

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 10676	Umoja WBS: SB-022965
SMA IPMR ID: 151518	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000845
Project Short Title: N. Macedonia GEF7 ILM project	
Project Title: Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Land Management and Sustainable Tourism Development in North Macedonia	
Duration months planned:	54
Duration months age:	15
Project Type:	Full Sized Project (FSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Europe
Countries:	North Macedonia
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity, Land Degradation
GEF financing amount:	\$ 3,713,422.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 54,874,590.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2022-11-17
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2023-03-09
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2023-03-15
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2023-07-10
Date of First Disbursement:	2023-10-07
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:	\$ 500,300.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 14,621.00

Midterm undertaken?:	No
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	2026-08-31
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2028-08-31
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2027-12-31
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2028-08-31

1.2 Project Description

The objective of this project is to support the national and local efforts for achieving LDN and Biodiversity Targets in North Macedonia through application of an integrated landscape approach in the Shar Mountains region. The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MOEPP) is the governmental institution to provide political and institutional supervision and act as the National Executing Entity/Responsible Partner, while the support in execution is placed in UNEP Regional Office for Europe (Geneva and Vienna Programme Offices) as the Supporting Entity/Partner of the project. The project aims to achieve its objective through the following two components:

Component 1: Practical application of integrated landscape approach to achieving LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality) and BD (Biological Diversity) targets in the pilot area of the Shar Mountains and dependent ecosystems service area (peripheral productive landscape), aiming to plan and support the initial implementation of an Integrated landscape Management (ILM) approach in the Shar Mountains targeted area.

Component 2: Support to national level adoption and upscaling of ILM and related LD and BD best practices will ensure that the overall experience and lessons learned from the project are captured, disseminated and internalized within relevant national institutions, and can be applied systematically on a national scale.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of North Macedonia (lead executing entity) and UNEP, Europe Office as supporting entity in execution
names of Other Project Partners	
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Ersin Esen
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	George Saddimbah
UNEP Support Assistants	Charles Imbezi
Manager/Representative	Harald Egerer
Project Manager	Sonja Gebert
Finance Manager	Obinna Okafor
Communications Lead, if relevant	Alejandro Laguna Lopez

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	PoW 2019-2020-Subprogramme 3: Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
PoW Indicator(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature: (i) Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity.
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	OUTCOME 3: Healthy environment [By 2025, people in North Macedonia benefit from ambitious climate action, sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity, and resilience of communities to disasters through good environmental governance and protection]
Link to relevant SDG Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

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

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
1- Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use	10 000 ha (forest and pasture have management plans in NP)METT score: not less than 40	62 705 ha (area of the Shar NP – improved management measured by the change in METT)METT score: not less than 60	62705	
3- Area of land under restoration	10 000 ha (forest, pasture,	11 500 ha (forest, pasture,	11500	

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
	arable/orchard)	arable/orchard)		
4- Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)	1 500 ha (forest, pasture, arable/orchard outside NP)	7 075 ha (forest, pasture, arable/orchard outside NP)	7075	
6- Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated	71 084 (10%)	710 844	71844	
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments	At least 3 000 persons (at least 40% women) directly benefitting from improved natural resources management practices, improved livelihoods and community development initiatives	At least 18 400 (9 400 women and 9 000 men) directly benefitting from improved natural resources management practices, improved livelihoods and community development initiatives	18400	

Implementation Status 2023: 1st PIR

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

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

Summary of status

The project's progress rate is low. The delays in implementation of Y1 activities can be attributed mainly to the parliamentary and presidential elections in the country in the first half of 2024, as well as the project registration process at national level. The registration challenge has recently been solved, and a new Government has been established in June 2024 with the political situation stabilizing.

The following activities have been accomplished during the reporting period: The Inception meeting of the project was organized in Skopje, North Macedonia on July 10th, 2024, for the purpose of presenting and discussing the project i.e., background, objectives, components, outcomes and outputs, the project implementation plan, the GEF and UNEP rules and cycle, the process of stakeholders' engagement and involvement in the implementation process. A set of ideas/proposals were suggested for a more efficient orientation to be followed during the implementation, such as:

- Necessity to engage an international expert to provide guidance on introduction and implementation of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA),
- Transfer of knowledge and best practices from other protected areas/national parks to the newly established NP Shar Mountain, as well as exchange of experiences and continuous cooperation between NPs in the country,
- Enhanced involvement of local communities and employees from NP to contribute to the monitoring of certain/identified important species in the protected area, etc.

During the reporting period, the project team conducted several meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MOEPP) to discuss the first-year work plan and has initiated some discussions on possible cooperation with local partners. In line with the project document, the process for engagement of a national project coordinator is ongoing, whereas the project has been recently registered within the national projects' database.

Following the consultations between MOEPP and the PE National Forests, Terms of Reference (TOR) for development of four Forest Management Plans (i.e. special plans for protection of forests within protected areas) for NP Shar Mountains were prepared and shared with MOEPP for approval. These plans will cover an area of four forest management units, mainly FMU "Duf – Požarane", FMU "Leshnicka Shuma", FMU "Kobilica - Leshochka Reka" and FMU "Plocha – Ljuboten" (covering approximately 13,000 ha). The plans will follow the content prescribed with the relevant national primary and secondary legislation and shall take into consideration any new developments in the forestry and nature protection sector. The National Park managing authority will organize informative and educational meetings in all villages (7 municipalities) in the territory of the NP Shar Mountain and its surroundings, to inform and raise awareness on the importance of sustainable forest management and conservation of forest habitats.

Since the pastures within the territory of the Shar NP remain a responsibility of the PE Pasture Management, the UNEP team has initiated the process of identifying the PEPM needs on introducing the necessary pasture management reforms for alignment with the main conservation objectives of the national park. Furthermore, the basic research on the conditions and status of HPPs has been done during the valorisation of the area placed under protection. The project team is now identifying potential local partners that will support the development of guidelines on the sustainable operations of the existing HPPs to reduce the impacts on biodiversity, habitats, as well as

the minimum water flow of the affected rivers. Initial coordinations have been conducted to support the identification of the needs and scope for development of the Shar tourism development strategy. More progress is expected in the upcoming reporting periods. Representatives of local communities already form part of the Council of concerned parties within the management structure of the national park. Their needs, shaping the agro-environmental measures program and some piloting, as well as enhancing their engagement with the NP, are planned to be further detailed and show progress in the upcoming reporting period.

