



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Europe and Central Asia
Country (ies):	Türkiye
Project Title:	Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP /TUR/065/GFF
GEF ID:	9586
GEF Focal Area(s):	LD
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Ministry of Environment Urbanization and Climate Change (MEUCC)
Initial project duration (years):	3 years
Project coordinates:	

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	24- Jan-2019
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	15-Aug-19
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	31-Dec-21
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) ²	31-Dec-2024

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 2,388,584
Total Co-financing amount (USD)³:	USD 13,600,000
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	USD 1,204,848
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)⁴:	USD 979,319
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023⁵	USD 24,190,315

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	11.04.2023
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	-
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	02.02.2023

¹ As per FPMIS

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

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

⁴ The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

⁵ Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

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

Expected Terminal Evaluation Date ⁷ :	August 2024
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	Yes

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	Highly Satisfactory
Overall implementation progress rating:	Satisfactory
Overall risk rating:	Low

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Low
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Status

Implementation Status (1 st PIR, 2 nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	3 rd PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Sibel Nihal Tekin, NPC (FETUR)	Sibel.Tekin@fao.org
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⁷ The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

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

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

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators ⁸	Baseline	Mid-term Target Mid-term Target ⁹	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress ¹⁰ since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹¹
To develop a model for LDN target setting, planning and decision-making at national level and for demonstration in the Upper Sakarya basin	Outcome 1.1: Enhanced enabling Environment for LDN	Number of institutional training courses that integrate LDN	Knowledge of LDN and how to operationalize it at local and national level is limited despite the earlier LDN pilot project	At least one institutional training programme that integrates LDN	At least two central-level training programmes and one local that integrates LDN	-Project inception workshops in 3 Project provinces, -4 technical workshops, -One online training on FFS, 1 inception and 1 curricula workshop on FFS - 2 Stakeholder meetings -Numerous online meetings -By Ministry partners; 2 online trainings (due to covid -19) on combatting desertification and land degradation were conducted with participation of 144 experts from African countries. -3 other training were conducted by Ministry partners. 194 people were trained in these trainings in this reporting period.	HS
		Number of people trained at local and central level		At least 30 people trained at central level and 15 at local	At least 150 people trained (at least 50 women)		
		National and international symposiums International LDN exchange		National LDN symposium	International LDN Symposium At least 5 people participate in	"Workshop on the Development of the Project for Combating Land Degradation and Desertification in the ECO Region" was held in Turkiye between 14-16 December 2021. A	S

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

⁹ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

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

¹¹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Moderately Satisfactory** (MS), **Moderately Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU). Refer to Annex 1.

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				At least 5 people participate in national symposium related to LDN At least 35 people participate in international LDN exchange programmes	national and 2 in a international symposiums related to LDN At least 50 people participate in international LDN exchange programmes	Project proposal focusing on technology transfer in scope of the LDN DSS was discussed. General Directorate of Combatting Desertification and Erosion organized a joint workshop with UNCCD with participation of 40 experts, namely ``Capacity building on the Implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification`` Ministry partner participated to the online First G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group Meeting on `Arrest Land Degradation, Restore Ecosystem', which was one of the major discussions.	
		National Online Information Sharing Forum on LDN	No LDN platform exists	1 National Online Information Sharing Forum on LDN	1 National Online Information Sharing Forum on LDN	National Online Information Sharing Forum was developed	S
		Number of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) established on modern and sustainable production methods Number of local people trained, including how many women	Knowledge of modern and sustainable production methods is limited at local village level	At least 3 FFS established At least 30 local people trained of which 50% are women	At least 3 FFS established At least 60 local people trained of which 50% are women	4 FFS were established and 97 local people were trained, which 47 are women	HS
		Mass media campaigns on LDN	No mass media campaigns on LDN	At least 1 mass media campaign	At least 2 mass media campaign	One introductory film was prepared on LDN and combatting desertification High level managers of the Ministry Partners presented on LDN on TV programs, delivered interviews and published LDN related information from official social media accounts of the Ministry	S

						<p>3 public service announcement published on desertification</p> <p>Press statements announced on LDN and desertification</p> <p>LDN and desertification is highlighted on XV World Forestry Congress through presentations</p>	
		New and/or revised legislation that operationalize the LDN approach	LDN is not currently integrated into any legislation or regulations	Gap analysis of relevant legislation New and/or revised legislation	Gap analysis of relevant legislation New and/or revised legislation	A GAP analysis was prepared during the preparation of LDN action plan process. LDN legislation workshop on `` New and/or revised legislation that operationalize the LDN approach`` will be conducted in July 2023	S
	Outcome 2.1: Decision-support system for LDN target setting and planning established	DSS established with calibrated metrics for LDN indicators	There are many DSS for NRM in Türkiye, but non that focuses on LDN	DSS for LDN in place with calibrated metrics for LDN indicators	DSS for LDN in place with calibrated metrics for LDN indicators	LDN DSS is developed that integrates already existing models/systems produced with national data as well as newly produced products. The LDN DSS is now functioning as a tool that allows any user to select a particular area of interest, i.e. a water catchment, and obtain summary statistics, charts and tables integrating the available data. One of its key functionalities is to make multi criteria analysis and show areas that meet certain criteria.	HS
		Calibrated metrics for LDN indicators available	Information on the three LDN indicators – land cover, SOC and productivity – is available but needs to be calibrated	Calibrated data on land cover, SOC and productivity available for the Upper Sakarya Basin	Calibrated data on land cover, SOC and productivity available for the whole of Türkiye	<p>-SOC and land productivity indicators are calibrated,</p> <p>-Türkiye`s desertification model is calibrated,</p> <p>-Production and validation of LULC data is continued in scope of the national UASIS project</p>	S
		Integration for LDN DSS	Software for other DSS exist that will be used to integrate the LDN DSS	LDN DSS available	LDN DSS integrated, tested and used	A GEE application (as software) on LDN was developed to combine national tools, by FAO. The system first prepared for Upper Sakarya, up-scaled at national level and extended 17 FAO Region countries	HS
		Land cover classes and land degradation levels	Land cover classes and land degradation	Land cover classes and land degradation	Land cover classes and land degradation	LDN DSS validation is carried out by FAO experts with a high accuracy	S

