity in South Sudan²⁰</u> was prepared during the project design phase and is included as a separate document. Gender disaggregated indicators have been included in the project results 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2023 Update</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. South Sudan MoEF project Liaison team is also split 50% of both genders.</p> <p>Moreover, in line with the gender action plan outlined above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <u>178 core list of environmental indicators</u> developed under the project have been disintegrated by gender, age (<i>19 indicators</i>) and socio-economic groups (theme 1). Gender equity has also been promoted within the 2023 draft Environment (<i>Chapter III, clause 9.4</i>) and Forestry (<i>Chapter III, clause 10.4</i>) Bills under formulation with support from the GEF CCCD project. Infact, the principle of gender balance was further emphasised in later Bill revisions/ versions developed in July 2023 to align with the minimum constitutional requirement / aspirations of 25% gender parity.
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2.7. Environmental and social safeguards management

<p>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)</p>	<p>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</p> <p>No</p>
<p>New social and/or environmental risks</p>	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts (filled in by TM & EA)</p>	<p>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Environmental and social safeguards management</p>	<p>2022 Update</p> <p>No 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.</p> <p>On a positive trend, at the request of MoEF, the project prepared a <u>rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetland ecosystem</u> 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</p>

²⁰ Appendix 8 Gender & Ethnic Groups in South Sudan [<https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/40424>
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1khj_Sy2jS3XY4GNrKGZH3fZOjKzRRBu6/view?usp=drive_link]

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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's should consider impacts to livelihoods, security issues, population displacement and degradation of ecosystem services, among others"</p> <p>This documentation²¹ 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 ESIA's and EIAs as obligatory requirements for all major infrastructure projects like dredging of rivers and draining of such wetlands.</p> <p>2023 PIR Update Same as reported in 2022. Project implementation and interventions remain within the low-risk category.</p>
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2.8. Knowledge management

Knowledge activities and products	<p>2022 Update</p> <p>During the reporting period, the following key project milestones were realised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of an inception workshop for the design of the National Environmental Information System (NEIS) and fast-tracking the finalisation of at least two draft bills; 29 Nov – 2 Dec 2021, Cairo Egypt. (Hosted by CEDARE the core project outputs implementing partner): <i>The workshop involved officials from South Sudan's MoEF (the UNFCCC FP, the UNCBD FP, and an Associate Director from the Directorate of Environmental Education and Information), the National Bureau of Statistics- NBS (Chief economic statistician) and a remote sensing and GIS associate professor from the University of Juba. The meeting adopted a NEIS knowledge management platform design consisting of the 5 modules outlined in activity 1.4.3</i> • A rapid assessment on the state of Africa largest wetland was completed, providing a wealth knowledge on the Sudd wetland, identified data gaps for research and continues to inform policy, public discourse & decision making. The process involved holding national consultation forums in Juba (<i>two days inception workshop in February 2022 followed by two days validation workshop in April 2022</i>) that brought together national experts from government, the academia, parliament and the NGO/ Civil Society to review the drafts and ground-truth literature acquired from online and other sources. • The establishment and operationalization of the Environmental Information Systems Technical Working Group (EIS-WG) and the Environmental Legal Frameworks Technical Working Group (ELFWG) whose terms of references are provided. The EISWG supports MoEF and the project to spearhead the development of a core list of environmental indicators to underpin the design of South Sudan's inaugural National Environmental System (NEIS), an online portal being developed through CEDARE's support. Operationalization of the <u>NEIS</u> will support coordinated environmental data collection, curation, storage, analysis and sharing for fulfilling multiple national, MEA and SDG reporting obligations, for planning/ monitoring, policy formulation and informed decision making. Moreover, the project begun <u>digitizing</u> the drafting process of future State of Environment Report (SoE) through the same NEIS portal. Ref: <u>EISWG ToR</u>, <u>NEIS presentations</u>. <p>2023 Update During the reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two officials from South Sudan (the UNCB and UNFCCC focal points) were facilitated to participate in a 3-days global GEF CCCD knowledge and experiences sharing forum organised by UNEP's Early Warning and Assessments Division (EWAD - formerly Science Division) in Naivasha Kenya. This south-south knowledge sharing forum was aimed at facilitating peer learning on issues around issues related with shared environmental data and information management systems, environmental assessment processes and policy
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²¹ [Media coverage, Rapid Assessment of the Sudd wetland ecosystem & 2022 WED, RSS](#)

	<p>formulation process that streamline environmental management and governance, reporting and the efficacious implementation of Rio Conventions priorities at the national level. The meeting involved about 25 participants were drawn from teams managing active GEF CCCD projects in Iraq, Mauritania, Benin, Botswana, South Sudan, 14 Pacific Islands and invited UNEP and GEF technical thematic experts from around the globe. South Sudan was represented by the UNEP Project manager, the Project Coordinator, and the Country's focal points for UN CBD and UNFCCC.</p> <p>Ref link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TreRrUNPkH3pD62SVyq9ptDPZp1eYt7S/view?usp=drive_link</p>
Main learning during the period	<p><i>Provide a short narrative on any learning during the reporting period (when applicable).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessity for lean project workplans in the context of GEF Medium Sized Projects [MSPs]: 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 & reporting. • Adaptive project management and agility makes or breaks execution: 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. • 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. • EIS development is dynamic and progressive: 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 15 years ago [2008 - Pre-independence] notwithstanding being disputed by the South.

2.9. Stories to be shared

Stories to be shared	<p><u>2022 Update</u></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 <u>rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan</u>, which is now published and launched during commemorations for World Environment Day (WED) 2022. The release of the report bore immediate impact as its content and recommendations formed a big chunk of the President's official national address to commemorate South Sudan's 11th anniversary of independence.</p> <p>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 <u>Hon. Josephine Napwon</u>, the Minister of Environment and Forestry; Hon Dr. Albino Bol, the Minister of Youth and Sports; <u>Hon. Emmanuel Adil Anthony</u>, 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>
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Official launch photos of the Rapid Assessment of the Sudd Wetlands by H.E Hussein Abdelbagi Akol (5th Vice President of RSS) and Hon. Josephine Napwon (RSS Minister of Environment and Forestry - MoEF), 4 July 2022, Freedom Hall, Juba, South Sudan
Source: <https://www.facebook.com/HonNapwonJosephine/posts/pfbid02RnBrPLyt8k2H4k3bLmMUzciUbwEVJ5uFQ9d2h6kMvoBocd1cwD9mwdFdE6wZy1Dl>

Report link: [A rapid assessment of the state of the Sudd Wetland ecosystem in South Sudan](#)

2023 PIR Update

According to a 2015 IGAD sponsored report, at least half of South Sudan's 11.6 million inhabitants live below the poverty line, and more than a million people who have fled their homes to escape conflict now live as internally displaced persons (IDPs) or refugees. Nevertheless, South Sudan is endowed with valuable natural capital despite being amongst the world's underdeveloped countries. Some of these include:

- Extractive minerals like crude oil and gas: *Oil production is the Country's single most important economic activity, contributing up to 98% of government revenues and 80% of GDP. South Sudan has sub-Saharan Africa's third biggest oil reserves after major oil producers Nigeria and Angola.*
- Largest intact tropical wood lands and savanna with natural forests and parks with enormous potential for tourist based economic activities. *Over 13% of the Country ~ 87,030 km² consists of 18 gazetted protected areas of 6 national parks and 12 game reserves.*

- Over 90% of the Country is very fertile land suitable for agriculture and forestry, despite only about 5% being used for crop production.
- Africa's largest freshwater wetland (Sudd), a designated Ramsar site covering 8% of the Country. For example, a 2020 Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) report titled "Sudd Wetland Economic Valuation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Green Infrastructure Planning and Development"²² estimates the total economic value of the Sudd wetland to be about US \$3.3 billion.

There is a need for the international community to implement recommendations of the 2022 rapid assessment study of the Wetland as highlighted below:

"Reduce uncertainties by promoting scientific research: The Sudd wetland has not attracted the attention of the global research community due to conflict and its remote location in South Sudan. As indicated in sections of this report, there are many research areas that require attention. These include spatial extent and variability of the Sudd, water availability, evapotranspiration rate, impacts of climate change, impact of Sudd on regional climate, extent of peatlands, carbon sequestration potential, cultural and ecosystem dynamics. The GoSS, together with development partners such as UNEP, should endeavor to put the Sudd on the global research agenda. Results would be important for national level decisions on the wise use of the Sudd wetland ecosystem for the future security, sustainability, and stability of South Sudan".

UNEP and the GEF communications team could also run other global outreach events aimed at supporting the world's youngest and one of its poorest LDC to fundraise around \$ 3,000,000 for a detailed assessment on the Sudd wetland ecosystem and enhancing early warning services in the Country.

1. Media coverage, Rapid Assessment of the state of the Sudd wetland ecosystem & 2022 WED, RSS
2. A rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd Wetland ecosystem in South Sudan

²² <https://nilebasin.org/index.php/information-hub/technical-documents/103-sudd-wetland-economic-valuation-report-south-sudan-2020/file>

3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RISK

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Development Objectives)

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²³
Outcome 1: Enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting.	<p>(a) MEA Network operational and facilitating access, sharing and management of environmental data and information for MEA/SDG reporting, monitoring and decision making.</p> <p>(b) Technical system functional to manage and access environmental data, with defined roles and responsibilities and protocols for data collection and sharing.</p>	<p>CBD national Clearing House Mechanism and MoEF website currently being developed.</p> <p>National biodiversity database being established at MoEF and MWCT</p>	<p>(a) MEA Network operational with at-least 30 stakeholders (of which at least 40% women).</p> <p>(b) n/a</p>	<p>(a) MEA Network operational with at-least 40 stakeholders (of which at least 40% women).</p> <p>(b) A functional, shared environmental information system (<i>EIS</i>) with defined roles and responsibilities and protocols for data collection and sharing is in place.</p>	<p>Establishment of the South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS NEIN) and development of an SS NEIN ICT needs assessment and training plan²⁴ for seamless deployment of the EIS reporting tool</p> <p>100% implementation of the approved procurement plan where 8 computers were delivered and 10 Kw solar system with 10 kWh LePo4 battery banks installed and commissioned at MoEF.</p> <p>Validation of 178 core set of environmental indicators (by the SS NEIN) underpinning the design of a national Environmental Information System (<i>EIS</i>) portal aimed at facilitating open source data collection, management, sharing and reporting.</p> <p>Development and launch of five self-paced EIS training videos providing an overview the back-end management of the EIS portal.</p>	<p>A National Environmental Information Network SSNEIN is established, operationalized and trained.</p> <p>Core set of 178 environmental indicators have been formulated, validated by the SSNEIN, and incorporated in the inaugural Environmental Information System - EIS for South Sudan.</p> <p>A Beta version of the EIS portal has been validated by the SSNEIN and is now ready for deployment and end-user testing.</p> <p>Development and launch of the first set of online EIS training tutorial videos to be used as an EIS user interface training manual for back-end system managers.</p> <p>Development of an SS NEIN ICT needs assessment and training plan²⁵ for seamless deployment of the EIS reporting tool</p> <p>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.</p>	S

²³ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Marginally Satisfactory (MS), Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU).

²⁴ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vzohVGAM2iUnHPKDrulq3RRt1vcYA3Ph/view?usp=drive_link

²⁵ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vzohVGAM2iUnHPKDrulq3RRt1vcYA3Ph/view?usp=drive_link

<p>Outcome 2: Enhanced coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the sustained implementation of Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs.</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>No specific mechanisms, although some existing ad hoc committees have been established</p>	<p>At least 1 mechanism.</p>	<p>At least 3 mechanisms.</p>	<p>During the reporting period, the EISWG and the ELFWG supported MoEF and other project partners to:</p> <p>Organise two national stakeholder consultation missions culminating in the establishment of the South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS NEIN) held in October 2022 and development of an SS NEIN ICT needs assessment and training plan²⁶ for seamless deployment of the EIS reporting tool</p> <p>Organise public awareness activities during national commemorations World Environment Day (WED) 2022 [27 June to 4 July 2022] including town cleaning and tree planting campaigns, Tv and radio talk shows and production of a 30-minute public awareness creation documentary highlighting all these activities and advocating for observance of sound environmental management and governance.</p> <p>Launch and outreaches on the rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem²⁷ in South Sudan. This is also included the organisation of a virtual public lecture for the faculty and IESD centre at the University of Tonji in China and environmental technocrats in South Sudan, presenting results of the Sudd rapid assessment study from a Science-Policy-Politics interface.</p> <p>Organised Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on Research4Life and Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) for member of academia and</p>	<p>Establishment and operationalisation of the National Environmental Information Network (SSNEIN) in October 2022 and Two technical working groups (February 2022) that are actively engaged by MoEF to support national implementation of the GEF CCCD, and other government run projects, in addition to the SS NEIN launched in October 2022. These include.</p> <p>(i) <i>The Environmental Information Systems Working Group - EISWG and</i> (ii) <i>The Environmental Legal Frameworks working Group - ELFWG</i></p> <p>These working groups/ technical coordination forums operate under the auspices of the SS 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 draft laws (Bills).</p> <p>So far, these working groups have supported MoEF and its partners to accomplish the following:</p> <p>Preparation and launch of a rapid assessment report on the Sudd wetlands.</p> <p>Training of Trainers (ToT) organised for 25 members²⁸ of academia and environmental actors on how to access free peer reviewed research articles on the environment through the Research4Life and Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE)²⁹</p> <p>Formulate two draft Bills on Environment and Forestry and prepare an LDN Strategy and Action plan.</p> <p>Develop a core list of environmental indicators applied in the design of an EIS reporting portal. Organise EIS based training workshops in collaboration with the system developer.</p>	<p>S</p>
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Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²³
					environmental actors on how to access free peer reviewed research articles.		
Outcome 3: National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.	Number of policies, laws or strategies finalized for enactment during the project duration and submitted for enactment that include provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles.	Some existing laws and policies; many exist only in draft format.	(a) n/a	At least 2.	<p>Organisation of two writeshop³⁰ that formulated the draft Environment Bill 2022 in October 2022 followed by the Draft Environment Bill 2023 and the Draft Forest Bill 2023 in January 2023.</p> <p>Finalisation of the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN Strategy and Action plan 2023) for South Sudan.</p>	<p>(i) Production and launch of a rapid assessment of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem³¹, that inspired the production of a 2022-2050 management strategy for the wetlands by the Nile Basin Initiative.</p> <p>(ii) Production of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN Strategy and Action plan 2023).</p> <p>(iii) Establishment of a special taskforce that convened two writeshops that formulated the draft Environment Bill 2023 and the draft Forestry Bill 2023.</p>	S

²⁶ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vzohVGAM2iUnHPKDrulg3RRt1vcYA3Ph/view?usp=drive_link

²⁷ A rapid assessment of the state of Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan, 2022

²⁸ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zoCOYSzz-94vCZqR4irlz_GSr9FEWkM-/view

²⁹ Mission report, OARE – Research4Life ToT, Juba, October 2022: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11MPMDZt3aoH7hv23HUBNXiffTdCvgSNO/view?usp=sharing>