The first Project Steering Committee meeting is planned to be organized in the fourth quarter of 2024. All supporting documents are drafted and shared with MoEPP for further processing.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 54,874,590
Actual to date:	500,000
Progress	<p>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning has provided UNEP with office space for the project needs. Furthermore, the Ministry, as the lead executing entity, will continue supporting the project execution with dedicated direct engagement, guidance and monitoring the implementation of the planned activities, field work activities, awareness raising events and public consultation processes. MOEPP expertise and guidance is crucial for political and operational execution of the project. Furthermore, the managing authority of the national park (primary target area of the project) stands ready to being directly engaged and support the execution of specific project activities, including information sharing and awareness raising.</p> <p>Transparency and information sharing, even in the initial stages of the project execution, is expected to increase the engagement of many relevant partners and stakeholders, avoid overlaps and duplication of activities with other biodiversity projects implemented in the country, will increase the level of knowledge and facilitate the upscaling the results and recommendations in the operations at local and national level.</p>

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	
Stakeholder engagement (will be)	The project steering committee has not been formed and it has not met yet.

uploaded to GEF Portal)	<p>Regular coordination meetings are being held with the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (CBD and UNCCD/GEF Operational Focal Points), the NP managing authority, as well as potential local partners to be engaged on the execution of the planned activities.</p> <p>A project communication strategy will be developed to facilitate the stakeholders' engagement, approaches and methodologies, as well as gender mainstreaming throughout the entire project duration.</p>
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2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	Yes
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	<p>This project intends to use a pragmatic approach to integrate gender across all levels and processes of the project life cycle. This approach is guided by several principles put in place from the project development, that are to be further integrated into the project implementation through the Project Communication Strategy. The principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early recognition and sensitization of the project staff and key stakeholders as a prerequisite to come to an effective approach to addressing gender issues that affect men and women’s participation in project activities;• Training of staff on gender in the first year of the project to gain a better understanding of gender issues in the project context and appreciate why these issues are important to address through their daily work responsibilities;• Engage consultants with expertise in gender to ensure and oversee the integration of gender across the project. They will be focal points and help to facilitate the project to be proactive in its gender considerations and actions;• Adopt a proactive gender and development approach that engages men and women to promote gender equality and transform gender relations in project locations.• Include gender considerations explicitly into the M&E activities of the project, in order to get feedback from project beneficiaries and stakeholders on how they perceive and report on the role and involvement of men and women in the implementation of project activities. Through this feedback mechanism, the project team can learn and adapt its intervention approaches to ensure they are inclusive and promote gender balance.• Ensure integration of gender evenly and consistently across all project objectives to achieve the intended impact of promoting gender equality and improving household food security and resilience.

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	<p>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</p> <p>Carry out further assessments (e.g., site visits, experts' inputs, consult affected communities, etc.)</p>
New social and/or environmental risks	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, describe the new risks or changes?</p>
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	<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>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?</p>
Environmental and social safeguards management	<p>A transparent process is being used involving all stakeholders and respecting gender equality. Regarding social protection measures, all stakeholders are treated equally, regardless of different nationality, gender, or other categorization.</p>

2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	During the reporting period, no knowledge activities and products have been developed.
Main learning during the period	