³⁰ 14-16 February 2023 South Sudan Bills Writeshop

³¹ Rapid assessment of the state of the Sudd wetland ecosystem: <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/...>

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

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp comple tion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
COMPONENT 1: Development of a coordinated environmental knowledge and information management system					
Output 1.1: Analysis of the current environmental information systems					
1.1.1 Recruit project staff and consultants: <i>UNEP to recruit Project Coordinator & probably an MoEF Assistant</i>	Year 1, Q1	100%	100%	PMU established in 2021, that continues to spearhead implementation of the project as per the approved Project document, budgets and workplans. Detailed report provided in the 2022 PIR.	S
1.1.2 Organize a project inception workshop	Year 1, Q1	100%	100%	Project inception workshop held in June 2021 as reported in the previous PIRs. Ref: Inception workshop report, South Sudan GEF6 CCCD project, June 2021	S
1.1.3 Establish an Environmental Information Working Group	Year 1, Q3	100%	100%	Environmental Information Working Group (EISWG) established and operationalized in February 2022 and reported in previous PIRs. Reference: (i) UNEP February 2022 mission report + MoEF mission debrief. (ii) Mission report, South Sudan EIS development inception workshop, 28 Nov-2 Dec 2021, Cairo Egypt (iii) Participants list, South Sudan EIS development inception workshop, 28 Nov-2 Dec 2021, Cairo Egypt	S
1.1.4 Conduct a detailed analysis of existing environmental information systems	Year 1, Q4	100%	100%	2022 PIR: A preliminary EIS assessment study report (<i>Report on core institutions, their capacities and the existing framework to facilitate data and information exchange in South Sudan</i>) recommended the formulation and implementation of a national strategy for the development and implementation of Environmental Information in South Sudan. An EIS design inception workshop was held in November 2021 to further review the Country's EIS baseline. The meeting adopted a NEIS knowledge management platform ³⁶ design consisting of the 5 modules outlined in activity 1.4.3 below (i) SSFA between UNEP ROA and CEDARE for the development of the South Sudan EIS (ii) Preliminary Environmental Information System (EIS) assessment study for South Sudan (iii) Mission report, South Sudan EIS development inception workshop, 28 Nov-2 Dec 2021, Cairo Egypt 2023 PIR update During the reporting period, the project facilitated two national stakeholder consultation missions culminating in the establishment of the South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS NEIN) and development of an SS NEIN ICT needs assessment and training plan ³⁷ for seamless deployment of the EIS reporting tool.	S
Output 1.2: Priority environmental indicators identified and agreed upon					
1.2.1 Develop recommendations on improving data availability and on	Year 2, Q1	100%	100%	2022 PIR A preliminary EIS assessment study report (<i>Report on core institutions, their capacities and the existing framework to facilitate data and information exchange in South Sudan</i>) validated by the ELFWG meeting held in February 2022 recommended the following for consideration by MoEF, NBS and other environmental data actors in South Sudan.	S

³² Outputs and activities (or deliverables) as described in the project logframe (and workplan) or in any updated project revision.

³³ The completion dates should be as per latest workplan (latest project revision).

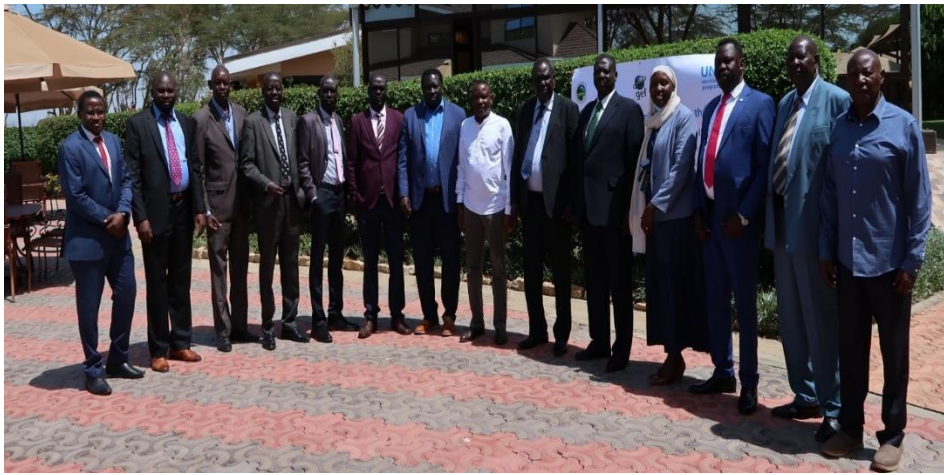
³⁴ As much as possible, describe in terms of immediate gains to target groups, e.g. access to project deliverables, participation in receiving services; gains in knowledge, etc.

³⁵ To be provided by the UNEP Task Manager


³⁶ <http://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/web/index.html>

³⁷ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vzohVGAM2iUnHPKDrulq3RRt1vcYA3Ph/view?usp=drive_link


Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵														
formulating key environmental indicators				<table><tr><td>Thematic area</td><td>Recommendations: <u>Analysis of existing EIS & environmental indicators in South Sudan</u></td></tr><tr><td>Legal & policy framework</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">The draft Environmental Protection and Forestry Bills be finalized to support the legal and policy framework required to manage environmental information.The legal and policy framework should support an enabling framework for an Environment Information Network to be put in place to strengthen the production of environmental data and statistics.</td></tr><tr><td>National Environmental Information Network (NEIN)</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">A National Environment Information Network (NEIN) be set up to improve coordination and collaboration in data and information collection and management.Environment information is provided in a free and open manner to promote environmental decision making and research, in line with the 7 SEIS principles.Ensure that staff managing environmental information in the Ministry of Environment and the sectors are adequately trained and their work aligned to existing needs. The staff are a critical resource if the Country increases data knowledge and access.</td></tr><tr><td>Metadata</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish a metadata catalogue describing existing information resources to aid data discovery and quick suitability analysis.</td></tr><tr><td>Data interoperability</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Invest time and resources in the development of data interoperability solutions for data consumers to make better use of sectoral data.Apply for seed funds from UNEP to support the core data producers in preparing their digital migration data. While sharing this data may initially consider only government institutions, there should be plans for this to become an open data platform to cater to public domain data.</td></tr><tr><td>Improving data quality</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">A needs analysis be undertaken to assess precisely what equipment, instrumentation, devices, and so on are in place and what may be needed.A data collection strategy be developed</td></tr><tr><td>Strengthening management of environmental statistics</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Build a National strategy for the development of environmental statistics as called for in the 2018 State of Environment Report 2018 (UNEP, 2018)Complete the Framework for Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) country self-assessment.Undertake a collaborative needs analysis of all environmental statistics produced, including indicators, source, format and gaps.A unit for Environmental Statistics be set up in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to spearhead and ensure integration of environmental data.Make environmental statistics an integral part of the national statistics strategy and system.</td></tr></table>	Thematic area	Recommendations: <u>Analysis of existing EIS & environmental indicators in South Sudan</u>	Legal & policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The draft Environmental Protection and Forestry Bills be finalized to support the legal and policy framework required to manage environmental information.The legal and policy framework should support an enabling framework for an Environment Information Network to be put in place to strengthen the production of environmental data and statistics.	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Improving data quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A needs analysis be undertaken to assess precisely what equipment, instrumentation, devices, and so on are in place and what may be needed.A data collection strategy be developed	Strengthening management of environmental statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Build a National strategy for the development of environmental statistics as called for in the 2018 State of Environment Report 2018 (UNEP, 2018)Complete the Framework for Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) country self-assessment.Undertake a collaborative needs analysis of all environmental statistics produced, including indicators, source, format and gaps.A unit for Environmental Statistics be set up in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to spearhead and ensure integration of environmental data.Make environmental statistics an integral part of the national statistics strategy and system.	
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				2023 PIR updates Even though available GEF CCCD project funding is inadequate to support South Sudan comprehensively address all the above recommendations, the following were achieved during the reporting period. Efforts have been made to upscale current initiatives with further funds.															
				<table><tr><td>Recommendation</td><td>Activity & Timeline</td><td>Activity/ Output/ Product</td></tr></table>	Recommendation	Activity & Timeline	Activity/ Output/ Product												
Recommendation	Activity & Timeline	Activity/ Output/ Product																	

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay		Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p>Legal & policy framework</p> <p>1st and 2nd writeshops to formulate Environment and Forest Bills</p> <p>October 2022 February 2023 Naivasha, Kenya.</p>	<p>The GoSS through MoEF established a special taskforce to spearhead the formulation and support enactment processes for the South Sudan Environment and Forestry Bills.</p> <p>In October 2022, the project supported this task force to convene a four days Bills writeshop meeting in Naivasha, bringing together 9 national delegates and 4 regional experts to prepare a <u>2022 draft of the Environment Bill</u>³⁸ that was later refined in a follow-up writeshop at the same venue (February 2023) that further refined the environment draft and begin work on the Forestry Bill. Chapter 12 of the draft environment protection Bill advocates for the creation of national multi-agency collaboration mechanism and Environmental Information management Systems (like the EIS/ NEIN initiatives being piloted by the project) aimed at streamlining and enhancing the timely and efficacious collection, management, analysis/ curation, validation and reporting of environmental data and information in the Country in keeping with the <u>7 principles of Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS)</u>.</p> <p>In February 2023, the project collaborated with the Bills taskforce (crafted from the Environmental and Legal Framework Working Group) to organise the second writeshop that refined the 2022 Environment Bill into the draft <u>Environment Bill 2023</u> and initiated formulation of the draft <u>Forestry Bill 2023</u> , attended by the two MoEF Undersecretaries for Environment and Forestry.</p>	 <p>Group photo: Second Writeshop, 14-16 February 2023, Naivasha, Kenya</p>


³⁸ Draft Environment Protection Bill 2022 for the Republic of South Sudan: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SuD-sx5JlpDXKeVMgGPnIr4Lnw69fi17/view?usp=sharing>

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay		Progre ss rating 35
				<p>National Environment Information Network (NEIN)</p> <p>NEIN inception workshop</p> <p>24-26 October 2022, Juba, South Sudan</p>	<p>In October 2022, the project supported MoEF establish and organise the <u>Inception Workshop for the National Environmental Information Network (SS-NEIN)</u> as the focal coordination and collaboration mechanism for improved data and information collection and management, including spearheading the design of a national EIS platform. This meeting also validated the first draft of a <u>core list of 178 environmental indicators</u> that underpin the design of the EIS portal.</p>  <p>Group photo: Inaugural SS-NEIN meeting, 24-26 October 2022, Palm Africa Hotel, Juba</p> <p>(i) <u>Report on the establishment of the South Sudan NEIN, October 2022</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>Proposed core list of environmental indicators</u></p>	
				<p>SEIS Training Workshops</p> <p>6-7 December 2022, Cairo, Egypt</p>	<p>Training workshop³⁹: Using GEO Methodologies for National State of the Environment Reporting</p> <p>The project sponsored one MoEF participant (Mss Dorina Keji) to participate in this workshop organized to train national focal points from 7 Africa Environment Information Network (AIEN) pilot countries on 'Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and Integrated Assessment Methodologies'. The workshop was supported by UNEP's SEIS initiatives that seeks to improve the collection, exchange and use of credible and up-to-date environmental data and information in decision-making by regularly engaging with country-level technical experts domiciled in the Environment Ministries and/or Environmental Protection Agencies.</p>	

³⁹ Regional SEIS workshop training report and presentations: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qpa4pAp8AtT_EoMNONMNqW7DP6T-sVCr/view?usp=sharing

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp completion date ³³	Status: 30 June 2022 (%)	Status: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay		Progress rating ³⁵
					<p>It also sought to address some of the recognized gaps that have been identified at the national level through multiple processes that include Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Integrated Environmental Assessments (IEA). Key among the glaring data gaps include institutional bottlenecks that continue to hamper availability of credible environmental data.</p>  <p>Group photo: Training workshop on "Using GEO Methodologies for National State of the Environment Reporting", 6-7 December 2022, Marriott Hotel, Cairo, Egypt</p> <p>The trainees are expected to retrain their colleagues at the national level in not only strengthening data coherence within their and other related Ministries such as those dealing with National Statistics, Wildlife, Agriculture, Water Resources, Trade, and Economy, among others. Ref: Mission report: 6-7 December 2022 SEIS Training Workshop, Cairo, Egypt.</p>	
				Improving data quality	<p>Research4Life/ OARE Training of Trainers (ToT), 27-28 October 2022, Juba Towards enhancing research and publications on environmental matters, a national training on Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) and Research4Life⁴⁰ was undertaken for 22 national participants drawn from the Academia, environmental NGOs and Government Ministries. Research4Life provides institutions in low-and middle-income countries with online access to academic and professional peer-reviewed content, with an aim to improve teaching, research and policymaking in health, agriculture, the environment and other life, physical and social sciences.</p>	

⁴⁰ <https://www.research4life.org/>

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				 <p>Group photo: Research4Life/ OARE training, 27-28 October 2022, Juba Grand Hotel, Juba</p> <p>An onsite <u>ICT assessment</u> for core SS-NEIN member agencies was also finalised in six core NEIN ministries (MoEF, NBS, MAFS, MLHUD, MWRI, UoJ) to map ICT related gaps and identify possible areas of intervention in readiness for the deployment of the EIS portal. Based on the assessment, a <u>list of recommended ICT equipment to supplement intent access at the EIS training hub</u> being set-up at MoEF and MAFS (Rio FP offices) was developed for the PMU to procure, now expected to be delivered in Q3 of 2023.</p> <p>During the same period, UNEP also <u>installed a 10 kW solar system</u> and finalised the procurement and <u>delivery of 10 computers</u> that constitute the main EIS training hub being established at the MoEF offices in Juba as documented in the <u>2022 inventory report of non-expandable equipment</u> bought with GEF CCCD funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>ICT Assessment report and training plan for core SSNEIN agencies, May 2023</u> ii. <u>Recommended ICT equipment to enhance intent access at the EIS Hub at MoEF</u> iii. <u>Report on the installation of a 10-kW solar energy plant at MoEF Offices</u> iv. <u>Mission report, OARE ToT Training, Juba, October 2022</u> v. <u>Certificates + Evidence of increased OARE/ Research4Life use after the training</u> 	
1.2.2 Organize an MEA Network meeting (see Output	Year 2, Q1	0%	100%	2022 PIR updates	S