2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	<p>Link to the announcement of the project start on the MOEPP's web site:</p> <p>https://www.moepp.gov.mk/nastani/%d0%bf%d0%be%d1%87%d0%bd%d1%83%d0%b2%d0%b0-%d0%bd%d0%be%d0%b2-%d0%bf%d1%80%d0%be%d0%b5%d0%ba%d1%82-%d0%b7%d0%b0-%d0%b7%d0%b0%d1%87%d1%83%d0%b2%d1%83%d0%b2%d0%b0%d1%9a%d0%b5-%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d0%b1%d0%b8/</p>
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3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Supporting national and local efforts for achieving LDN and Biodiversity Targets in North Macedonia through the application of an integrated landscape approach in the Shar Mountains	GEF Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	Baseline area under improved management: 0 ha.	10 000 ha. (forest and pasture have management plans in NP)	62 705 ha. (area of the Shar NP – improved management measured by the change in METT)	10%	Coordination meetings have been held with MOEPP and NP managing authority to determine the scope of work and immediate necessities. Consequently, a TOR for the Forest Management Plans (4 forest management units) have been developed and shared with MOEPP for their approval. A local partner is being negotiated and will be contracted during the next reporting period. Results from past activities are being collected to determine the status of pastures, the management challenges, as well as ideas/possible actions for reforms in the pasture management on Shar.	MS
	GEF Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (Hectares)	Baseline: 0.	10 000 ha. (forest, pasture, arable/orchard)	11 500 ha (forest, pasture, arable/orchard)	10%	Forest management plans development was discussed with the national park authorities and a local partner has been identified (ongoing contracting procedure). Furthermore, the needs for improved pasture management are being identified. The conditions and status of HPPs have been identified during the valorisation of the area, as well as	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						during the project preparatory phase. Local partners are being explored to develop the operational guidelines during the upcoming reporting periods. These activities are planned to be implemented during future reporting periods and expected to contribute to reaching the indicator/milestones	
	GEF Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	Baseline: 0.	1500 ha. (forest, pasture, arable/orchard outside NP)	7 075 ha (forest, pasture, arable/orchard outside NP)	0%	The activities planned within the first project component are considering the territory of the NP, but also the implications and benefits for the surrounding areas (bordering/outside of the NP). Such activities are to be implemented during future reporting periods and are expected to contribute to reaching the indicator/milestones	MS
	GEF Core Indicator Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)	Baseline: 0.	71 084 (10%)	710 844	0%	The activities planned to be implemented during future reporting periods will contribute to reaching the indicator/milestones	MS
	GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	Baseline number of project beneficiaries = 0	At least 3,000 persons (at least 40% women) directly benefitting from improved	At least 18 400 (9400 women and 9000 men) directly benefitting from improved natural resources management	5%	Opportunities to increase the engagement of local communities, especially women (learning from past examples and applying new innovative approaches) have been explored (within the scope of Outputs 1.3.2-1.3.3). These activities are planned to be implemented during	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			natural resources management practices, improved livelihoods and community development initiatives	practices, improved livelihoods and community development initiatives		future reporting periods.	
1.1: An Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) plan for the Shar Mountains target area agreed by all key national and local stakeholders, and the enabling environment for its development and implementation established	An agreed 10-year framework plan for integrated landscape management in the Shar Mountains agreed with key stakeholders (NP, PENF, PEMP, municipalities), and functional coordination mechanisms in place	No integrated coordination of planning by key stakeholders and no coordination mechanisms in place	A framework ILM agreed by key stakeholders	Coordination mechanisms exist and function Actions defined in the ILM plan within EoP timeframe carried out	5%	Activities related to development of forest management plans (within the NP), pasture management reforms, enhancing tourism and larger engagement with the local communities are being identified in consultation with MOEPP, PENF, PEMP. These are planned to be implemented in the next reporting periods and will present the baseline for introducing the integrated landscape management approach on Shar.	MS
	Natural Capital Accounts prepared and used as basis for economic justification of ILM Plan financing	No economic basis for justifying ILM or ecosystem service preservation exists	Natural Capital Accounts for key natural resources (forest, pasture, water, arable/orchard, and ecosystem service values	Knowledge and capacity exist within key stakeholder institutions on the concept, practical implementation and application of NCA that can be	5%	As requested during the inception meeting, possible engagement of international expertise on NCA is being explored, followed by development of TOR and contracting in the upcoming reporting period.	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			related to these exist (and provide economic justification for implementation of ILM)	applied nationally (MOEPP, MAFWE)			
	An Integrated LD and BD monitoring system established and functional	No integrated BD/LD monitoring system	Integrated BD/LD indicators identified and system design and hardware in place	Integrated BD/LD monitoring system functional and the Shar data inputted	5%	The UNEP team has been researching the existing databases (past and available sources, as well as the level of development and alignment with the reporting requirements mainly under UNCCD and CBD), as well as the IT tools/equipment available at MOEPP. These will serve to determine the terms of reference for contracting a local partner to support the establishment and testing of the system as per the country's needs.	MS
1.2: Improved models and approaches for achieving sustainable forestry, pasture and water resources planning and management in the Shar Mountains that integrate sustainable use, maintenance of ecosystem services and biodiversity, and reversal of land degradation trends	Area of forest under improved management measured by a). existence of updated management plans, b). reduced illegal extraction, c). existence of effective fire control mechanisms	Forest MPs: out of date and inappropriate illegal extraction: estimated cubic metres (TBD at inception) Fire incidents: no. TBD at inception	All Forests in NP (18333 ha) have up to date MPs; Illegal extraction reduced 10% on baseline; Fire incidents: 10% reduction	Forest MPs in NP being implemented, and capacity strengthened Illegal extraction reduced not less than 80% Fire incidents: 50% reduction	10%	In consultation with MOEPP, Shar NP and PENF, the areas that require special forest management plans have been identified, together with possible local partners to support the development. A TOR was developed and shared with MOEPP for their approval. There is an ongoing procedure for contracting the identified local partner.	MS
	Area of pasture under	Management and	Inventory of	Capacities of	10%	Past activities related to the pasture	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	sustainable management increased, measured	infrastructure of pastures is out of date compared to European standards	pastures with relevant parameters is completed and serves as basis for pasture management plans pasture strategy is completed and agreed with stakeholders 10% of pastures have management plans 3 pilot actions implemented	pasture users is strengthened 35% of pastures have management plans 7 pilot actions implemented		areas on Shar have been discussed with a wider range of stakeholders (including MOEPP, PEPM, local farmers) during the inception phase. The needs to contribute to the pasture management reforms have been identified, especially having in mind that although within the PA, their management remains within the scope of work of PEPM. TOR is being developed to support the execution of the planned activities, that are to be implemented in the upcoming reporting periods.	
	Number of negative water use events caused by HPPs reduced, measured by: a). records from monitoring system, b). records of regulatory actions applied.	No monitoring system and number of recorded negative events is 0 No Guidelines or basis for regulatory actions exist	Monitoring system established and records negative events Agreed guidelines and regulatory actions	Number of negative events recorded reduced since Mid term Guidelines are used and there are examples of the application of regulatory actions	5%	The conditions and status of HPPs (existing and back then, planned) have been identified during the valorisation of the area planned for protection. Since the proclamation, the NP managing authority is continuously following the HPPs work on the ground. During the inception phase, some negotiations have been initiated to support the development of alignment guidelines for the operating HPPs and reducing the	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						impacts, especially on biodiversity and the biological water minimum of rivers concerned by the HPPs operations.	
1.3: Reduced pressure on biodiversity, reversed LD trends, and ecosystem integrity in the Shar Mountains through diversification of sustainable local community livelihoods and strengthened capacity to participate in natural resources management	Enhancement in Land Productivity Dynamics in Project Pilot Site (measured by Percentage of Stressed, Stable, Increasing Productivity type soil)	65%	70%	75%	5%	Some initial needs have been identified during the project inception. These are to be further elaborated, with initiated execution in the upcoming reporting periods.	MS
	Sustainable tourism has measurable impact on: a). income generated by the NP, b). incomes (directly and indirectly) of households in local target villages	NP income generation from tourism: Household: Baseline data on incomes from sustainable tourism TBD during inception phase	NA (no impact expected by midterm); 10% increase in income from sustainable tourism in target villages	Measurable income being generated on sustainable basis for NP 30% increase in income from sustainable tourism in target villages (not including tourism)	5%	Initial consultations have been held with representatives from the Federation of Mountaineering Sports of Macedonia during the inception phase, who expressed interest and shared the needs for further development of area (especially on marking mountaineering trails and promotion of their use).	MS
	Measurable increase in sustainable on and off farm livelihoods in target villages Note: Includes on and off farm diversification, value adding, marketing, and skill development support leading to new employment/income opportunities – excluding	Household Baseline data on incomes on/off farm livelihoods TBD during inception phase (not including tourism)	10% increase in income from sustainable on/off farm livelihoods in target villages (not including tourism)	30% increase in income from sustainable on/off farm livelihoods in target villages (not including tourism)	5%	Local farmers' activities have been explored during the process of valorisation of the area and the project inception period, together with MOEPP and NP managing authority. Thematic meetings will be held in the upcoming reporting periods to determine in more details their specific needs and shape the program for agro-environmental measures and capacity building.	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	<p>incomes directly related to tourism</p> <p>Increased community self-development capacity measured through: a). meaningful community representation in ILM coordination and other key natural resource use mechanisms, b). existence of functioning self-governance mechanisms in target villages, c). number of completed community self-help initiatives to address shared issues in target villages, d) Local community understanding and support for NP and new natural resource management (forestry and pasture in particular) increased</p>	<p>a). No representation in local resource management planning mechanisms b). few or no effective community self-governance structures in target villages c). Few or no community level initiatives d). Majority of households have little understanding of LD / BD issues and do not support NP or other natural resource use agencies (data TBD in inception phase)</p>	<p>a). All (28) target villages represented in key natural resource use and planning mechanisms (ILM coordination mechanism, NP council, etc.); b). All (28) target villages have established self-governance structures (with at least 40% representation of women); c). at least 10 community level initiatives initiated; d) 20% increase in level of awareness and</p>	<p>a). Village representatives are playing active role in natural resource coordination mechanisms b). Self-governance structures (with at least 40% representation of women) functional and play meaningful role. c). at least 28 community level initiatives completed d) 20% increase in level of awareness and support of households in target villages for NP, other resource use agencies and need to reduce LD and preserve</p>	<p>5%</p>	<p>Representatives from the local communities are part of the Council of concerned parties within the NP management. The needs for self-development, governance and enhanced engagement are planned in future reporting periods.</p>	<p>MS</p>

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			support of households in target villages for NP, other resource use agencies and need to reduce LD and preserve BD/ecosystem services	BD/ecosystem services			
2.1: LDN, BD and sustainable rural livelihood of ILM approach benefits recognized by national stakeholders and incorporated into development planning and upscaled nationally	National policy makers have recommendations based on in-country experience for introduction of integrated landscape and resource management approaches at a national level, and guidelines for implementing such policies	No in-country experience	NA	Set of recommendations and guidelines	0%	Planned to be implemented during future reporting periods.	MS
	Nationally relevant experience and lessons learned on the application of new approaches to landscape management disseminated (measured by: a). number of workshops and level of participation)	Low awareness and limited materials (paper, multimedia, social media) on integrated landscape management, the concept of	NA	Set of 5 workshops (1 in Skopje, 4 in other regions of the country) attended by not less than 500 participants of relevant state, non-state and	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		ecosystem services, NCA, etc. and possibilities for practical application in Macedonian context		academic institutions. Demonstrable exposure of materials from workshops in press and social media (number of articles, posts, etc.)			
	National LD/BD information system functionally established and with data from 3 areas of the country uploaded and disseminated.	No effective national information management mechanism available for capturing. Processing and disseminating LD and BD monitoring information and trends.	National LD and BD monitoring and dissemination mechanism designed, functional and tested with data collected in the Shar Mountains	National LD and BD monitoring and dissemination mechanism further tested with data collected in two additional areas (Strumichko Pole and Vitachevo/ Tikvesh - Middle Vardar Valley) and capacity of MOEPP to roll out nationally in place	0%	Planned to be implemented during future reporting periods.	MS
	Level of awareness on the concept and application of National capital accounting and basis for replication in N. Macedonia (measured by: change in awareness of	No in-country experience or awareness of the NCA concept or its practical application in	NA	Increase in awareness of the concept and practical application of NCA in senior state,	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	the concept in senior state, non- state and academic institutions, and availability of clear in-country evidence/recommendations for its application in the N. Macedonian context)	development planning (baseline survey TBD in inception)		non- state and academic institutions (Follow up survey) Availability of in-country experience assessment and recommendations for its further national application			