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating 35																																				
2.1) to discuss and agree on priority environmental indicators				Part of CEDARE's terms of reference (ToR) involves supporting the EIS technical working group (EIWG) to formulate key environmental indicators for South Sudan. With the official launch of the EISWG in February 2022, definition of the core list of national environmental indicators is ongoing under CEDARE's guidance, with the final report expected to be ready for validation by Q2 of 2023.																																					
1.2.3 Develop and agree on standardized definitions for these indicators and protocols for data collection, sharing and management.	Year 2, Q3	50%	100%	(i) <u>SSFA between UNEP ROA and CEDARE for the development of the South Sudan EIS</u> (ii) <u>Preliminary Environmental Information System (EIS) assessment study for South Sudan</u> 2023 PIR updates <u>Inception workshop for the South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS-NEIN) and validation of priority indicators</u> In a national workshop held in Juba between 24 and 26 October 2022, the UNEP Africa Office supported environmental actors in South Sudan to establish a National Environmental Information Network (SS – NEIN) to be managed by a secretariat provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF). Key meeting outcomes included.	S																																				
1.2.2 Organize an MEA Network meeting (see Output 2.1) to discuss and agree on priority environmental indicators	Year 2, Q1	0%	100%	(i) the establishment and operationalisation of the SSNEIN to serve as a multi-agency coordination and collaboration platform for improved collection, sharing, management, and reporting of environmental data and information, (ii) the validation of the <u>proposed core list of environmental indicators</u> / https://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/indicators.asp underpinning the design of their first Environmental Information System (EIS) system, whose Beta version is accessible from the link: https://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/ , (iii) the launch of <u>online EIS training tutorial videos</u> to serve as EIS user interface training manual in readiness for the deployment phase. (iv) NEIN members trained as ToTs for the back-end management of the EIS tool.	S																																				
1.2.3 Develop and agree on standardized definitions for these indicators and protocols for data collection, sharing and management.	Year 2, Q3	50%	100%	<table><tr><th>Environmental Theme</th><th>Priority Issue(s)</th><th>No of lead indicator(s)</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="7">1. Socio-economic issues</td><td>1.1. Sustainable livelihoods</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>1.2. Illiteracy/ literacy</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>1.3. Education Output</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>1.4. Development</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>1.5. Rapid population growth</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>1.6. Infant and child mortality</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>1.7. Burden of ill health</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">2. Land</td><td>2.1. Land tenure/ownership</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>2.2. Land degradation</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>2.3. Land Use</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>2.4. Appropriate and sustainable farming systems</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">3. Forests and Woodlands</td><td>3.1. Forest loss</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>3.2. Degradation of forest quality</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>3.3. Forest resources mismanagement</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>3.4. Lack of inventory and monitoring</td><td>1</td></tr></table>	Environmental Theme	Priority Issue(s)	No of lead indicator(s)	1. Socio-economic issues	1.1. Sustainable livelihoods	11	1.2. Illiteracy/ literacy	2	1.3. Education Output	5	1.4. Development	1	1.5. Rapid population growth	3	1.6. Infant and child mortality	3	1.7. Burden of ill health	4	2. Land	2.1. Land tenure/ownership	2	2.2. Land degradation	5	2.3. Land Use	5	2.4. Appropriate and sustainable farming systems	9	3. Forests and Woodlands	3.1. Forest loss	1	3.2. Degradation of forest quality	1	3.3. Forest resources mismanagement	1	3.4. Lack of inventory and monitoring	1	S
Environmental Theme	Priority Issue(s)	No of lead indicator(s)																																							
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Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay			Progre ss rating ³⁵
					3.5. Screening for the suitable tree species	1	
					3.6. Biodiversity loss/degradation	1	
					3.7. Established protected areas / Ecosystem assessment / Community participation in forest resource management	2	
				4. Atmosphere	4.1. Carbon emissions (air pollution) ;	4	
					4.2. Climate variability (impact on health, food security, human settlement)	2	
					4.3. Climate change	4	
				5. Fresh water	5.1. Water availability	6	
					5.2. Water Accessibility	3	
					5.3. Water Quantity	3	
					5.4. Water Quality	4	
					5.5. Water usage	3	
					5.6. Water Management issues	6	
					5.7. Water pollution	5	
					5.8. Water borne diseases (bilharzia, river blindness, sleeping sickness, etc)	1	
					5.9. Biodiversity	2	
					5.10. River damming	2	
					5.11. Population with access to Freshwater resources	6	
				6. Wetlands	6.1. Wetlands degradation	2	
					6.2. Strategies to conserve wetlands.	3	
					6.3. Assessment of main factors of significant impacts on the present wetlands.	3	
				8. Biodiversity	8.1. Loss of species	2	
					8.2. Loss of habitat	3	
					8.3. Overfishing	2	
					8.4. Protected areas	1	
					8.5. Pathways of introduction of alien invasive species (travel, trade, transport, tourism);	3	
					8.6. Impacts of invasion on ecosystem, species diversity (and development) including both wild & domestic biodiversity;	6	
					8.7. Threats and impacts of "unseen" alien invasive species;	4	
				9. Human Settlements (Urban /Rural areas)	9.1. Rapid rate of urbanization	6	
					9.2. Deteriorated urban environment	6	
				10. Human health	10.1. Pollution control	3	
					10.2. Pest management	1	
					10.3. Appropriate and sound guidelines for waste management systems. appropriate for the environmental conditions of the region.	6	
				11. Energy	11.1. Relative cost of generated energies.	1	
					11.2. Appropriate technologies.	1	

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay			Progre ss rating ³⁵
					11.3. Link between the use of renewable energy and emission of greenhouse gases.	1	
					11.4. Use of renewable energy resources in desert and remote areas for better use of land and water resources.	3	
				12. Natural disasters & environmental performance	12.1. Causes of various types of natural hazards *earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, mass movements (landslides, etc) floods, etc.	6	
					12.2. Predicting the time, location and intensity (or severity) of future natural hazards.	2	
					12.3. Absence (or lack) of warning signals of natural disasters.	4	
				11	54	178	
				Participation included 25 specialists drawn from the following organisations that encompass core environmental data providers in South Sudan: (i) Academia: University of Juba, School of Natural Resources & Environmental Studies. (ii) CBOs/ NGOs: Represented by the South Sudan Nature Conservation Organization (SSNCO) (iii) UNEP Africa Office and its collaborating centre: Represented by CEDARE , and (iv) Nine National Ministries responsible for: Environment & Forestry- MoEF; Agriculture & Food Security –MAFS; Housing & Urban Development (Surveys and mapping) – MHUD; National Statistics – NBS; Water Resources and Irrigation – MWRI; Livestock and Fisheries – MLF; Civil Aviation Authority – Weather & Meteorological services; Education; Public Health; Petroleum & Mining References: (i) <u>Report on the establishment of the South Sudan NEIN, October 2022</u> (ii) <u>Proposed core list of environmental indicators</u> (iii) <u>Online EIS modules training tutorials</u>			
1.2.4 Develop and approve a protocol/ agreement on the collection, use and sharing of environmental data in decision-making, planning and reporting.	Year 2, Q3	30%	40%	2022 PIR updates The Executing Agencies have procured CEDARE as the lead EIS development consultant (IP) through an SSFA signed between UNEP and CEDARE that facilitated the organization of two EIS design and legal frameworks review workshops held in November 2021 and February 2022. <i>The third Output under the CEDARE SSFA states, "Review and draft an appropriate legislative framework (including a draft agreement/ MoU on data collection, curation and sharing/ management between environmental sector agencies and ministries) to underpin the information system and access to environmental information, including the Rio Convention related information."</i> Moreover, CEDARE has already recruited an environmental legal expert who participated in the November 2021 workshop with national experts. Further discussions, drafting, and consensus-building on the proposed national data sharing protocol/ MoU were held during the Juba national consultation forums organized by the PMU and working groups in February 2022. Part of these meetings were facilitated by CEDARE legal and environmental statistics experts, with regional experience sharing inputs provided			S

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p>by Mr. Waiswa Ayazika Arnold⁴¹, the Director for Environmental Monitoring and Compliance at the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) of Uganda⁴².</p> <p>(i) <u>SSFA between UNEP ROA and CEDARE for the development of the South Sudan EIS</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>Agenda, Inception workshop for output 3.1, South GEF project, 14-25 February 2022, Juba, South Sudan</u></p> <p>(iii) <u>Mission report for national stakeholder consultation forums, February 2022, Juba South Sudan</u></p> <p>(iv) <u>Inaugural PSC meeting report/ Minutes, Juba, February 2022</u></p> <p>(v) <u>UNEP & MoEF debrief, first national stakeholder consultation forums, Juba South Sudan, Feb 2022</u></p> <p>2023 PIR updates</p> <p>During the inception workshop of the SS-NEIN composed of the core environmental data producers in South Sudan, 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 in South Sudan. 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. A decision on this output will be made during the second PSC planned for Q4 of 2023.</p>	
Output 1.3 Training provided on data collection and management methodologies					
1.3.1 Prepare a training on data collection and management	Year 2, Q4	50%	100%	<p>2022 PIR</p> <p>The Executing Agencies have already procured CEDARE as the lead EIS development consultant (IP). <i>The sixth Output under the CEDARE SSFA states, "Develop an online EIS training module and undertake training for the national experts and institutions on using and managing the environmental knowledge and information management system".</i> Under this arrangement, CEDARE experts are supporting MoEF EIS system administrators to manage the system's back end, access control and system privileges and security. Training includes hands-on data collection and management procedures and uploading data on the environment interactive knowledge platform. This includes organizing a training workshop and on-the-job follow-up activities on data collection and management for the relevant sector agencies and institutions. The primary purpose of the training will be to prepare the sector agencies and institutions for the compilation of data for the priority indicators.</p>	S
1.3.2 Organize training workshop and designate champions	Year 3, Q1	0%	100%	<p>The initial training began during the EIS development inception workshop held in November 2021 and February 2022, where the Rio Convention FPs and other technocrats from MoEF, NBS, MAFS, MWRI, MWCT, MGCSW, the South Sudan Nature Conservation Organization (SSNCO), the South Sudan Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Forestry, and from the University of Juba (UoJ) attended. Discussions with several environmental experts (of international reputation) focused on exploring and understanding South Sudan's institutions status on the environmental data value chain (institutional capacities and progress with relation to environmental data acquisition, data analysis, data curation, data sharing and storage and data usage) and identifying quick wins necessary to support the country scale up the data ecosystem ladder. A follow-up training session for four MoEF technicians on the back-end management of the EIS system is to be held on 14-19 August 2022, at the CEDARE offices in Cairo, Egypt.</p>	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	Year 3, Q4	0%	100%		MS


⁴¹ Mr Waiswa Ayazika Arnold profile, NEMA Director, Uganda: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/arnold-waiswa-ayazika-42568433/?originalSubdomain=ug>


⁴² [Invitation letter for Mr Arnold Waiswa, Director Environmental Monitoring and Compliance, National Environment Management Authority \(NEMA\), Uganda](#)

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp completion date ³³	Status: 30 June 2022 (%)	Status: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ³⁵
				 <p><i>Group photo during the last day of the EIS inception workshop, 2 December 2021, Cairo, Egypt.</i></p> <p><u>Keynote sessions and presentations included:</u>⁴³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Use of spatial analysis & remote sensing in monitoring environmental changes, <i>Dr Islam Abou El-Magd</i> (ii) The proposed architecture of the South Sudan EIS Portal, <i>Dr Ayman Soliman</i> (iii) Essential data for climate change communication reports, <i>Dr Samir Tantawy</i> (iv) The use of GIS for water management, <i>Dr Omar El Badawy</i> (v) Environmental and socio-economic statistic NEIS module, <i>Dr Ahmed Abdelrehim</i> (vi) SDGS, environmental targets and indicators, <i>Dr Ahmed Abdelrehim</i> (vii) Data use for Biodiversity Information System + introduction to Shared EIS, <i>Dr Ahmed Hegazy</i> (viii) A south-south experience sharing and knowledge exchange visit to Egypt's (i) Ministry of Environment HQs, and the (ii) National Authority of Remote Sensing & Space Sciences (NARSS) offices in Cairo. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>Mission report for national stakeholder consultation forums, February 2022, Juba South Sudan</u> (ii) <u>Mission report + Presentations during the Cairo inception workshop for the design of the EIS system, Nov 2021</u> (iii) <u>UNEP & MoEF debrief, first national stakeholder consultation forums, Juba South Sudan, Feb 2022</u> (iv) <u>List of MoEF participants, EIS back-end training, Cairo Egypt, 14-19 August 2022</u> (v) <u>CEDARE NEIS training manual + Questionnaire for assessing South Sudan's EIS infrastructure, February 2022, Juba</u> <p>2023 PIR update</p>	

⁴³ [South Sudan NEIS inception workshop report and presentations](#)

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p>During the reporting period, the UNEP Africa Office continued providing technical support to the South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) in the design of a National Environmental Information Systems (<u>NEIS</u>) compliant with the 7 Shared Environmental Information Systems (<u>SEIS</u>) principles. The South Sudan <u>NEIS</u> is a decentralised yet integrated system that improves the collection, management, quality assurance/ validation of environmental data and information requisite informed decision making, preparation of data/quantitative based assessments and State of Environment Reporting (SOE).</p> <p>Between 16 and 18 of August 2022, a hands-on training workshop was held at CEDARE's Cairo offices attended by four MoEF technical experts drawn from the Directorates of biodiversity, climate change, and environmental information. The meeting reviewed the current NEIS architecture focusing on the five proposed <u>modules</u> (<i>The <u>EIS/ Environmental indicators</u>, the <u>SDGs</u>, the <u>social economics</u>, the <u>SOER</u>, and the <u>spatial analysis</u> modules</i>). The team was trained as the core NEIS Trainer of Trainees (ToTs) for the back-end management of the EIS portal, besides providing valuable inputs on data entry methodologies and required improvements required for each module. NEIS modules overview: https://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/</p> <p>(i) Environmental indicators module: https://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/indicators.asp</p> <p>(ii) SDG/ Indicators module: https://cedarekmp.net/africasdgs/sdgs.asp?id=45</p> <p>(iii) SOER module: https://cedarekmp.net/africasoers/southsudan/soer/web2/auth.html</p> <p>(iv) Spatial Analysis module: https://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/spatial.html</p> <p>(v) Social economic module: https://cedarekmp.net/southsudan/socio.html</p> <p>(vi) Workshop Agenda: https://docs.google.com/document/d/10eRrhllwYdhPjC7r7TOIZ4VXf-ma9fc6/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=117861693017006731635&rtpof=true&sd=true</p>	

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp completion date ³³	Status: 30 June 2022 (%)	Status: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ³⁵
				 <p>Photo: Hands on training on the back-end management of the South Sudan EIS portal, August 2022, Cairo</p> <p>A similar national training session was organised in Juba (24 - 26 October 2022), jointly facilitated by UNEP and CEDARE experts during the inception workshop for the SS-NEIN. This was designed as a Trainer of Trainees (ToTs) session on the back-end management of the EIS portal for focal points nominated by the core environmental data producing/ consuming ministries and agencies forming the NEIN platform, besides providing valuable inputs on data entry methodologies and required improvements required for each module.</p> <p>Among others, the SSNEIN was conceptualised to ensure South Sudan applies scientific principles towards efficacious collection and management of environmental data, information and knowledge products that facilitates evidence-based environmental assessments and reporting for informed decision making in the sustainable utilisation of its natural capital. At inception, the NEIN is expected to support MoEF and its partners (<i>primarily core environmental data producers</i>) to establish a robust National Environmental Information System (EIS) architecture before settling into other priority areas to be defined by its governing body whose secretariat will be hosted by MoEF. Key intervention areas revolve around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>Improving institutional arrangements and development of new information products and relevant tools.</i> (ii) <i>Building the capacity of national environmental institutions to conduct integrated environmental assessments, report on MEAs, and position them to support national development planning.</i> (iii) <i>Strengthening visualization of environmental information, including increased use of illustrations, maps and graphics in assessment reports and other products to support evidence-based analysis and reporting.</i> (iv) <i>Developing new, innovative environmental information products, including, where feasible, citizen science tools.</i> 	

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p>(v) Promoting the use of on-line platforms as a means for sharing timely and up-to-date environmental information.</p> <p>(vi) Organizing partnerships (public, private, technology centers, etc.) in support of the above objectives.</p> <p>(vii) Liaising with focal point offices of environmental conventions, relevant technical working groups and other partners and to spearhead the mainstreaming of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) priority/ obligations into national policies, legislations/ Bills/ laws, and programmes.</p> <p>Key outcomes of the inception workshop for the establishment of the SS NEIN.</p> <p>(i) A National Environmental Information Network formally established and operationalised with secretariat roles delegated to MoEF, through its Directorate of Environmental Education and Information.</p> <p>(ii) Validation of a core set of 195 environmental indicators underpinning the design of a national Environmental Information System (EIS)/ portal developed aimed at facilitating open source data collection, sharing and reporting.</p> <p>(iii) Beta EIS portal presented by the developer [CEDARE] for review by the SSNEIN partner agencies.</p> <p>(iv) Lunch of self-paced online training tutorials on the EIS user interface, in readiness for the deployment phase.</p> <p>(v) NEIN members trained as ToTs for the back-end management of the EIS tool.</p> <div>  </div>	

Group photos: Inception workshop, National Environmental Information Network (NEIN), 24-26 October 2022, Juba South Sudan

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p><i>Reference</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>Report on the establishment of the South Sudan NEIN, October 2022</u> (ii) <u>Proposed core list of environmental indicators</u> (iii) <u>Online EIS modules training tutorials.</u> (iv) <u>South Sudan NEIS Training for MoEF experts, 16-18 August 2022, Cairo Egypt</u> (v) <u>Participants list, South Sudan NEIS Training for MoEF experts, 16-18 August 2022, Cairo Egypt</u> (vi) <u>Online EIS modules training tutorials + CEDARE presentation</u> 	
Output 1.4 Shared environmental information system developed and implemented					
1.4.1 Analyze the requirements and key functionalities of a shared environmental reporting system	Year 2, Q2	90%	100%	<p>Environmental Information Systems (EIS) profile of South Sudan</p> <p>In South Sudan, publication of official statistics is a mandate of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). However, because of the long protracted civil war, political conflicts and other instabilities that have plagued the Country since independence from Sudan in 2011, no meaningful collection, compilation and publication of official statistics has been done. NBS continues to experience high staff turnover as experienced personnel leave their lowly underpaying civil service jobs for greener pastures with the private sector or other development partners. This scenario is replicated in most government ministries with mandate or interest to produce, consume or disseminate environmental statistics.</p>	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	Year 3, Q2	0%	100%	<p>Projected illiteracy rate in 2018 by the World Bank was about 65-70%, one of the highest in the World. The World Bank and other organisation estimate that as of 2023, South Sudan was the poorest Country globally, with about 82% of the Country's 11-13 million population live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than USD 1.9 per day and over 98% surviving on less than USD 10/ day.</p> <p>On internet and mobile penetration, between February and May 2023, the <u>Datareportal</u> and the <u>World Bank</u> projected that South Sudan had about 700,000 internet/ social media users (majority between 18 -34 years) and 3.58 million cellular mobile connections translating to internet penetration/ social media users and mobile phones penetration rates of 4-6.5% and 30% respectively. This shows South Sudan is one of the Worlds least connected Country information wise. Similarly, only about 7% have 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 go-to platform preferred by most organisations to disseminate information to the public.</p> <p>Needles to mention, the Country has very few online platforms (if any) that could fit the descriptions of environmental information systems, and none of them is pioneered by the core environmental data producers targeted as part of the SSNEIN. This is largely so because all government institutional have limited or no existing capacities (be it financial or technical) to develop such systems on their own. 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 cycles, in comparison to other political sensitive issues like meeting budgetary requirements for defense/ security, food security, poverty eradication, education, transportation, peace and cohesion etc.</p> <p>Literacy rates are improving as most of parents embrace western education systems. Moreover, the Country has recently been awarded several environmental by Multilateral development partners like the GEF, which could be leveraged to close the funding</p>	S

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl ation date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating 35
				<p>gap in the development of robust EIS systems that could set the emerging literate youth on a clear path for sustainable development. For example, in GEF6 and GEF7, South Sudan was awarded about USD 12,000 grants which are various stages of implementation, one being the UAD 1,000,000 project executed by the UNEP Africa Office. Component 1 of this GEF6 CCCD project is focused on the establishment of a national collaboration mechanism for the Rio Conventions (MEA Network initially proposed), the compilation of a core set of environmental indicators and data sharing protocols, and development of the inaugural EIS for South Sudan.</p> <p>2022 PIR A <u>preliminary EIS assessment study report</u> on core institutions, their capacities and the existing framework to facilitate data and information exchange in South Sudan recommended the (i) setting up of National Environmental Information Network (NEIN), and (ii) the formulation and implementation of a national strategy for the development and implementation of Environmental Information in South Sudan. The NEIS analysis study also proposed a model structure and key steps for setting up a model NEIN in South Sudan. A <u>skeleton national EIS platform</u>⁴⁴ has already been developed in compliance with the 7 SEIS principles and CEDARE NEIs training manual appended (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DMkUEVa-xD2GQ5cyyRC6YGzK-nQtQXjV/view?usp=sharing)</p> <p>2023 PIR updates During national consultation / inception workshop for the National Environmental Information Network (NEIN): (i) It was decided that the NEIN would play the role of the MEA Network proposed in the ProDoc. (ii) NEIN members also reviewed and validated a <u>core list of 178 environmental indicators</u> applied in the design of the NEIS in its current version. The indicators have been classified into 11 environmental themes, 54 priority issues and 178 lead indicators. (iii) It was decided that MoEF would provide secretariat services for the NEIN, host the inaugural EIS reporting tool and mobilise additional resources to support requisite operational costs following the GEF CCCD project exit.</p>	
1.4.3 Develop and implement the system based on the identified requirements	Year 3, Q1	40%	80%	<p>2022 PIR During the reporting period, the project team commissioned the design of an Environmental Information System (<u>EIS</u>)/ <u>portal</u> to facilitate open-source based data collection, sharing and reporting; informed by two scoping and stakeholder consultation workshops. The system's user interface to digitize drafting process for future State of the Environment (<u>SoE</u>) <u>reports</u> and relevant <u>SDG/ environmental indicator</u> EIS modules have already been designed with full deployment expected in 2023.</p>	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	Year 3, Q4	30%	100%	<p><i>The <u>NEIS platform</u> is composed of the five modules and consisted with the seven principle of Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS) of ensuring that environmental information is (1) managed close to its source, (2) collected once and shared with others for many purposes, (3) readily available to easily fulfil reporting obligations, (4) easily accessible to all users, (5) accessible to the enable citizens participation and comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale, (6) fully available to the general public and at national level in the relevant national language(s), and (7) supported through common, free, open software standards. Moreover, the project begun <u>digitizing</u> the drafting process of future State of Environment Report (SoE) through the same NEIS portal</i></p>	S

⁴⁴ [Baseline South Sudan NEIS user interface on the CEDARE website](#)

- (1) State of the Environment Reporting (SOER) module¹: serves as a digital repository of previous SOE reports, and for automating the preparation and publication processes for future SOEs. An interactive SOER will be developed to give authors and reviewers access to all the relevant data, indicators, maps, photos or documents/references used in the development of the report in accordance with medium-term plan for improving the role that environmental information plays in the implementation of the draft Vision 2040. The SOER system also supports the linkages between effective natural resources management and peace building.
- (2) Spatial information system module: for harnessing state-of-the-art remote sensing and GIS capabilities for collecting and analyzing environmental data. The system will help analyze environmental data of South Sudan's changing environment and emerging environmental issues to inform decision makers of these changes and initiate actions to mitigate any negative environmental impacts. Proposed GIS data sets include: Land use (by type); Vegetation (by type); Forests (by type, condition, density); Forest tenure/land tenure; Soils (by type); Agriculture (by type); Livestock and wildlife census; Wetlands; Climate (temperature, precipitation); Flora & fauna (species type and density information); Human settlements; Population (count and density); Roads; Other infrastructure (transmission lines, etc.); and Industrial activities (e.g. Extractives: Oil and Artisanal small-scale gold mining (ASM) etc.)
- (3) Environmental indicators system module: that tracks progress towards achieving priority national Rio Convention aspirations, the relevant national SDGs and other development targets. It will also develop a data set of the select indicators, based on data used in the MEAs, and draft Vision 2040 and other sources for use in reporting, monitoring and assessment processes (including gender-disaggregated indicators where relevant). The system will provide the standardized definitions for these indicators as well as protocols between line ministries for data collection, sharing and management, and seek formal endorsement/ agreement of the definitions and protocols from the key agencies. Relevant SDGs with synergies with the MEAs include SDG 1 on Ending Poverty, SDG 2 on Zero Hunger, SDG 3 on Good Health and Well-being, SDG 5 on Gender Equality, SDG 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13 on Climate Action, and SDG 15 on Life on Land.
- (4) Environmental statistics and reporting module: For enabling ministries/ agencies to upload their national statistics data. It will identify the national reporting obligations and develop a searchable database of these documents including mechanisms related to the Rio Conventions and other MEAs utilized by line ministries. National statistics will be shared among all agencies to facilitate the reporting mechanisms. This module will include a data validation process (checking for efficacy, correctness, compliance with applicable standards/ rules/ conventions) and assist in the development of building a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for South Sudan. National and regional reporting systems will be linked to the shared environmental information system with open access to information for all agencies
- (5) Shared environmental information system module: designed to map South Sudan environmental and socio-economic data sources at the national, regional or global levels. This will help managing and access environmental data throughout various national agencies. Its development will include conducting a detailed analysis of any other existing EIS systems in the Country, data sources and flows, indicators and reporting mechanisms related to the Rio Conventions and other MEAs.

To guarantee power availability for the EIS and related ICT services, commissioned the installation of renewable solar energy supply system to replace a fossil based system at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF). The PMU also established and organized the inaugural Project Steering Committee (PSC), which approved the procurement plan, workplan, budget and

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating 35
				<p>ongoing partnership with CEDARE towards the design of the Country's first EIS po rtal for management of environmental data collection, sharing and reporting. Ref: <u>PSC Minutes, South Sudan GEF6 CCCD project, 24 Feb 2022, Juba</u></p> <p>2023 PIR updates</p> <p>Towards achievement of the key EIS development deliverables outlined in the last PIR report, during the reporting period, the project facilitated MoEF and its project partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Establish the South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS-NEIN). <i>The SS-NEIN is composed of all government ministries, research institutions, and non-state actors' that produce and consume environmental data and information in South Sudan. To this end, the initiative will serve as the national collaboration and coordination forum spearheading the design and deployment of the EIS system in conjunction with the EIS-technical working group established in February 2022.</i> (ii) Validate the core list of environmental indicators⁴⁵ (See output 1.4.2) underpinning the design of the EIS system, (iii) Finalise the design phase of the <u>beta version for the proposed National EIS system for South Sudan</u>: A beta version of the EIS is now available and hosted on CEDARE cloud servers pending the finalisation of an ICT Hub at MoEF offices which will serve as the nerve centre for the planned EIS deployment, back-end user training, and data upload coordination centre for the NEIN and its partners. Eight computers and other supportive ICT/ electrical power infrastructure installations are expected to be finalised by the end of Q3 2023, paving the way for national deployment and launch of data input operations. The EIS portal is composed of the five modules outlined in the previous sections. (iv) Develop five <u>online/ YouTube training tutorials on the back-end data entry for each EIS module</u> aimed at national technical experts and data upload focal points to be nominated by the SS-NEIN forum. These online training resources which will be embedded on the Help section of the EIS portal and remain accessible for the general public. These training resources were finalised during a 3 days hands-on EIS training meeting jointly convened by UNEP and CEDARE in its Cairo offices in the month of August 2022, where MoEF was represented by four technical experts drawn from the Directorates responsible for Biological diversity and wetlands, Environmental education and information, and Climate change issues. During the reporting period, CEDARE also facilitated an introductory EIS national training workshop for the NEIN forum held in October 2022 at the City of Juba. (v) Finalise the <u>procurement and delivery of 8 computers</u> (for the EIS training hub) and installation of a <u>10-kW solar energy system</u> completed to mitigate EIS system outages and guarantee 100% uptime [online availability] of EIS operations for public use. 	
COMPONENT 2: Strengthening of coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs					
Outcome 2.0: Enhanced coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the sustained implementation of Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs					
Output 2.1 MEA Network established and other mechanisms implemented to support enhanced coordination					

⁴⁵ Core list of 178 environmental indicators: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14lx6sgkklFgLRgKN9eHauXf-9NBtFSOA/view?usp=sharing>

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
2.1.1 Organize a technical workshop to discuss and agree on the establishment of an MEA Network.	Yea 1, Q4	30%	100%	<u>Inception workshop for the South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS-NEIN) and validation of priority indicators</u> In a national workshop held in Juba between 24 and 26 October 2022, the UNEP Africa Office supported environmental actors in South Sudan to establish a National Environmental Information Network (SS – NEIN) to be managed by a secretariat provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF).	MS
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	Year 3, Q4	30%	100%	<p>Among others, the SSNEIN was conceptualised to ensure South Sudan applies scientific principles towards efficacious collection and management of environmental data, information and knowledge products that facilitates evidence-based environmental assessments and reporting for informed decision making in the sustainable utilisation of its natural capital. At inception, the NEIN is expected to support MoEF and its partners (<i>primarily core environmental data producers</i>) to establish a robust National Environmental Information System (EIS) architecture before settling into other priority areas to be defined by its governing body whose secretariat will be hosted by MoEF. Key intervention areas revolve around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <i>Improving institutional arrangements and development of new information products and relevant tools.</i> (ii) <i>Building the capacity of national environmental institutions to conduct integrated environmental assessments, report on MEAs, and position them to support national development planning.</i> (iii) <i>Strengthening visualization of environmental information, including increased use of illustrations, maps and graphics in assessment reports and other products to support evidence-based analysis and reporting.</i> (iv) <i>Developing new, innovative environmental information products, including, where feasible, citizen science tools.</i> (v) <i>Promoting the use of on-line platforms as a means for sharing timely and up-to-date environmental information.</i> (vi) <i>Organizing partnerships (public, private, technology centers, etc.) in support of the above objectives.</i> (vii) <i>Liaising with focal point offices of environmental conventions, relevant technical working groups and other partners and to spearhead the mainstreaming of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) priority/ obligations into national policies, legislations/ Bills/ laws, and programmes.</i> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Key outcomes of the inception workshop for the establishment of the SS NEIN.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A National Environmental Information Network (NEIN) formally established and operationalised with secretariat roles delegated to MoEF, through its Directorate of Environmental Education and Information. (ii) Validation of a core set of 195 environmental indicators underpinning the design of a national Environmental Information System (EIS)/ portal developed aimed at facilitating open source data collection, sharing and reporting. (iii) Beta EIS portal presented by the developer [CEDARE] for review by the SSNEIN partner agencies. (iv) Lunch of self-paced online training tutorials on the EIS user interface, in readiness for the deployment phase. (v) NEIN members trained as ToTs for the back-end management of the EIS tool. </div> <p><i>Reference</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Report on the establishment of the South Sudan NEIN, October 2022 (ii) Proposed core list of environmental indicators (iii) Online EIS modules training tutorials. 	S