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

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
-1 Component 1: Practical application of integrated landscape approach to achieving LDN (Land Degradation	Output 1.1.1: MOEPP and key stakeholder institutions provided with technical assistance, training and tools needed to undertake a systematic NCA (Natural Capital Accounting) process in the Shar Mountains providing usable data to justify and guide forest, pasture, tourism, HPPs (hydropower plants) and other key land use management planning and reforms	2025-12-31	0%	2%	The activities within the scope of this Output have been delayed due to the project registration requirements at national level, as well as the parliamentary and presidential elections in the first half of 2024. The lack of knowledge on the NCA approach at national level has been identified during the project inception. There is a proposal to consider engaging an international NCA expertise to support	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Neutrality) and BD (Biological Diversity) targets in the pilot area of the Shar Mountains and dependent ecosystems service area (peripheral productive landscape)					the learning process. This is to be further discussed and decided with the Lead executing authority i.e. MOEPP and further progress is expected during the upcoming reporting periods.	
	Activity 1.1.1.1: Ensuring equal understanding of all key stakeholders on the concept of NCA	2024-12-31	0%	5%	The parliamentary and presidential elections during the first half of 2024, as well as the project registration requirements at national level, have delayed the implementation of activities. This challenge i.e. the project has recently been registered and a new Government was established in June 2024. At technical level, it has been determined during the project development and inception phase that there is a lack of knowledge on NCA nationally and locally, which should be further considered while designing the methodological approach to defining, understanding and NCA piloting on Shar.	MS
	Activity 1.1.1.2: Clarifying what the purpose and expected results / impact of carrying out an NCA in the Shar Mountains should be	2024-12-31	0%	5%	The parliamentary and presidential elections during the first half of 2024, as well as the project registration requirements at national level, have delayed the implementation of activities. This challenge i.e. the project has recently been registered and a new Government was established in June 2024. At technical level, it has been	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					determined during the project development and inception phase that there is a lack of knowledge on NCA nationally and locally, which should be further considered while designing the methodological approach to defining, understanding and NCA piloting on Shar. It was suggested during the project inception period that an international expertise might be needed to guide the learning and piloting process. This will be further discussed with MOEPP and progress is expected during the upcoming reporting period.	
	Activity 1.1.1.3: Defining the methodological approach for undertaking a pilot NCA in practice	2025-03-31	0%	5%	The parliamentary and presidential elections during the first half of 2024, as well as the project registration requirements at national level, have delayed the implementation of activities. This challenge i.e. the project has recently been registered and a new Government was established in June 2024. At technical level, it has been determined during the project development and inception phase that there is a lack of knowledge on NCA nationally and locally, which should be further considered while designing the methodological approach to defining, understanding and NCA piloting on Shar.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	Activity 1.1.1.4: Stakeholders' agreement on the most relevant natural capital values to account on the Shar Mts	2025-03-31	0%	5%	The key stakeholders have been identified. However, there is a lack of knowledge on the meaning, implementation and the benefits of NCA at local and national level. Furthermore, the activity has been delayed due to the parliamentary and presidential elections during the first half of 2024, as well as the project registration requirements at national level. This challenge i.e. the project has recently been registered and a new Government was established in June 2024. This activity together with others pending, are planned to be implemented in the next reporting period.	MS
	Activity 1.1.1.5: Training and capacity building of MOEPP and MAFWE staff and other key stakeholders in the process of field and desk data collection	2025-03-31	0%	0%	The activity has been delayed due to the project registration requirements at national level, as well as the parliamentary and presidential elections during the first half of 2024. This challenge i.e. the project has recently been registered and a new Government is established. This activity together with others, are planned to be implemented in the next reporting period.	MS
	Activity 1.1.1.6: Desk and field data collection to provide a basis to evaluate the key natural capital values	2025-06-30	0%	0%	The parliamentary and presidential elections during the first half of 2024, as well as the project registration requirements at national level, have	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					delayed the implementation of activities. This challenge i.e. the project has recently been registered and a new Government was established in June 2024. This activity together with others, are planned to be implemented in the next reporting periods.	
	Activity 1.1.1.7: Training of MOEPP staff and other stakeholders on how to practically undertake analysis of data and prepare NC accounts for the Shar Mountains	2025-06-30	0%	0%	The parliamentary and presidential elections during the first half of 2024, as well as the project registration requirements at national level, have delayed the implementation of activities. This challenge i.e. the project has recently been registered and a new Government was established in June 2024. In addition, it has been indicated during the project inception period, that there is a lack of knowledge at national and local level on NCA. Further guidance and some progress is expected during the upcoming reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.1.8: Appropriate analysis of data collected and the development of appropriate Natural capital accounts for the Shar Mountains	2025-06-30	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.1.9: Applying the results of the NCA to the future planning of natural resource management and use in the Shar Mountains	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.1.10 Development of specific recommendations relevant	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	for the subsequent development of the Integrated Landscape Management plan, and for planning / management of specific sectors (forest, pasture, HPP, etc.).				reporting periods.	
	Output 1.1.2: An Integrated landscape Management plan for the Shar Mountains developed and agreed with all key local and national stakeholders and provides a consensual framework for implementing subsequent forest, pasture and other related land use management actions and pilot for national upscaling	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.2.1: Build awareness and planning capacity within key relevant stakeholders in regard to the concept and practical application of ILM planning, both theoretically and in the Shar Mountains context	2026-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.2.2: Review of all existing planning documents to identify key cross sectorial priorities and opportunities for synergy building, and key gaps that may still remain in terms of the wider landscape level issues and considerations	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.2.3: ILM framework plan for the Shar Mountains elaborated, including design of the mechanism/s needed to ensure its oversight, monitoring and coordinated implementation in future	2027-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.2.4: A targeted set of managerial and technical capacities building modules for the main actors in the ILM coordination mechanism in order to ensure capacity to establish and operate.	2026-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.2.5: Elaborate a long-term sustainable financing strategy and a detail midterm financing plan for ensuring sustainable implementation of integrated landscape management actions	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.2.6: Support the preparation of a Spatial plan for NP the Shar Mountains within context of overall ILM plan framework	2026-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Output 1.1.3: Integrated LD and BD monitoring indicators and framework designed for the Shar Mountains, and M&R (monitoring and reporting) system functionally established as basis for evaluating	2025-09-30	0%	5%	The UNEP team has been researching the existing databases (past and available sources, as well as the level of	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	future management effectiveness and as pilot for national upscaling				development and alignment with the reporting requirements mainly under UNCCD and CBD), as well as the IT tools/equipment available at MOEPP. These will serve to determine the terms of reference for contracting a local partner to support the establishment and testing of the system as per the country's needs.	
	Activity 1.1.3.1: Design, preparation of LD monitoring system, defining indicators, preparation and implementation of protocols, testing and implementation of methodology for collection of data, and fully functional monitoring and information system on LD established (software and hardware)	2025-06-30	0%	5%	Due to the presidential and parliamentary elections during the first half of 2024, as well as project registration requirements, there have been delays in the implementation of this activity. The UNEP team has been researching the existing databases (past and available sources, as well as the level of development and alignment with the reporting requirements mainly under UNCCD and CBD), as well as the IT tools/equipment available at MOEPP. These will serve to determine the terms of reference for contracting a local partner to support the establishment and testing of the system as per the country's needs. Progress on the implementation of this activity is expected in the next reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.1.3.2: Design, preparation of BD monitoring system, implementation of protocols, testing and implementation of	2025-09-30	0%	0%	This activity depends on the progress of the previous 1.1.3.2 and is planned to	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	methodology for collection of data including full operate establishing a national Informative system for nature protection (software and hardware)				be implemented in future reporting periods.	
	Output 1.2.1 Comprehensive reform of forestry management approaches and operational modalities developed and applied, which ensure the sustainable meeting of local community needs while reversing deforestation trends, LD (land degradation), and conserving biodiversity	2027-08-31	10%	10%	Progress has been made in finalisation of the TOR for the Forest Management Plans (4 forest management units) for Shar NP and approved by MOEPP. Ongoing procedure for engagement of a local partner to support the implementation of the planned activities.	MS
	Activity 1.2.1.1: Conduct a forest sector supply and demand assessment of all the Shar Mountains in order to assess current status and identify capacity to meet biodiversity, ecosystem service and social needs (fuelwood demand in the wider area)	2024-12-31	0%	10%	Progress has been made in finalisation of the TOR for the Forest Management Plans (4 forest management units) for Shar NP and approved by MOEPP. Ongoing procedure for engagement of a local partner to support the implementation of the planned activities. Furthermore, the NP authority is researching the fuelwood needs, especially of the local communities, as a baseline to support the preparation of the plans and the conservation measures applicable on the forests within the boundaries of the national park.	MS