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
2.1.3 Issue a biannual newsletter, publish brief "state of the sector" reports, and/or sponsor the participation in regional meetings/trainings	Year 3, Q4	30%	100%	<p>2023 Update</p> <p>During the reporting period, the project supported MoEF and its partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Organise national events to commemorate World Environment Day (WED) 2022 during the national environment week (27 June to 4 July 2022) including the launch of the Sudd assessment report, town cleaning and tree planting campaigns, Tv and radio talk shows and production of a <u>30-minute public awareness creation documentary</u> highlighting all these activities and advocating for observance of sound environmental management and governance. (ii) Launch and undertake outreaches on the <u>rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem</u>⁴⁶ in South Sudan. (iii) Organise a virtual public lecture for the faculty and IESD centre at the University of Tonji in China and <u>environmental technocrats in South Sudan</u>, presenting results of the Sudd rapid assessment study from a Science-Policy-Politics interface. (iv) Organise a national training for academia and environmental actors on how to access free research articles on the environment through the Research4Life and Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE). (v) Facilitate two MoEF delegates (<i>the Undersecretary for MoEF and the IPBES national focal point</i>) attending the high-level segment of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD). This was in addition to the two delegates supported to participate in the 26th UNFCCC COP in the previous year. (vi) Develop a national strategy and action plan on Land Degradation and Neutrality (<u>LDN strategy</u>)⁴⁷. (vii) Participate in a <u>3-days South-South experiences & knowledge sharing forum</u> on the management of GEF CCCD funded programmes, especially on the deployment of data/ information management systems in support of environmental assessments and reporting⁴⁸ (viii) Participate in an 8 day training on GIS, Remote sensing application and environmental data visualization for environmental reporting and assessments at the US based George Mason University (GMU) Center for Environmental Science and Technology titled "<i>UNEP/GMU Training Workshop on Mapping and Monitoring Natural Capital of Africa Using Remote Sensing Data</i>" 	S
2.1.4 Implement other mechanisms to support enhanced consultation and coordination in support of the Rio Conventions.	Year 3, Q4	50%	100%	The ProDoc expected the project to among others, (a) organise regular working group and consultative meetings during the formulation of policies and project planning and execution, (b) strengthen the Department for MEAs within MoEF, (c) facilitate joint progress monitoring and consultation processes in the preparation of national reports and MEA Conference of the Parties (COPs), and (d) establishment of a stakeholder database.	S

⁴⁶ [A rapid assessment of the state of Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan, 2022](#)



⁴⁷ [Final report: South Sudan Land Degradation and Neutrality \(LDN\) Strategy and Action Plan, 2022](#)

⁴⁸ [17-19 January 2023 Naivasha GEF CCCD meeting](#)

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating 35
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)	Year 1, Q4	100%	100%	<p>During the reporting period, MoEF finally launched the 2022 <u>rapid assessment report on the state of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan</u> on 4 July 2022 during the nation's celebrations for WED and Stockholm +50 to mark 50 years since the 1972 United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment which made the environment a pressing global issue for the first time.</p> <p>Moreover, to raise public awareness on environmental stewardship and sustainability, a <u>30 minute documentary summarizing events and activities held leading up to and during the 2022 South Sudan environment week (27 June to 4 July 2022)</u> was also developed, aired on the national TV broadcaster (the SSBC) and also published in several online YouTube channels. For example, the documentary features an exhibition set-up outside the meeting hall highlighting how local small micro-enterprises have innovated locally made environmentally friendly solutions and products made of renewable natural resources (e.g wild honey and furniture), reusable/ recyclable plastics waste (like shopping bags) and other biomass based energy products. <u>Formation and training of school environment clubs</u> that could be capitalised to promote mass planting of trees was also emphasized in line with aspirations of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration that aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and country.</p> <p>The project facilitated two MoEF delegates (<i>the Undersecretary for MoEF and the IPBES national focal point</i>) attending the high-level segment of the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD). This was in addition to the two delegates supported to participate in the 26th UNFCCC COP in the previous year.</p> <p>The ELFWG supported MAFS to finalise the national strategy and action plan on Land Degradation and Neutrality (<u>LDN strategy</u>)⁴⁹ and formulate 2023 versions of the Environment and Forestry Bills.</p> <p>Towards strengthening the department of MEAs within MoEF, the project finalised the procurement of <u>ICT Equipment</u> for supplementing internet services, <u>delivery of computers</u> for establishing a EIS training hub, and installation of a <u>10-kW solar energy system</u> aimed at mitigating EIS system outages and guarantee 100% uptime [online availability] of EIS operations for public use.</p> <div> <p>A 10-kw renewable energy system with 10 kWh LiFePo4 battery banks installed at the MoEF offices in Juba, South Sudan</p> <p>Power independence is a serious issue hampering development and environmental conservation in South Sudan, a Country where over 99% of its population are not connected to any electricity grid and thereby depend on forests (firewood and charcoal) as their primary source of energy. In Juba city alone, the Government relies on a high tariff, diesel powered private power supplier who only provides about 33 Megawatts (MW) against an electrical power demand of roughly 100 MW.</p> <p>With 90% of electricity needs in all UN peacekeeping missions (<i>often located in fragile states/ regions with poor access to energy and high vulnerability to climate change like South Sudan</i>) supplied by diesel generators, these UN establishments maintain an energy profile largely based on fossil fuel. In 2019, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres committed the UN Secretariat to slash its carbon emissions and dramatically increase its use of renewable energy to 80 percent by 2030. This is a crucial step forward for the UN in efforts to lead by example, and to transform its operations. The commitment presents a</p> </div>	HS

⁴⁹ Final report: South Sudan Land Degradation and Neutrality (LDN) Strategy and Action Plan, 2022

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p>unique opportunity for both the UN and host countries to simultaneously deliver on climate, development, peace, and security objectives.</p> <p>In line with UN Secretary General's call to accelerate a green transition within the UN operations and peace keeping missions like UNMISS an aspiration of the second National Determined Contributions (2nd NDC) strategy for South Sudan, the project team (through UNON and following completion of the budget revision in October 2022) re-initiated procurement of a mini 10 kWh solar power plant to be installed at the MoEF offices in Juba City. Besides meeting <u>South Sudan government renewable energy priorities</u> outlined by the Undersecretary for Environment at MoEF as abstracted below, this mini grid will guarantee MoEF uninterrupted renewable energy supply for its basic electrical power demands like running all computers (including the EIS hub), lights, propeller fans and tele conference services.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Reference: Second NDC for South Sudan, page 21 : "Electricity access to a grid network is very limited in South Sudan, with installed capacity being much lower than the demand. As a result, people are dependent on diesel power generators for electricity. Although South Sudan has high potential for renewable energy-based electricity generation, currently it is completely dependent on thermal power production. The government has identified and is carrying out feasibility studies for installation of various solar energy and hydropower-based projects as part of its NDC and other developmental policies.</p> <p>Moreover, the government has also started investing in multiple projects, which on completion are expected to increase the share of renewable energy by 8 percent in total. South Sudan will continue to focus on increasing the share of renewable energy in the total energy mix. By increasing the share of solar, wind, hydro and biomass, South Sudan aims at achieving cumulative emission reduction of 69 percent by 2030 compared to the baseline. South Sudan will also promote the use of energy-efficient technologies and decentralized renewable energy grids, which can be both time- and cost-effective, to increase electricity access in rural areas. In addition to its other benefits, increasing the contribution of renewable energy will enable South Sudan to gain access to international climate finance through carbon credits trading markets".</p> </div>	



Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp completion date ³³	Status: 30 June 2022 (%)	Status: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ³⁵
				 	
2.2.2 Conduct a baseline awareness survey among key stakeholders (at national and state/local level)	Year 2, Q1	0%	0%	To be reported in the next PIR.	MS
2.2.3 Implement the awareness and capacity development plan	Year 3, Q4	40%	100%	<p>Under this activity, the PMU is expected to undertake awareness and capacity development programmes by among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiling and disseminating simple fact sheets on the Rio Conventions. • Planning for radio and television talk shows, bulletins, newspaper articles etc. • Planning/ Facilitating public lectures for university students on the Rio Conventions, • Organising roundtables for parliamentarians, policy- and decision-makers. • Organising awareness raising events such as World Environment Day (WED), World Wetlands Day, World Water Day and the International Day of Forests; and organising awareness raising sessions at the state level. • Training of Trainers (TOT) for national and state level stakeholders on the Rio Conventions. • Training for Rio Convention focal points, desk officers and other relevant technical staff on negotiation skills for the COPs. • Training of Trainers (TOT) for representatives of academia/research institutions. • Training on Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE). 	S


2022 PIR

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p>During this year's World Environment Day (WED) commemorations in Juba, the project collaborated with other development partner to finance and facilitate MoEF organise several national WED events in Juba between June and Week 1 of July 2022. UNDP South Sudan supported UNEP procure most of the items requested by the MoEF including (i) WED awareness creation promotional materials (<i>T-shirts, caps, flyers, posters, banners</i>), (ii) tree planting programmes (<i>300 seedlings, water cans, gloves, hoes, shovels, gumboots</i>), (iii) refreshments (<i>Water, soda, biscuits, sweets</i>), (iv) hiring of the meeting Venue (Freedom Hall) and professional sound system, and (v) the launch of an environment and livelihoods resilience talk show in the local SSBC TV and Radio (Miraya FM) in collaboration with FAO.</p> <p>MoEF was supported to launch a monthly talk show aired by the national SSBC TV station and the UNMISS <u>Miraya FM</u> radio stations in collaboration with FAO. The programme is aimed at enhancing public awareness on priority environmental governance and livelihoods resilience/adaptation (e.g promotion of environmentally sustainable and drought resilient smart agriculture practices in line with UNCCDs LDN principles). South Sudan is a predominantly import based economy that is vulnerable to the ever-dynamic global supply chain that continues to weak its currency/ economy due to the absence of substantial foreign exchange inflows (beside those from oil exports, that account for >95 of the Government annual recurrent expenditure budget). If the Country is to adapt and build resilience against climate change induced vulnerabilities, urgent diversification of its economy from dependency on oil exports towards building a robust local agriculture-based economy is paramount. The project also commissioned the production of a short environmental education documentary that will address these concerns among other environmental topics proposed by MoEF.</p> <p>To bridge the gap between the technical development of policies/ bills and uptake by the legislature – which ultimately determines the final enactment into laws or failure of it, the project team has ensured that the chairperson of the national parliamentary committee on environment and forestry is invited and incorporated as a core player in all project workshops, the two technical working groups and the project steering committee (PSC). A round table with members of her team and those from a similar committee of the Council of States is planned in 2023 to outreach the Sudd Assessment report and present recommendations of the working paper on the draft Bills.</p>	

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				<p><i>Hon. Hellen, Chairperson South Sudan National Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Forestry gives closing remarks during the validation workshop for the rapid assessment on the Sudd wetland, 27 April 2022, Juba South Sudan.</i></p> <p>A national OARE training workshop for university staff and students had been planned (in collaboration with UNEP OARE team) as part of the 2022 World Environment Day (WED) commemorations but has been rescheduled to Q3 of 2022. The first session is planned to be an OARE Training of Trainers (TOT) for the research community at the University of Juba (UoJ) who will be facilitated and expected to upscale the trainings to other academicians in South Sudan. This activity will be undertaken in partnership with the <u>OARE unit/team</u> based at the Science Division of UNEP in Nairobi.</p>  <p><i>Group photo: Inaugural PSC for the South Sudan GEF6 CCCD project, 24/2/2022, Juba, South Sudan</i> <i>NB: Hon. Hellen, Chairperson South Sudan National Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Forestry standing at the front row</i></p> <p>Ref: <u>Approved GEF projects in South Sudan, July 2022</u> Ref: <u>GEF6 CCCD project support for MoEF to commemorate WED 2022</u> Ref: <u>Sudd wetland inception workshop, UNEP mission report, February 2022, Juba</u> Ref: <u>Sudd wetland validation workshop, UNEP mission report, April 2022, Juba</u> Ref: South Sudan EIS-WG ToR: https://drive.google.com/file/d/13acqBJNMudqsoxFAlH7fA8UAj_AJvh0p/view?usp=sharing Ref: South Sudan ELF-WG ToR: https://drive.google.com/file/d/14bOijxivbzOtSjd_Kec9mx8Y5uyLFtQI/view?usp=sharing Ref: <u>Minutes for the inaugural PSC session for the South Sudan GEF6 CCCD project, 24 Feb 2022, Juba</u></p> <p>2023 PIR update</p> <p>ProDoc Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for radio and television talk shows, bulletins, newspaper articles etc. 	