	Activity 1.2.1.2: Awareness raising and capacities building on the importance of sustainable forest management and conservation of forest habitats, within and outside the NP territory within key stakeholder groups	2024-12-31	0%	10%	The Shar NP managing authority continuously works with the local communities to raising the level of knowledge on the importance of sustainable forest management within the park. More dedicated activities and	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					progress is expected in the upcoming reporting periods.	
	Activity 1.2.1.3: Preparation of new forest management plans for the forestry units inherited by the Shar NP (with due consideration of BD, LD and social needs, including the NTFPs resources)	2025-03-31	0%	10%	TOR for the activity was developed and approved by MOEPP. The special forest management plans will be developed for four forest management units i.e. Duf-Pozharane, Kobilica, Ljuboten, Leshnichka shuma (covering around 13,000 ha within the territory of the NP). There is an ongoing procedure for contracting a local partner. Progress on the implementation is expected in the next reporting period.	MS
	Activity 1.2.1.4: Support to priority needs for initial implementation of new forest management plans and services in the NP (technical, infrastructural and equipment support)	2026-12-31	0%	10%	The progress of implementation of this activity depending on the process of development of the FMPs and is expected during the next reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.2.1.5: Establish and demonstrate electronic system for tracking forest use	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Implementation of the activities planned for the next reporting period.	MS
	Output 1.2.2: Existing pasture management system adapted in collaboration with local pasture users resulting in improved maintenance of BD and LD and sustainability of incomes	2027-08-31	0%	10%	Past activities related to the pasture areas on Shar have been discussed during the inception period. The needs to contribute to the pasture management reforms have been identified, especially having in mind that although within the PA, their management remains within the scope of work of PEPM. TOR is being developed to support the execution of the planned activities, that are to be	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					implemented in the upcoming reporting periods.	
	Activity 1.2.2.1: Conduct pasture inventory and barrier analysis for the territory of all the Shar Mountains, assessment and valuation of pastures	2025-03-31	0%	10%	Past activities related to the pasture areas on Shar have been discussed with MOEPP and the PEPM. The needs to contribute to the pasture management reforms have been identified, especially having in mind that although within the PA, their management remains within the scope of work of PEPM. TOR is being developed to support the execution of the planned activities, that are to be implemented in the upcoming reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.2.2.2: Development of long-term pasture management strategy for NP the Shar Mountains through participatory collaboration with all stakeholders, and development of mid-term (5 year) action plan to initiate implementation of strategy	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.2.2.3: A detail initial 5-year action plan for instigating this strategic vision will be prepared that defines concrete actions to needed under each of the strategic directions agreed	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.2.2.4: Support to the practical initiation and pilot implementation of the 5-year pasture action plan (including technical guidance / advice and key investment needs)	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.2.2.5: Awareness raising, consultation and capacity building on pasture issues	2027-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Output 1.2.3: Operational guidelines and monitoring systems in place to minimize negative impacts of existing SHPPs on biodiversity, land degradation/drought and water availability for irrigation.	2026-06-30	0%	5%	The conditions and status of HPPs (existing and back then, planned) have been identified during the valorisation	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					of the area planned for protection. Since the proclamation, the NP managing authority is continuously following the HPPs on the ground. During the inception phase, some negotiations have been initiated to support the development of alignment guidelines for the operating HPPs and reducing the impacts, especially on biodiversity and the biological water minimum of rivers concerned by the HPPs operations. TORs are being developed and progress is expected during the upcoming reporting periods.	
	Activity 1.2.3.1: Review of existing impacts of 11 constructed and 4 under construction SHPPs on river ecosystems, and impacts that different plant management regimes/actions have in this regard, plus options for mitigation and for monitoring	2024-12-31	0%	5%	The conditions and status of HPPs (existing and back then, planned) have been identified during the valorisation of the area planned for protection. Since the proclamation, the NP managing authority is continuously following the HPPs on the ground. During the inception phase, some negotiations have been initiated to support the development of alignment guidelines for the operating HPPs and reducing the impacts, especially on biodiversity and the biological water minimum of rivers concerned by the HPPs operations. TORs are being developed and progress is expected during the upcoming reporting	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					periods.	
	Activity 1.2.3.2: Prepare, in consultation with the 15 SHPP operators, guidelines/instructions for SHPP operators in order for them to comply with voluntary and legal requirements within NP context.	2025-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.2.3.3: Develop a feasible and adequate monitoring system (indicators, data collection methodological/mechanisms and responsibilities) to monitor operation of SHPPs and impacts downstream to the Shar rivers.	2025-06-30	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.2.3.4: Awareness building and capacity development of NP staff, SHPP operator staff and other key stakeholders (downstream users potentially impacted by SHPPs) on the findings of previous assessment work and practical application of operational guidelines	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.2.3.5: Clarify and strengthen the instruments and roles available for regulatory control of SHPP impacts that exceed normative levels / violate agreed operational guidelines	2026-06-30	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Output 1.3.1: Sustainable tourism development strategy and plan for the Shar Mountains prepared and initiated in collaboration with all key stakeholders (local authorities and communities, NP authority, private sector, NGOs) resulting in improved sustainably livelihoods and generation of financial resources for BD conservation (Shar NP-national park)	2027-03-31	0%	5%	There have been delays in the implementation of the activities within the scope of this output, mainly due to the parliamentary and presidential elections during the first half of 2024 and the project registration requirements at national level. A new Government has been established and the project has recently been registered, which allows to continue according to the plans. Meanwhile, initial consultations have been held with representatives from the Federation of Mountaineering Sports of Macedonia	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					during the inception phase, who expressed interest and shared the needs for further development of the area (especially on marking mountaineering trails and promotion of their use).The development of the Shar Tourism Development Strategy is planned to be implemented in the upcoming reporting periods.	
	Activity 1.3.1.1: Conduct inventory of touristic potentials, existing infrastructure and needs on all the Shar Mountains territory, while improving collaboration between all stakeholders	2025-03-31	0%	10%	This activity has been delayed mainly due to the project registration process at national level, as well as the presidential and parliamentary elections in the first half of 2024. Since the recently completed project registration and the newly established Government, the activity is planned to be implemented in the next reporting periods.The socio-economic aspects, including the tourism potentials and needs, have been explored during the process of valorisation of the Shar for its proclamation. These findings will serve as a baseline for further investigation in the upcoming reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.3.1.2: Development of an overarching tourism strategy promoting NP the Shar Mountains as a safe destination for alternative forms of tourism with main focus on involvement of local communities and businesses	2025-06-30	0%	5%	There have been delays in the implementation of the activities, mainly due to the parliamentary and presidential elections during the first	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					half of 2024 and the project registration requirements at national level. A new Government has been established and the project has recently been registered, which allows to continue according to plans. Existing national and local planning documents, as well as the findings obtained during the Shar valorisation process, will serve as a baseline for development of the Shar Tourism Development Strategy, that is planned to be implemented in the upcoming reporting periods.	
	Activity 1.3.1.3: Development and implementation of an effective payment visitor system in the NP the Shar Mountains, and system for monitoring and mitigating the tourism impact on the nature	2025-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.3.1.4: Establishment of a standardized trail management system, and necessary infrastructure for NP the Shar Mountains to become a safe touristic destination	2027-03-31	0%	5%	Initial consultations have been held with representatives from the Federation of Mountaineering Sports of Macedonia during the inception phase, who expressed interest and shared the needs for further development of the area (especially on marking mountaineering trails and promotion of their use). Expected implementation during future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.3.1.5: Training and support to key local level tourism actors in the development and provision of appropriate tourism services.	2026-03-31	0%	0%	Trainings for local tourism actors are expected to be considered during the development of the Shar Tourism Strategy and be organized during upcoming	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					reporting periods.	
	Output 1.3.2 Sustainable livelihoods of local communities (based on gender-responsive approach) improved through on and off farm diversification, value adding, marketing, and skill development support	2027-03-31	0%	5%	Local farmers' activities and practices have been identified during the process of valorisation of the area and the project inception period. Thematic meetings will be held in the upcoming reporting periods to determine in more details their needs and shape the program for agro-environmental measures and capacity building.	MS
	Activity 1.3.2.1: Organize local thematic trainings in pilot villages that will engage farmers in implementation of environmentally friendly agricultural practices	2025-06-30	0%	5%	Local farmers' activities and practices have been identified during the process of valorisation of the area and the project inception period. Thematic meetings will be held in the upcoming reporting periods to determine in more details their needs and shape the program for agro-environmental measures and capacity building.	MS
	Activity 1.3.2.2: Support to local agricultural practices by providing capacity building through technical assistance, certification, branding and access to markets	2027-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.3.2.3: Development of a program for agro-environmental measures for revitalization of abandoned areas and for support of traditional mountain farming practices including feasibility assessment of subsidies/ compensation payments	2026-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Output 1.3.3: Targeted awareness building, and support to local community mobilization, planning capacity and self-governance (including strengthening women participation) enhances community	2027-08-31	0%	5%	This activity has been delayed mainly due to the project registration process at national level and the parliamentary	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	role and commitment to local sustainable development)				and presidential elections in the first half of 2024. Representatives from the local communities are part of the Council of concerned parties within the NP management. The needs for self-development, governance activities and enhanced engagement are planned in future reporting periods.	
	Activity 1.3.3.1: Establish effective communication and raise awareness within communities on overall resource and livelihood issues facing the Shar Mountains with implications for them, the role of the NP to try and address these and biodiversity issues and benefits it can bring for them, and how specifically the GEF7 project will support this process (and their role / potential opportunities within it).	2024-12-31	0%	5%	This activity has been delayed mainly due to the project registration process at national level and the parliamentary and presidential elections in the first half of 2024. Still, representatives from the local communities are part of the Council of concerned parties within the NP management. Since the recently completed project registration and establishment of the new Government, modalities to improve engagement will be identified and supported during the upcoming reporting periods, as well as awareness raising activities.	MS
	Activity 1.3.3.2: Forming a platform/stakeholder's council to secure community involvement in NP management and establishment of an ongoing coordination with (based on existing traditional or new structures) of a representative villagers committee for future consultation, collaboration and joint planning in target villages.	2025-06-30	0%	5%	Representatives from the local communities are part of the Council of concerned parties within the NP management. The needs for self-development, governance and enhanced engagement are planned in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.3.3.3: Undertake a participatory village development	2025-06-30	0%	5%	This activity has been delayed mainly	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	“vision” exercise in target villages to help clarify the longer- term desires, options and opportunities for each village, clarify the barriers and challenges faced by local communities, and highlight shared community priorities				due to the project registration process at national level and the parliamentary and presidential elections in the first half of 2024. Still, representatives from the local communities are part of the Council of concerned parties within the NP management. Since the recently completed project registration and establishment of the new Government, modalities to improve engagement will be identified and supported during the upcoming reporting periods.	
	Activity 1.3.3.4: Support “kick start” community initiatives in target villages based on priorities identified in the “vision” exercise in order to build collaboration, trust and community capacity to mobilize.	2026-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 1.3.3.5: Support target village communities to self-apply nature based and innovative solutions to minimize natural disaster risks, and improve quality of environment (address root causes of natural disaster risks, poor infrastructure planning, village level waste management, fuel wood efficiency/alternatives, etc.).	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
2	Output 2.1.1: Key benefits and lessons learned from pilot landscape ILM captured through holistic evaluation of the practical effectiveness and impact of innovative approaches developed and tested by the project	2027-06-30	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
Component 2: Support to national level adoption and upscaling of ILM and	Activity 2.1.1.1: Undertake a holistic and in-depth evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of utilizing integrated landscape / cross sector approaches to development planning and practical management, on the basis of experience gained in the Shar Mountains and compared with past “business as usual” sectorial approaches:	2027-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
related LD and BD best practices	Activity 2.1.1.2: Identify the key lessons learned in terms of the most effective approaches and the practical application of such approaches in other territories within Macedonia	2027-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.1.3: Develop detailed recommendations on how the positive experience can most effectively be replicated and upscaled in other areas of N. Macedonia, including the institutions and actors that should play a lead role in such a process, and the key barriers/challenges involved	2027-06-30	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Output 2.1.2: Support and technical assistance provided to MOEPP (Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning) and key stakeholder institutions to develop guidelines and policy recommendations for upscaling of LD/BD efforts and application of integrated landscape management in other areas of the country	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.2.1: Identification of key guidelines and practical planning/implementation manuals to support replication (based on previous impact and lesson learned evaluation of ILM/cross sectorial approaches tested by the project)	2027-06-30	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.2.2: Design and development of identified guidelines and practical manuals for different key stakeholders, utilizing varied methods and innovative approaches (traditional paper, online interactive, etc.).	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.2.3: Dissemination and awareness raising on the availability of these knowledge resources through existing knowledge platforms and activities under	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.2.4: Identification of key policy recommendations that derive from the experience gained in the Shar Mountains pilot area on benefits and practical application of ILM and inter-sectorial approaches to natural resources management, rural economic development, etc.	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.2.5: Support to the drafting of policy, legislative and	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	institutional reform documents that support the reduction of barriers and challenges to the replication of lessons learned/good practices for improving the integration, effectiveness and sustainability of landscape management.				reporting periods.	
	Output 2.1.3: Set of national and regional workshops and awareness events for key stakeholders [designed, conducted and results documented and made available, with particular consideration of gender balance]	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.3.1: Design as set of national and regional workshops (objectives/expected impact, content, materials/resources, participants), based on previous evaluation and guidelines developed	2026-12-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.3.1b: Analysis of execution challenges, design and implementation of execution trainings for MOEPP (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC+finance unit)	2027-08-31	0%	0%	National authorities continue to face limited administrative and technical capacities for development and management of projects, as well as cumbersome procurement processes at national level. Activities to provide support in addressing these challenges are planned throughout the entire project duration.	MS
	Activity 2.1.3.2: Design and implement a targeted awareness and information campaign, incorporating innovative methods and approaches as relevant (e-learning platform, social media, etc.)	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.3.3: Organize and implement the set of workshops at both national and regional levels (not less than 1 national and 5 regional) targeted to specific stakeholders and influencers.	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.3.4: Evaluation of the impact of workshops and awareness campaign in terms of understanding and application of project results by participants and refinements of materials based on	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	feedback for ongoing application by MoEPP and other stakeholders.					
	Output 2.1.4: Capacity of MOEPP to upscale the piloted Integrated LD and BD indicator and monitoring system at national level built through its replication in 2 additional pilot sites	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.4.1: Training of MOEPP and other relevant actors on the wider application of integrated BD and LD monitoring in other areas of the country, including the collaborative development of relevant BD and LD indicators for monitoring in other agro-ecological areas of the country	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.4.2: Support the MOEPP and other key actors to plan the mechanisms, responsibilities and financing for ensuring the long-term systematic collection and updating of the BD and LD monitoring system in a systematic and sustainable manner	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.4.3: Support the MOEPP and other relevant actors to identify how the data and conclusions derived from the integrated BD and LD monitoring system are to be disseminated effectively and available to be applied by the relevant national planning and regulatory bodies in practice.	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.4.4: Elaborate in more depth the integrated BD and LD indicators for the 2 pilot sites (Strumichko Pole, and Vitachevo/Tikvesh)	2026-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.4.5: Collection of monitoring data related to the elaborated BD and LD indicators within the 2 selected sites (Strumichko Pole and Vitachevo/Tikvesh)	2026-09-30	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.4.6: Addition of the indicators and monitoring data from the two additional sites into the initial pilot BD and LD system developed for the Shar Mountains.	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.4.7: Recommendations and planning for full national roll-out of the BD and LD system to the country as a whole	2027-08-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Output 2.1.5: Assessment and recommendations on the wider	2026-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	adoption of Natural Capital Accounting approaches within the national economic monitoring and planning system				reporting periods.	
	Activity 2.1.5.1: Develop methodology guideline and manual with recommendations for application of the NCA approach piloted in the Shar Mt. at a wider scale or nationally in N. Macedonia and integrated into national economic and development planning processes	2025-06-30	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS
	Activity 2.1.5.2: Awareness building, training and capacity building of key economy related academic institutions and institutions on concept, practice and application of NCA approach to economic planning and development	2026-03-31	0%	0%	Planned to be implemented in future reporting periods.	MS