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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising awareness raising events such as World Environment Day (WED), • Training of Trainers (TOT) for national and state level stakeholders on the Rio Conventions. • Training of Trainers (TOT) for representatives of academia/research institutions. • Training on Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE). <p>Planning for radio and television talk shows, bulletins, newspaper articles etc. Organising awareness raising events such as World Environment Day (WED),</p> <p>During the reporting period, MoEF finally launched the 2022 <u>rapid assessment report on the state of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan</u> on 4 July 2022 during the nation's celebrations for WED and Stockholm +50 to mark 50 years since the 1972 United Nations Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment which made the environment a pressing global issue for the first time.</p> <p>Moreover, to raise public awareness on environmental stewardship and sustainability, a <u>30 minute documentary summarizing events and activities held leading up to and during the 2022 South Sudan environment week (27 June to 4 July 2022)</u> was also developed, aired on the national TV broadcaster (the SSBC) and also published in several online YouTube channels. For example, the documentary features an exhibition set-up outside the meeting hall highlighting how local small micro-enterprises have innovated locally made environmentally friendly solutions and products made of renewable natural resources (e.g wild honey and furniture), reusable/ recyclable plastics waste (like shopping bags) and other biomass based energy products. <u>Formation and training of school environment clubs</u> that could be capitalised to promote mass planting of trees was also emphasized in line with aspirations of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration that aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and country. As outlined by the <u>Vice President H.E Hussein Abdelbagi</u> and Hon Josephine Napwon (<u>Minister MoEF</u>), the documentary supplements the ongoing <u>national discourse</u> on the necessity for undertaking environmental impact assessments before initiating projects in <u>sensitive ecosystems like the Sudd Wetlands</u> and strategies for harnessing national energies, skills and collaborations with development partners to address its share of humanity's current triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution; since we only have one earth, and saving the environment saves lives.</p> <p>As outlined by the <u>Vice President H.E Hussein Abdelbagi</u> and Hon Josephine Napwon (<u>Minister MoEF</u>), the documentary supplements the ongoing <u>national discourse</u> on the necessity for undertaking environmental impact assessments before initiating projects in <u>environmental sensitive ecosystems like the Sudd Wetlands</u> and strategies for harnessing national energies, skills and collaborations with development partners to address its share of humanity's current triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution; since we only have one earth, and saving the environment saves lives.</p>	

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating 35
				<div>  <p>TIMOTHY THWOL ONAK Director General for Forestry- Ministry of Environment and Forestry</p> </div> <div>  <p>H.E. HUSSIEN ABDELBAGI AKOL Vice President –Service Cluster</p> </div> <p>Documentary: 2022 World Environment Day (WED) Commemorations in South Sudan</p> <p>Source: <u>Documentary: 2022 World Environment Day (WED) Commemorations in South Sudan</u></p> <p>During the 2022 environment week, MoEF and its partners lead by UNEP with finding from the GEF CCCD project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised solid waste clean-up activities and mass tree-planting campaigns in several estates and schools within Juba City, Organised Radio and TV talk shows aimed at raising awareness on environmental governance, conservation and sustainability, Held national commemorations for World Environment Day (WED) on 4th July at the Freedom Hall, Juba City, Launched three key reports supported by GEF projects implemented by UNEP and UNDP, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The rapid Assessment on the Sudd Wetland Ecosystem: https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/... (ii) The First National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change: https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/publ... , and the (iii) Second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC): https://www.undp.org/south-sudan/publ... <p>(i) <u>Documentary: 2022 World Environment Day (WED) Commemorations in South Sudan</u></p> <p>Training of Trainers (TOT) for national and state level stakeholders</p> <p>EIS training for MoEF technical experts, Cairo/ Egypt, August 2022</p> <p>Between 16 and 18 of August 2022, a hands-on training workshop was held at CEDARE's Cairo offices attended by four MoEF technical experts drawn from the Directorates of biodiversity, climate change, and environmental information. The meeting</p>	

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				<p>reviewed the current NEIS architecture and focusing on the back-end user experience for each of the <u>five modules</u> (<i>The EIS/ Environmental indicators, the SDGs, the social economics, the SOER, and the spatial analysis modules</i>).</p>  <p>Group photo: Hands on training on the back-end management of the South Sudan EIS portal, August 2022, Cairo</p> <p>Regional training workshop⁵⁰: Using GEO Methodologies for National State of the Environment Reporting</p> <p>The project sponsored one MoEF participant (Mss Dorina Keji) to participate in this workshop organized to train national focal points from 7 Africa Environment Information Network (AIEN) pilot countries on 'Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) and Integrated Assessment Methodologies'. The workshop was supported by UNEP's SEIS initiatives that seeks to improve the collection, exchange and use of credible and up-to-date environmental data and information in decision-making by regularly engaging with country-level technical experts domiciled in the Environment Ministries and/or Environmental Protection Agencies.</p> <p>It also sought to address some of the recognized gaps that have been identified at the national level through multiple processes that include Common Country Analysis (CCA) and Integrated Environmental Assessments (IEA). Key among the glaring data gaps include institutional bottlenecks that continue to hamper availability of credible environmental data.</p>	

⁵⁰ Regional SEIS workshop training report and presentations: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qpa4pAp8AtT_EoMNONMNqW7DP6T-sVCr/view?usp=sharing

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				 <p>Photo: Training workshop on "Using GEO Methodologies for National State of the Environment Reporting", 6-7 Dec 2022, Cairo, Egypt</p> <p>The trainees are expected to retrain their colleagues at the national level in not only strengthening data coherence within their and other related Ministries such as those dealing with National Statistics, Wildlife, Agriculture, Water Resources, Trade, and Economy, among others.</p> <p>(i) <u>Mission report, Presentations & Participant list: 6-7 December 2022 SEIS Training Workshop, Cairo, Egypt.</u></p> <p><u>20-28 February 2023 Washington GIS and Remote Sensing Training Meeting:</u> Two South Sudan MoEF staff facilitated to participate in an 8 days training workshop on GIS, Remote sensing application and environmental data visualization for environmental reporting and assessments at the US based George Mason University (GMU) Center for Environmental Science and Technology titled "UNEP/GMU Training Workshop on Mapping and Monitoring Natural Capital of Africa Using Remote Sensing Data".</p>	

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				 <p>The top image shows a man in a suit presenting at a workshop. The screen behind him displays a PowerPoint slide titled 'UNEP/GMU Training Workshop on Mapping and Monitoring Natural Capital of Africa Using Remote Sensing Data' with a 'WELCOME!' message. The bottom image shows a group of seven people (six men and one woman) standing together for a group photo in a room with a large screen and a desk in the foreground.</p>	

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p>Group photo: Participants for the UNEP/GMU training workshop on mapping and monitoring Natural Capital of Africa using Remote Sensing Data, Environmental Science and Technology Center (ESTC), George Mason University (GMU), 21-28 February 2023.</p> <p><u>Agenda items⁵¹, discussion points and PPTs/ presentations⁵²</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Introduction to the African Water-Energy-Food-Health Nexus Initiative Bouchra Taouil , African Coordinator, ESTC, GMU (ii) Synergistic use of satellites for the detection and monitoring of methane emissions Dr. Ritesh Gautam (iii) Natural Capital Approach to Natural Resources Management in Africa Dr. Pushpam Kumar, UNEP (iv) Satellite-based Applications on Climate Change and Natural Resources Prof. John Qu, GMU (v) Scope of Africa Atlas of Natural Capital Charles Sebuakeera and Ashbindu Singh (vi) Practical exercises using remote sensing and GIS Johny Wilson Terrapulse Inc (vii) Demonstration of online access to remote sensing data from NASA, NOAA, USGS and other sources Dr. Xianjun Hao, GMU (viii) Methane emission monitoring using remote sensing data Dr. Ritesh Gautam, Environmental Defence Fund (ix) Processing and analysis of remote sensing data Dr. Xianjun Hao, GMU (x) GIS applications for mapping natural resources Prof. Matthew Rice, GMU (xi) Land carbon assessment using remote sensing data Dr. Zhiliang Zhu, United States Geological Survey (USGS) <p>Inception workshop, South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS-NEIN)⁵³</p> <p>A similar national training session was organised in Juba (24-26 October 2022), jointly facilitated by UNEP and CEDARE experts during the inception workshop for the SS-NEIN. This was designed as a Trainer of Trainees (ToTs) session on the back-end management of the EIS portal for focal points nominated by the core environmental data producing/ consuming ministries and agencies forming the NEIN platform, besides providing valuable inputs on data entry methodologies and required improvements required for each module.</p>	


⁵¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1T6C7KIBP0upnKhilv9E4otPQSk7jq4vf/view?usp=sharing>

⁵² <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aSOOSJu9I5NCwMfBFba3-tBUQ0ebuGhd?usp=sharing>

⁵³ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MqpgpCvPRH-gv5RvXOxMb22_CXK-rT6X/view?usp=drive_link


Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				  <p>Photos: Inception workshop, South Sudan National Environmental Information Network (SS-NEIN), 24-26 October 2022, Juba</p> <p>Training of Trainers (TOT) for representatives of academia/research institutions. Training on Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE).</p> <p>Research4Life/ OARE Training of Trainers (ToT), 27-28 October 2022, Juba Towards enhancing research and publications on environmental matters, a national training on Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) and Research4Life⁵⁴ was undertaken for 22 national participants drawn from the Academia, environmental NGOs and Government Ministries. <u>Research4Life</u> provides institutions in low-and middle-income countries with online access to academic and professional peer-reviewed content, with an aim to improve teaching, research and policymaking in health, agriculture, the environment and other life, physical and social sciences.</p>	

⁵⁴ <https://www.research4life.org/>

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp completion date ³³	Status: 30 June 2022 (%)	Status: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ³⁵
				 <p>Group photo: Research4Life/ OARE training, 27-28 October 2022, Juba Grand Hotel, Juba</p> <p>i. <u>Mission Report, OARE Training, Juba, October 2022</u></p>	
2.2.4 Conduct an end-of-project awareness survey among key stakeholders (at national and state/local level)	Year 3, Q4	0%	NA	NA	MS
Output 2.3 Practical guidelines on community participation and engagement developed					
2.3.1 Develop a communication strategy and practical guidelines to facilitate community participation and engagement	Year 2, Q2	0%	0%	To be reported on in future reports	MS

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
2.3.2 Organize a stakeholder consultation meeting to discuss the proposed guidelines	Year 3, Q4	0%	20%	<p>2023 PIR</p> <p>At the moment MoEF feels developing these guidelines is not of utmost importance at the moment, especially now that the South Sudan is yet to formulate and legislate a baseline environmental protection law. Moreover, insecurity still remains a thorny issue since the Project was developed and accessing rural areas for effective dissemination of these guidelines is impractical under current scenario. A decision on next course of actions for this output will be deliberated during the next project steering committee (PSC) meeting scheduled for September 2023.</p> <p>Be that as it may be, the project developed a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy whose action plan (see some sections in the table below) proposes and formulates extensive pathways in which MoEF and its partners could apply Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EBA) approaches by collaborating and engaging local communities in environmental conservation, restoration, and other sustainable land management practices with potential to halt or reverse ecosystems degradation in South Sudan in both forested and farmed landscapes.</p>	S
2.3.3 Disseminate these guidelines through the awareness and training events organized under Output 2.2	Year 3, Q4	0%	20	<p>LDN Objective Strategies and Targets</p> <p>1 Maintain and improve the sustainable delivery of Ecosystem services including sustainable agricultural production</p> <p>1.1 Produce 80 million tree and fruits seedlings for planting over a period of eight years.</p> <p>1.2 Develop 6 tree and fruit seedlings production protocol to be used by extension workers, farmers and communities.</p> <p>1.5 Train 13 trainers and dissemination officers in technologies for tree/fruit seedlings production and school gardening</p> <p>1.8 Promote Bamboo growing in 2 government forests; 2 riparian areas, 2 community forests; and 2 farmlands</p> <p>1.9 Develop and disseminate 1 tree growing, maintenance and management guidelines for farmers and communities</p> <p>1.10 Develop 1 regulatory mechanism for inclusive exploitation of trees/fruits in government and community forests and orchards</p> <p>2 Seek synergies with other social, economic and environmental objectives;</p> <p>2.1 Develop 1 national -multi-purpose tree nursery; 13 centres of excellence, 9 school gardens and 3 tree growing technology incubation centres in three states (Greater Equatoria, Greater Upper Nile and Greater Bhar El Ghazel); which have excellent conditions for success.</p> <p>2.2 Develop 1 framework to support Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) to support commercial tree and fruit farming.</p> <p>2.3 Support access to affordable finance and credit facilities for entrepreneurs, industries and investors in tree and fruit farming</p> <p>2.4 Legislate to include 5 locally developed tree products in preferential procurement list of government departments</p> <p>2.5 Develop national and state level forest development hubs or market centres</p> <p>4 Capacity building and awareness creation in promotion and management of land and other natural resources</p> <p>4.1 Sensitize policy makers, managers and land owners on sustainable natural resource management (8 sensitization meetings)</p> <p>4.2 Build capacity for at least 350 players in the natural resource sector</p> <p>4.3 Undertake dissemination training for at least 350 extension staff in Agriculture and forestry sectors in sustainable land natural resources management</p> <p>4.4 Institute at least 55 research grants and apprenticeship for artisans and training at certificate/diploma, Bachelor, Master and PhD levels in natural resource sector</p> <p>4.5 Develop at least 3 dissemination materials for use at state levels</p>	S

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p>4.6 Establish at least 8 knowledge exchange and technology development and sharing platform at national level</p> <p>4.7 Leverage green school programs in 160 schools for wider dissemination of agriculture, forestry and agroforestry practices</p> <p>4.8 Prepare an annual status report on LDN progress towards achieving the LDN national targets by 2030 based on year 2015 as a baseline</p> <p>5 Promote Private sector investment, public private partnerships</p> <p>5.1 Undertake 1 Stakeholder mapping and sensitization of natural resource sector players</p> <p>5.2 Establish a revolving fund to promote land restoration at national level</p> <p>5.3 Organize 10 cross state, inter-country study tours, trade fairs and exhibitions as a way of enhancing land restoration efforts</p> <p>5.4 Develop 2 standards and certification mechanisms across the forestry and agricultural value chains</p> <p>5.5 Develop 1 Public Private Partnership guidelines to promote public/private sector involvement in land restoration activities.</p> <p>Formulation and validation of this LDN strategy was spearheaded by the UNCCD national focal point office domiciled at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS). Implementation and possible funding pathways for LDN strategy will be discussed in a national workshop scheduled to precede the PSC meeting in September 2023.</p>	
COMPONENT 3: Integration of key provisions of Rio Conventions in national policies and legislation					
Outcome 3.0: National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.					
Output 3.1 At least 2 sectoral policies, laws or strategies clearly make provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles					
3.1.1 Establish an Environmental Policy Working Group	Year 1, Q3	10%	100%	<p>2022 PIR update</p> <p><i>During the reporting period, the project organized stakeholder consultation forums in Juba and Cairo culminating in the following outputs. Ref UNEP February 2022 mission report + MoEF mission debrief.</i></p> <p>(a) February 2022: The launch of the Environmental and Legal Frameworks technical Working Group (ELFWG) to spearhead the drafting and possible enactment of two crucial environmental bills (the Environmental Protection and the Forestry bills) and the production of a national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy. The ELFWG is comprised of representatives from the schools of Environment and Law from the University of Juba (UoJ), the South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation (SSNCO), the chairperson South Sudan's national Parliamentary committee for Environment and Forestry, and senior government officials from the Ministries responsible for Environment and forestry (MoEF), Justice and constitutional affairs (MoJCA, Wildlife conservation and tourism (MWCT, Agriculture and food security (MAFS), Livestock and fisheries (MLF), National statistics (NBS), Finance and planning (MFP), Humanitarian affairs and disaster management (MHADM), Water resources and irrigation (MWRI), and Gender, children and social welfare (MGCSW. Ref ELFWG terms of reference (ToR).</p>	MS