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

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

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

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

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

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

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Risk 1: Insecurity and political unrest may result in considerable delays and postponement of project implementation	All Project outcomes and outputs	M	M					M	=	Some delays in implementation caused by the presidential and parliamentary elections in the first half of 2024. The new Government is

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										formed in June 2024 and the political situation is slowly stabilizing.
Risk 2: Livelihood benefits from sustainable management may be limited and too slow for communities to give up current unsustainable practices	Outcome 1.2. 1.3	M	M					M	=	Remains the same
Risk 3: Conflicts over territorial issues could undermine efforts at promoting integrated planning approaches.	All Project outcomes and outputs	L	L					L	=	Remains the same
Risk 4: That existing environmental monitoring design is overly complex for cost-effective/sustainable practical application	Overall	M	M					M	=	Remains the same
Risk 5: That regulatory actions are ineffectively applied due to the political influence of HPP operators	Outcome 1.2	M	M					M	=	Remains the same
Risk 6: Tourist visitor numbers will be impacted by unexpected shocks (such as a global pandemic. economic crisis. etc.) and impact livelihoods and income generation opportunities	Outcome 1.3	M	L					L	↓	During the Covid 19. and cities heat waves. increased number of tourists is noticed
Risk 7: Unclear roles of stakeholders in the execution of the project may result in a lack of commitment/buy-in from local communities and therefore may result in the failure of demonstration projects	Outcome 1.3	L	L	N/A				L	=	Remains the same
Risk 8: Insufficient national stakeholder commitment to findings of the impact evaluation report and subsequent policy	Overall	M	M					M	=	Remains the same

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
recommendations										
Risk 9: Existing “traditional “economic thinking and academic inertia prevent uptake and commitment to NCA approaches and tools	Outcome 1.1 and 1.2	H	H					H	=	Remains the same
Risk 10: Climate change impacts (e.g. increased flooding; more severe droughts; forest fires) may negatively affect project activities for ecosystem restoration and effective SLM practices	Outcome 1.2 and 1.3	M	M					M	=	Remains the same
Risks 11: Poor monitoring of environmental, social and economic impacts after the project implementation	Overall	M	M					M	=	Remains the same
Risk 12: The outbreak of diseases (Covid-19)	Overall	L	L					L	↓	Remains the same
Workflow risk: Delays in project activities	Overall	L	M					L		UNEP has initiated a procedure for engagement of a new national coordinator (previous coordinator terminated the contract).
	Overall	M	M					M	=	

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

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Risk 1: Insecurity and political unrest may result	The current political situation in Macedonia is	Following the parliamentary and presidential elections.	The project team will provide continuous	Until the end of the project.	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
in considerable delays and postponement of project implementation	stable. but the potential for a spontaneous upsurge in violence is real.	the political situation is stabilizing.	monitoring of the security and political situation in the country and update the Steering Committee on a regular basis. so there is sufficient lead time for adequate response actions and adjustments in project strategy.		
Risk 2: Livelihood benefits from sustainable management may be limited and too slow for communities to give up current unsustainable practices	The focus will be put on generating relatively quick benefits from some interventions			Until the end of the project.	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners
Risk 4: That existing environmental monitoring design is overly complex for cost-effective/sustainable practical application	Initial review will take pragmatic decisions during the inception phase on the feasibility of support to the full current system or more discrete focus on components necessary to implement the project's desired actions.			Until the end of the project.	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners
Risk 5: That regulatory actions are ineffectively applied due to the political	The project will ensure an open and transparent process of evaluating SHHP			Until the end of the project	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
influence of HPP operators.	impacts. monitoring. operational guidelines and regulatory instrument that involve all local interested parties (particularly representatives of the impacted communities). Participation of local stakeholders will be enhanced to limit the political influence of SHPP operators.				
Risk 6: Tourist visitor numbers will be impacted by unexpected shocks (such as a global pandemic. economic crisis. etc.) and impact livelihoods and income generation opportunities				Until the end of the project	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners
Risk 8: Insufficient national stakeholder commitment to findings of the impact evaluation report and subsequent policy recommendations	The project will attempt to mitigate this risk through a). extensive national stakeholder involvement during the Shar Mountains target area implementation. b). a very robust and comprehensive review and			Until the end of the project	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	impact assessment report. and a comprehensive awareness-raising / training effort that seeks innovative ways to reach both institutions and the general public.				
Risk 9: Existing “traditional “economic thinking and academic inertia prevent uptake and commitment to NCA approaches and tools	The project will focus particular efforts on targeting institutions and think tanks that meaningfully influence economic theory and thinking in N. Macedonia.			Until the end of the project	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners
Risk 10: Climate change impacts (e.g. increased flooding; more severe droughts; forest fires) may negatively affect project activities for ecosystem restoration and effective SLM practices	The project will provide diversified livelihood alternatives to enhance adaptation and resilience. Project support for the sustainable use of natural resources will further improve the management and conservation of these resources. create income opportunities that enhance adaptation and resilience. and strengthen food security.			Until the end of the project	UNEP. MOEPP. Local partners

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Workflow risk: Delays in project activities			The project needs to speed up the delivery. A revised workplan showing a faster progress will be developed.	by September 2024	UNEP Europe office: Project management team
2 Governance structure - Oversight	N/A		The steering committee should be formed and the steering committee should be formed.	by december 2024	UNEP Europe office and PMU
3 Implementation schedule	N/A		The project needs to speed up the delivery. A revised workplan showing a faster progress will be developed.	by September 2024	UNEP Europe office: Project management team
4 Budget			Review the revised workplan and revise the budget accordingly.	by december 2024	UNEP Europe office and PMU
6 Reporting			ensure timely reporting, send reminder to PMU for the upcoming reports	continous until the risk level is lowered	PMU under the oversight of TM

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

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

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

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

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

Minor amendments

There are no changes to the project design or implementation during the reporting period.

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

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

GEO Location Information:

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Shar Mountain	42.083988710065185	20.833136940303188		National Park. Mountainous Area.	

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

[Annex any linked geospatial file]