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵										
				<div></div> <p>Mr Charles (UNEP) and Yusuf (CEDARE) facilitating sessions during the EIS-WG launch, 23/2/2022, Juba</p> <p>Moreover, between 2018 and June 2021, the MoEF and its partners have so far established other MEA coordination mechanisms like the climate change working group established and coordinated under the patronage of MoEF, and the disaster risk management working group established by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADM).</p> <div>2023 PIR update</div> <p>EIS technical working group established in February 2022.</p>											
3.1.2 Conduct a detailed analysis of existing sectoral policies, laws and strategies to identify gaps	Year 2, Q2	10%	100%	<div>2022 PIR update</div> <p>A preliminary EIS assessment study report (<i>Report on core institutions, their capacities and the existing framework to facilitate data and information exchange in South Sudan</i>) validated by the ELFWG meeting held in February 2022 recommended the following for consideration by MoEF, NBS and other environmental data actors in South Sudan.</p> <table><tr><th>Thematic area</th><th>Recommendations: Analysis of existing EIS & environmental indicators in South Sudan</th></tr><tr><td>Legal & policy framework</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">The draft Environmental Protection and Forestry Bills be finalized to support the legal and policy framework required to manage environmental information.The legal and policy framework should support an enabling framework for an Environment Information Network to be put in place to strengthen the production of environmental data and statistics.</td></tr><tr><td>National Environment Information Network</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">A National Environment Information Network is set up to improve coordination and collaboration in data and information collection and management.Environment information is provided in a free and open manner to promote environmental decision making and research, in line with SEIS principles.Ensure that staff managing environmental information in the Ministry of Environment and the sectors are adequately trained and their work aligned to existing needs. The staff are a critical resource if the Country increases data knowledge and access.</td></tr><tr><td>Metadata</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish a metadata catalogue describing existing information resources to aid data discovery and quick suitability analysis.</td></tr><tr><td>Interoperability</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Invest time and resources in the development of data interoperability solutions for data consumers to make better use of sectoral data</td></tr></table>	Thematic area	Recommendations: Analysis of existing EIS & environmental indicators in South Sudan	Legal & policy framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The draft Environmental Protection and Forestry Bills be finalized to support the legal and policy framework required to manage environmental information.The legal and policy framework should support an enabling framework for an Environment Information Network to be put in place to strengthen the production of environmental data and statistics.	National Environment Information Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A National Environment Information Network is set up to improve coordination and collaboration in data and information collection and management.Environment information is provided in a free and open manner to promote environmental decision making and research, in line with SEIS principles.Ensure that staff managing environmental information in the Ministry of Environment and the sectors are adequately trained and their work aligned to existing needs. The staff are a critical resource if the Country increases data knowledge and access.	Metadata	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Establish a metadata catalogue describing existing information resources to aid data discovery and quick suitability analysis.	Interoperability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Invest time and resources in the development of data interoperability solutions for data consumers to make better use of sectoral data	MS
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Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for seed funds from UNEP to support the core data producers in preparing their digital migration data. While sharing this data may initially consider only government institutions, there should be plans for this to become an open data platform to cater to public domain data. <p>Improving data quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A needs analysis be undertaken to assess precisely what equipment, instrumentation, devices, and so on are in place and what may be needed A data collection strategy be developed <p>Strengthening management of environmental statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a National strategy for the development of environmental statistics as called for in the 2018 State of Environment Report 2018 (UNEP, 2018) Complete the Framework for Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) country self-assessment. Undertake a collaborative needs analysis of all environmental statistics produced, including indicators, source, format and gaps. A unit for Environmental Statistics be set up in the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to spearhead and ensure integration of environmental data Make environmental statistics an integral part of the national statistics strategy and system. <p>2023 PIR update Comprehensive progress report on how the project continues to address these recommendations during the reporting period has been provide under activity 1.2.1. The analysis recommended for the project to pursue the formulation of two fundamental legislations/ laws on environmental protection/ governance and forestry management.</p>	
3.1.3 Draft a working paper outlining opportunities to incorporate Rio Convention principles into existing draft policies, laws and strategies	Year 2, Q2	10%	100%	<p>2022 PIR update Several stakeholder consultation forums organized by the project culminated in the following deliverables and products as expected by the ProDoc/ Results framework for outcome 3. The project supported the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security (MAFS) and other stakeholders to:</p> <p>(a) Establish two technical working groups (the Environmental Information Systems Working Group - EISWG and the Environmental Legal Frameworks working Group - ELFWG) to advise, steer, coordinate and support project interventions on environmental data collection, management and sharing/reporting⁵⁵ and mainstreaming Rio Convention priorities into national policies, strategies, and draft laws (Bills)⁵⁶.</p> <p>A core planning team (of 4 MoEF staff) for the establishment of the MEA Network (now proposed to be renamed the South Sudan National Environmental Information Network - SSNEIN) was constituted in June 2022. The proposed MEA/ SSNEIN network is expected to be formally established and operationalized by December 2022. For sustainability beyond the available GEF funding, this process will be managed under the auspices of the AMCEN/ UNEP managed Africa Environmental Information Network (AEIN).</p> <p>(d) The working groups and PMU organized two consultation workshops and coordinated the preparation of a draft <i>working paper</i> analysing opportunities to integrate Rio convention priorities in national draft policies/bills⁵⁷ under the auspices of the ELFWG</p>	S

⁵⁵ South Sudan EIS-WG ToR: https://drive.google.com/file/d/13acqBJNMudqsoxFAHl7fA8UAj_AJvh0p/view?usp=sharing

⁵⁶ South Sudan ELF-WG ToR: https://drive.google.com/file/d/14bOixivbzOtSJd_Kec9mx8Y5uyLFtQI/view?usp=sharing


⁵⁷ Draft report on the implementation of the RIO Conventions in South Sudan, 2022

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				<p>working group. On this front, project partners are determined to ensure South Sudan does everything possible in the short term to complete the drafting and enactment of two fundamental draft bills on environment protection and forestry, whose drafting has dragged on since the Country's independence in 2011. A special task force of the ELFWG was set-up during a meeting held at the MoEF boardroom on 13 April 2022 to fast-track and coordinate the process (Ref: <i>Special ELFWG draft workplan</i>). 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.</p> <p>(c) The Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Environment and Forestry (MoEF), the legal frameworks working group, and the PMU collaborated in the preparation, validation and completion of a national strategy and action plan on Land Degradation and Neutrality (<i>LDN strategy</i>)⁵⁸ under the auspices of the ELFWG working group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>A rapid assessment of the state of Sudd wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan, 2022</u> (ii) <u>Draft South Sudan Land Degradation and Neutrality (LDN) Strategy and Action Plan, 2022</u> (iii) <u>Draft report on the implementation of the RIO Conventions in South Sudan, 2022</u> (iv) <u>Design of a renewable energy/ solar power installation at MoEF offices in Juba, 2022</u> (v) <u>Working paper analyzing opportunities to integrate Rio convention priorities in national draft policies/bills</u> <p>2023 PIR update</p> <p>A <u>working paper</u> outlining opportunities to incorporate Rio Convention principles into existing draft policies, laws and strategies has been formulated and validated, whose recommendations are summarised in the table below. Reference link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xPUyKKsTipooUiTVc21mDmmn5wRnreCb/view?usp=sharing</p>	

⁵⁸ [Draft South Sudan Land Degradation and Neutrality \(LDN\) Strategy and Action Plan, 2022](#)

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵										
				<div><div>Summary Table of Recommendations</div><table><thead><tr><th>Recommendation</th><th>Objective</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Enactment of pending Bills to entrench substantive environmental obligations and the principles under the Rio Conventions</td><td>To set the national framework for compliance; to establish key institutions for monitoring and enforcement of Rio Conventions and to achieve clear mapping of obligations. To harmonize implementing legislation and eliminate overlapping institutional mandates.</td></tr><tr><td>Strengthening institutional capacity for effective implementation and monitoring of the Rio Conventions in the RSS</td><td>Enhanced capacity to map, monitor and enforce Rio Convention obligations in the RSS Proposed partnership mechanisms that are politically supported by the state agencies. To establish cross-institutional linkages in decision-making processes.</td></tr><tr><td>Strengthening national institutional framework for managing the environment and natural resources data</td><td>To establish a national system to manage data and information—that supports monitoring and implementations of Rio Conventions. To facilitate collection and collation of environmental data; to establish data ownership, control and dissemination; to manage cross-institutional data sharing and to improve joint reporting.</td></tr><tr><td>Public education and engagement of local communities in the implementation of the Rio Conventions</td><td>To enhance gender mainstreaming and use of traditional knowledge in crafting inclusive approaches to environmental management at national and sub-national levels.</td></tr></tbody></table><p>Recommendations form the <u>working paper</u> outlining opportunities to incorporate MEA into existing draft policies, laws and strategies</p></div>	Recommendation	Objective	Enactment of pending Bills to entrench substantive environmental obligations and the principles under the Rio Conventions	To set the national framework for compliance; to establish key institutions for monitoring and enforcement of Rio Conventions and to achieve clear mapping of obligations. To harmonize implementing legislation and eliminate overlapping institutional mandates.	Strengthening institutional capacity for effective implementation and monitoring of the Rio Conventions in the RSS	Enhanced capacity to map, monitor and enforce Rio Convention obligations in the RSS Proposed partnership mechanisms that are politically supported by the state agencies. To establish cross-institutional linkages in decision-making processes.	Strengthening national institutional framework for managing the environment and natural resources data	To establish a national system to manage data and information—that supports monitoring and implementations of Rio Conventions. To facilitate collection and collation of environmental data; to establish data ownership, control and dissemination; to manage cross-institutional data sharing and to improve joint reporting.	Public education and engagement of local communities in the implementation of the Rio Conventions	To enhance gender mainstreaming and use of traditional knowledge in crafting inclusive approaches to environmental management at national and sub-national levels.	
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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 analvsis and decide	Year 2, Q2	40%	100%	<div><div>2022 PIR update</div><p>The ELFWG and the EISWG working groups and PMU organized two consultation workshops and coordinated the preparation of a final draft of a <u>working paper</u> analyzing opportunities to integrate Rio convention priorities in national draft policies/bills⁵⁹ under the auspices of the ELFWG working group.</p><p>During the initial ELFWG and PSC first session in February 2022 and validated by the first session of the special legal task force on 13 April 2022 (see workplan appended), the GoSS resolved that the Bills and strategies to be pursued under this project are:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none">Finalization of the draft Environment Protection Bill 2012-2015,Finalization of the draft Forestry Bill 2017, andPreparation of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy and action plan.</div>	S										

⁵⁹ [Draft report on the implementation of the RIO Conventions in South Sudan, 2022](#)

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
on the priority bills and policies to be supported by the project					
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	Year 3, Q4	40%	100%	<p>2022 PIR update</p> <p>The ELFWG and the EISWG working groups and PMU organized two consultation workshops and coordinated the preparation of a final draft of a <i>working paper</i> analyzing opportunities to integrate Rio convention priorities in national draft policies/bills⁶⁰ under the auspices of the ELFWG working group.</p> <p>During the initial ELFWG and PSC first seatings in February 2022 and validated by the first session of the special legal task force on 13 April 2022 (see workplan appended), the GoSS resolved that the Bills and strategies to be pursued under this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of the draft Environment Protection Bill 2012-2015, Finalization of the draft Forestry Bill 2017, and Preparation of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy and action plan. 	S

⁶⁰ [Draft report on the implementation of the RIO Conventions in South Sudan, 2022](#)

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating 35
				<p>Group photo: Environmental Legal Frameworks Working Group meeting to discuss the workplan of a special task force crafted to organise a Write shop to redraft the South Sudan draft Environmental Protection and Forestry Bills, held on 13 April 2022, at the MoEF Boardroom.</p> <p>Key members present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Undersecretary for Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF): Hon Joseph Africano Bartel - The Undersecretary for Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF): Hon Jaden Tongun Emilio Wani - The GEF OFP and MoEF Director for Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development: David Batali Oliver Samson - The senior legal officer at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry: Mr Henry Wani James - Director, Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Forestry: Mr. Patrick Taban Abdullai Warran - Director General, Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Forestry: Mr Kenyi Bullen Nathaniel Baggu - Representative, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA): Mr Obaj Aban Nyilek Nyibek - Snr Lecturer & head, Department of International Law, School of law, University of Juba: Mr Thomas Jada James Jacob - Assistant Inspector for GIS, Directorate of Environmental Education and Information, MoEF: Mrs Dorina Keji Zachariah Gubek - The UNFCCC NFP and Director for Climate Change, Ministry of Environment & Forestry (MoEF): Mr John Payai Manyok - The UNCBD NFP and Director for Biodiversity & Wetlands, Ministry of Environment & Forestry (MoEF): Mr Paul Lado Demetry - Legal consultant drafting the working paper to incorporate Rio Convention provisions into the 2 Draft Bills: Mrs Jocylene Mutegeki - Project Coordinator, South Sudan GEF6 CCCD project, UNEP Africa Office: Mr Nicholas Kinoo Mutiso <p>On this front, project partners are determined to ensure South Sudan does everything possible in the short term to complete the drafting and enactment of two fundamental draft bills on environment protection and forestry, whose drafting has dragged on since the Country's independence in 2011.</p> <p>A special task force of the ELFWG was set-up during a meeting held at the MoEF boardroom on 13 April 2022 to fast-track and coordinate the process (Ref: Special ELFWG draft workplan). 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. Ref: Meeting of the special ELFWG task force on the Bills, 13.4.2022, MoEF, Juba.pdf</p> <p>2023 PIR update</p> <p>The GoSS through MoEF established a special taskforce to spearhead the formulation and support enactment processes for the South Sudan Environment and Forestry Bills. In October 2022, the project supported this task force to convene a four days Bills writeshop meeting in Naivasha, bringing together 9 national delegates and 4 regional experts to prepare <u>a 2022 draft of the Environment Bill^[1]</u>.</p> <p>^[1] Draft Environment Bill 2022 for South Sudan: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SuD-sx5JlpDXKeVMqGPnIr4Lnw69fi17/view?usp=sharing</p>	

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp completion date ³³	Status: 30 June 2022 (%)	Status: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ³⁵
				 <p>Group photo: 1st writeshop meeting for the Environment Protection Bill 2022, 18 - 21 October 2022, Lake Naivasha Country Club, Kenya</p> <p>Ref: Participants list, First writeshop meeting for the Environment Protection Bill 2022, 18 - 21 October 2022, Naivasha, Kenya</p> <p>In February 2023, the project supported the Government of South Sudan to organise the second 3-day Writeshop to formulate the Country's Environment Bill 2023 and initiate formulation of the Forestry Bill 2023. As a demonstration of the Country's senior level commitment to this policy formulation process geared at ensuring South Sudan (World newest Nation) pursues development pathways governed by sustainable production and consumption patterns including the sound assessment, monitoring, conservation and management of its natural capital, the South Sudan delegation also included the two Undersecretaries (PS equivalent) who are the senior most technical experts in charge of programming and delivery of Environment (Hon Joseph Africano Bartel) and Forestry (Hon Jaden Tongun Emilio Wani) matters/ directorates at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry - MoEF.</p> <p>The meeting output was 2023 drafts of the South Sudan Environment and Forestry Bills which now under final touches by the project's legal consultant for submission to the review committees at the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs- MoJCA and the Council of Ministers. Much time was dedicated to proposing institutional structures that guarantees MoEF leverage in coalescing national action in mainstreaming environmental management, conservation and data/ information collection, management, sharing and reporting for efficacious implementation of the Rio Conventions and other priority MEAs.</p>	

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl ation date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				 <p>Writeshop leadership: Left to Right: Hon Joseph African Bartel [MoEF Undersecretary for Environment], Charles Sebukeera [UNEP Representative and the GEF Project Manager] and Hon Jaden Tongun Emilio Wani [MoEF Undersecretary for Forestry]</p> <p>For efficacious integration into the East African Community-EAC, the draft Bills proposes the creation of a National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) as MoEF implementation and operational arm on environment matters similar to the NEMA institutions in <u>Kenya</u> and <u>Uganda</u>; and a National Forestry Authority (NFA) to govern the conservation and management of forest resources similar to <u>NFA of Uganda</u> and <u>the Forest Service of Kenya</u>. Ref links: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1STLy5i2lxwemfEhSRMimPy0uBLhL2xWb/view?usp=sharing</p> <div style="border: 1px solid green; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>On policy formulation for informed decision making, by 30 June 2023, the project had archived the following legislative milestones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Production and launch of a rapid assessment of the Sudd wetlands ecosystem¹, that inspired the production of a 2022-2050 management strategy for the wetlands by the Nile Basin Initiative. ii. Production of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Strategy and Action plan 2023. iii. Establishment of a special taskforce that convened two writeshops that formulated the draft Environment Bill 2023 and the draft Forestry Bill 2023. </div>	

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
				(i) <u>Attendance sheet, Second Writeshop for the South Sudan Environment and Forestry Bills, 14-16 February 2023</u> (ii) <u>Writeshop Agenda, 14-16 February 2023</u> (iii) <u>Draft National Environment Management Bill, 2023</u> (iv) <u>Draft Forest Bill, 2023</u>	
Output 3.2 Sustainable financing strategy developed					
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	Year 2, Q3	0%	0%	To be reported in future PIR reports	MS
3.2.2 Draft a sustainable financing strategy	Year 2, Q4	0%	0%	To be reported in future PIR reports	MS
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.	Year 3, Q3	0%	0%	To be reported in future PIR reports	MS
3.2.4 Organize a training for staff of relevant government agencies and NGOs on writing project proposals to access funding for environmental projects	Year 3, Q4	0%	0%	To be reported in future PIR reports	MS

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating 35
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**M&E:
2022 PIR**

- UNEP Africa Office and the South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) have established a project management unit (PMU) as per the ProDoc. UNEP advertised and recruited a Project Coordinator (Mr. Nicholas Mutiso) in May 2021, who went on to organize the inception workshop in June 2021 and initiate workplan implementation to deliver project outputs and consultation forums highlighted throughout this PIR report. Mr Nicholas continues to coordinate the project under the supervision of Mr Charles Sebukeera, Regional Coordinator for Science-Policy at UNEP AO and in collaboration with the MoEF liaison office at MoEF (supervised by the Undersecretary for Environment).
- During November 2021 inception workshop, it was decided that MoEF would set up its own project liaison office within their Juba offices with UNEP facilitation. Initially, MoEF nominated Mr Mark Idro to the position, who was later replaced by Mr Paul Lado Demetry (the UNCBD focal point) through a *nomination letter from the Undersecretary MoEF* dated 19 July 2021.
- February 2022 saw the establishment, operationalization, and organization of the inaugural Project Steering Committee (PSC), which approved revised ProDoc including the procurement plan, budgets, implementation arrangements and work plan prepared during the inception workshop, as well the ongoing partnership with CEDARE towards the development of the Country's first EIS portal for management of environmental data collection, sharing and reporting.
- A Medium-Term Review/ evaluation (MTR) is planned, budgeted for and expected to be initiated by between Q4 of 2023 and Q2 of 2024 or. A Terminal Evaluation (TE) will be undertaken following the operational closure of the project expected in Q4 of 2024 or shortly after. The PMU continues to execute all monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities as prescribed in the ProDoc and project supervision plan without substantial delays.



Group photo: Inaugural PSC for the South Sudan GEF6 CCCD project, 24/2/2022, Juba, South Sudan

- Ref: GEF approved ProDoc version updated during the Inception Workshop in June 20221
- Ref: Minutes for the inaugural PSC session for the South Sudan GEF6 CCCD project, 24 Feb 2022, Juba

Outputs/Activities ³²	Exp compl etion date ³³	Statu s: 30 June 2022 (%)	Statu s: 30 June 2023 (%)	Progress rating justification ³⁴ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progre ss rating ³⁵
2023 PIR					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PMU continues to execute all monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities as prescribed in the ProDoc and project supervision plan without substantial delays. The second session of the PSC is scheduled to be held in Juba during the month of September 2023. The Implementing Agency is in the process of recruiting a consultant to undertake the MTR, an exercise expected to begin in Q4 of 2023 					

4. Risk Rating

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

Risk Factor	EA's Rating	TM's Rating
1. Management structure – Roles and responsibilities	<i>Low: Well-developed, stable Management Structure and Roles/responsibilities are clearly defined/understood. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery</i>	L
2. Governance structure – Oversight	<i>Low: Steering Committee and/or other project bodies meet at least once a year (1st PSC session was in 2022 with the 2nd planned for 2022) and Active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC provides direction/inputs. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.</i>	L
3. Implementation schedule	<i>Low: Project progressing according to original work plan and Adaptive management is practiced and regular monitoring. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.</i>	L
4. Budget	<i>Low: Activities are progressing within planned budget and Balanced budget utilisation including PMC. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.</i>	L
5. Financial Management	<i>Low: Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and Audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.</i>	L
6. Reporting	<i>Low: Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and implementation issues. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.</i>	L
7. Capacity to deliver	<i>Low: Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.</i>	L

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

Risk	Risk affecting:						Justification
	Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3 (this PIR)	Δ	
Risk 1: Limited institutional capacities to support project implementation and programme continuity.	All outcomes 1-3	L	L	L	L	=	
Risk 2: Lack of horizontal coordination across ministries and agencies.	All, but particularly outcome 3	M	M	M	L-M	=↓	Inter-ministerial collaborations for Rio Conventions implementation in South Sudan are on a positive trajectory, since Government ministries are financially starved, a scenario that harbours close relations as partners coalesce around the few donor agencies supporting environmental MEA implementation in the Country.
Risk 3: Inadequate government and other stakeholder	Primarily outcome 1 and 2	M	M	M	L	=	

commitment to the process, including reluctance to share information and data.							
Risk 4 Instability and insecurity in certain parts of the Country	All outcomes	M	M	M	M	=	
Risk 5 Inability to mobilize adequate co-financing for the implementation of project activities and outputs	All outcomes	M	L	L	L	↓	
Risk 6 Inability to maintain the finances required for a sustained continuation of project activities and outputs after the project ends, including to maintain IT infrastructure and internet access.	All outcomes	H	M	M	L	↓	Based on current analysis of stakeholder willingness and commitment to participate and fully engage in project activities, the PMU approximations that by the time the project will be completing its operational phase, projects partners that pledged the USD 1,450,000 in-kind co-financing will be able to have met and reported at least 90 -150% of their pledges. By 30 June 2023 about USD 1,181,400 in-kind co-financing had been realised, being contributions from MoEF and UNEP Africa Office. This translates to 82% of the USD 1,450,000 planned co-financing. Four more national partners are scheduled to report their contributions during the next reporting period.
Risk 7 The COVID19 pandemic	All outcomes	-	M	M	L	↓	With the rapid decline of new Covid19 infections (both in South Sudan and globally) and lifting of virtually all related travel restrictions during the reporting, this is no longer considered a substantial threat to project delivery.
Consolidated project risk			M	M	L - M	↓	<i>This section focuses on the variation. The overall rating is discussed in section 2.3.</i>

Table B. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Risk	Actions decided during ProDoc Approval	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom
Risk 2: Lack of horizontal coordination across ministries and agencies.	CCCD interventions are institutionally complex and require effective coordination and collaboration mechanisms. A ministerial order is planned to be issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) to form a high-level inter-ministerial committee on the implementation of environmental projects. This committee, in conjunction with other coordination mechanisms to be established under the project, is expected to strengthen institutional capacity.	<p>Inter-ministerial collaborations for Rio Conventions implementation in South Sudan are on a positive trajectory, since Government ministries are financially starved, a scenario that harbours close relations as partners coalesce around the few donor agencies supporting environmental MEA implementation in the Country.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the project established inter-ministerial and inter-agency technical working groups to coordinate EIS and legal/ policy formulation issues in the short-term. Although not formalised in a ministerial degree, the MoEF has been able to successfully lobby and forge mutual cooperation with the following ministries and partners towards delivering various MEA outputs.</p> <p>1) MoEF: Ministry of Environment and Forestry 2) MAFS: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 3) NBS: National Bureau of Statistics 4) MWCT: Ministry of Wildlife Conservation & Tourism 5) MWRI: Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation 6) MGCSW: Ministry of Gender, Child & Social Welfare 7) UoJ: University of Juba (Schools of Law and Natural Resources)</p>	<p>Establish the MEA Network</p> <p>Pursue the inter-ministerial degree if felt necessary</p>	2024	PMU and MoEF

		<p>8) SSNCO: South Sudan Nature Conservation Organisation 9) South Sudan Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Forestry 10) MOGEI: Ministry of General Education and Instruction 11) MLF: Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and 12) SSAPU: The South Sudan Agriculture's Producers Union 13) The Sudd Institute, 14) The South Sudan Geologic Society</p> <p>For example, during the reporting period and with funding from the GEF and other partners channelled through UN Agencies (especially UNEP and UNDP) MoEF and its partners were able to prepare and launch (i) a <i>rapid assessment on the state of the Sudd wetland ecosystem</i>, (ii) a national strategy and action plan on Land Degradation and Neutrality (<i>LDN strategy</i>), (iii) GoSS first National Adaptation Plan (1st NAP) report for Climate Change, and (iv) GoSS second National Determined Contribution (2nd NDC) detailing the GoSS climate ambition of reducing emissions across its sectors by 109.87 million tonnes of CO₂ eq. while sequestering an additional 45.06 million tonnes by 2030.</p>			
<p>Risk 3: Inadequate government and other stakeholder commitment to the process, including reluctance to share information and data.</p>	<p>South Sudan is still a new country fully engaged in many processes of establishing a functioning country, having faced frequent conflict and civil war. It therefore has many socio-economic priorities, and commitment to the global environment may decline in the face of other, short-term, socio-economic challenges. The project has a focus on building the needed capacity and raising awareness on the linkages between the Rio Conventions and sustainable development, which are designed to promote and generate high-level support.</p> <p>This, and the focus on generating good information, should ensure that the needed commitment is maintained. The project will build on existing mechanisms under which the agencies share data with NBS, and between MWCT and MoEF. The project will also aim to address priorities of the different agencies with regard to their data in order to ensure their commitment. In addition, South</p>	<p><i>Stakeholder consultation forums organised so far culminated in the following deliverables and products expected by the ProDo's results framework targets for outcomes 1 and 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment and operationalization of a National Environmental Information Systems Working Group (EIS-WG) as defined by the appended EIS-WG terms of reference. The EIS-WG supports MoEF and the project to spearhead the development of a core list of environmental indicators to underpin the design of South Sudan's inaugural NEIS, an online portal being developed through CEDARE's support. Operationalization of the NEIS will support coordinated environmental data collection, curation, storage, analysis and sharing for fulfilling multiple national, MEA/ Rio Convention and SDG reporting obligations, for planning/ monitoring, policy formulation and informed decision making. Ref: EISWG ToR, NEIS presentations The establishment and launch of an Environmental and Legal Frameworks technical working group (ELFWG) in 2022 to spearhead the drafting and possible enactment of two crucial environmental bills (the Environmental Protection Bill, and the Forestry Bill) and the production of a national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy. A 3-days workshop attended by 14 members of the ELFWG drawn from the PMU, MoEF, MAFS, NBS, MWCT, SSNCO, Parliament and UoJ was also organized in Juba to provide inputs to the CEDARE consultant supporting in the integration of Rio Convention and other priorities into the draft Environment and Forestry Bills, as well as the proposed LDN strategy. Two Bills WriteShop composed of a taskforce drawn from the ELFWG members and facilitated by regional environmental legal experts and proposed by the taskforce were convened in October 2022 and February 2023 culminating in the formulation of 2023 versions of the draft Environment and Forestry Bills for consideration by South Sudan's legal team at MoJCA, the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly. Establishment and operationalisation of the National Environmental Information Network (SSNEIN) in October 2022 and Two technical working groups (February 2022) that are actively engaged by MoEF to support national implementation of the GEF CCCD, and other government run projects, in addition to the SS NEIN launched in October 2022. These include. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>The Environmental Information Systems Working Group - EISWG and</i> b. <i>The Environmental Legal Frameworks working Group - ELFWG</i> 	<p>Finalise design of the EIS system</p> <p>Pursue a data sharing protocol</p>	<p>Q4 of 2024</p> <p>Q4 of 2024</p>	<p>PMU supported by CEDARE</p> <p>MoEF and NBS</p>

	Sudan's Information Act regulates information sharing	These working groups/ technical coordination forums operate under the auspices of the SS 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 draft laws (Bills). For sustainability, South Sudan has already been incorporated into the UNEP managed Africa Environmental Information Network (AEIN) initiative for capacity building and long-term targeted support beyond this projects GEF funding.			
Risk 4 Instability and insecurity in certain parts of the Country	Most of the project activities will be based in Juba which is comparatively safe and secure as head offices of over 20 UN agencies are based there. In case of travelling to other parts of the country, the project will follow appropriate instructions and applicable protocols from the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). Prior to any deployment, project staff, consultants and collaborators will undergo security training	<p>The security situation in South Sudan remains volatile. Daily local media reports show rampant killings and inter-communal clashes in various places.</p> <p>As a result, the PMU, PSC and the technical working groups resolved to continue restricting all project activities within Juba City and its environs. Two meetings that required a significant number of regional / international experts or access to facilities not available in Juba had to be held outside the Country.</p>	Restrict National project interventions within Juba City and explore regional venues for appropriate forums	Q4 of 2024	PMU, PSC

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.

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment

<input type="checkbox"/>	Results framework
<input type="checkbox"/>	Components and cost
<input type="checkbox"/>	Institutional and implementation arrangements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implementation schedule
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity Category
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor project objective change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safeguards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk analysis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Co-financing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of project activity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Minor amendments	The no cost extension was to finalize the remaining activities that have been delayed by 16 months due to revised execution modality and the COVID-19 global pandemic.
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5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original legal instrument	ICA	28 January 2020	28 January 2020	30 September 2023	No cost extension approved in July 2023.
Extension 1	No cost extension	18 July 2023	18 July 2023	30 June 2025	None

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](https://openstreetmap.org/) or [GeoNames](https://www.geonames.org/) 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 Required field	Latitude Required field	Longitude Required field	Geo Name ID Required field if the location is not an exact site	Location Description Optional text field	Activity Description Optional text field
South Sudan	7.5	30	7909807	Covering a whole country	Covering a 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.