		in the Upper Sakarya Basin verified	levels in the Upper Sakarya Basin have been determined, but need verification	levels in the Upper Sakarya Basin verified	levels in the Upper Sakarya Basin verified	Draft Land Cover Maps (LC data layer) of the Project area was prepared under UASIS and will be verified by CEM experts	
	Outcome 2.2: Monitoring system and related capacity for LDN in place	LDN monitoring system in place with target setting agreed	Many monitoring approaches have been tested in Türkiye that will provide the baseline	LDN monitoring system in place with target setting agreed	LDN monitoring system in place with target setting agreed	LDN DSS is established and is capable to monitor changes on LDN indicators LDN DSS results were used for LDN reporting to UNCCD (PRAIS-4) Already set national targets are going to be refined using LDN DSS Besides, project partners requested to use DSS for prioritizing the implementation sites under the national watershed management strategy	S
		Target setting and hot spots and cold spots for gains and losses identified	Many monitoring approaches have been tested in Türkiye, including the 'land productivity dynamics (LPD) approach' that the target setting will build on	Target setting completed and hot spots and cold spots for gains and losses identified	Target setting completed and hot spots and cold spots for gains and losses identified	LDN DSS now enables users to identify hot and cold spots for gains and losses using LPD The best LPD model, reflecting the country's hot & cold Spots, gains & losses was determined through a participatory expert workshop.	HS
		Agreed soil organic carbon monitoring approach	The Soil Organic Carbon Monitoring Model and Mapping Project of Türkiye will serve as the baseline	Agreed soil organic carbon monitoring approach	Agreed soil organic carbon monitoring approach disseminated	Türkiye has set a model for SOC and national SOC model was used as a base in DSS. In addition, potential carbon sequestration map was produced for whole country. For plot level SOC monitoring, soil samples were taken from pilot sites	S
		TCM and LPD Models tested	The existing TCM model needs field calibration	TCM and LPD Models tested in the Upper Sakarya Basin	TCM and LPD Models compared on an area basis	The TCM Model has been calibrated by MoAF before the inception of the project. DSS now allows comparison of TCM and LPD, and both can be used for multi criteria analysis in the DSS	HS

						A participatory technical workshop was conducted on LPD to identify the most representative LPD model. Participants tested the LPD models through a platform and compared with TCM.	
		Web-based Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System (IDR) operationalized Training of decision-makers and technical staff	The IDR has been developed, but further capacity in using it is needed	The IDR operationalized and 20 decision-makers and 30 technical staff trained of which 50% are women	A total of 30 decision-makers and 50 technical staff trained	IDR system became operational before the inception of the project. 4 online trainings were carried out on IDR More than 200 people trained	HS
		Sub-indicators of climate variability tested in the Upper Sakarya Basin for the TCM and SOC Models	The TCM and SOC models have not been calibrated for climate variability	Sub-indicators of climate variability tested in the Upper Sakaria Basin for the TCM and SOC models	Sub-indicators of climate variability tested in the Upper Sakaria Basin for the TCM and SOC models	Although planned to be conducted by CEM, upon Ministry Partners' request FAO team will support on climate variability. Climatic data is obtained from responsible institutions and the data preparation process is ongoing.	MS
	Outcome 3.1: Improved land management, land cover, and increased soil	Area covered by SLM and SFM best practices	0	7,000	14,000	The total area with improved land management is as follows; 20,675 ha of cultivated land 1,071 ha of rangeland 24,861 ha of forest land	HS
		Ha of land covered by landscape-specific improvement plans	0 covered, but the LDN planning will be integrated into the existing integrated watershed planning processes	2,000,000	4,313,827	The neutrality mechanism supports the achievement of LDN through a pro-active focus on planning; it comprises the counterbalancing of anticipated losses in land-based natural capital with planned gains, within unique land types. LDN DSS now allows any user and decision maker to counterbalance in any landscape. Besides, LDN approach is considered for new micro basin planning and participatory planning was finalized.	S

		Area covered by SLM and SFM best practices	0 covered, but the project will build on BPs tested elsewhere in Türkiye	7,000	14,000	<p>46,607 ha of lands in total;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71,2 ha of organic farming, • 199 ha soil analysis, • 10,000 ha of fertilization in agricultural lands, • 10,077 ha of weed control in agricultural lands • Establishment of rangeland facilities in 1,062 ha of rangelands, • Fruit seedlings distributed for 15,1 ha of land , Provision of different seeds • 5,485 ha of afforestation, • 6, 323 ha of forest rehabilitation • 8,490 ha of erosion control was implemented in Upper Sakarya Basin • 67,7 ha of forest areas was established with species that is used for honey production <p>Incentives provided for dairy cow/cattle breeding and beekeeping</p> <p>The target of 3,065,415 metric tons of CO2e avoided is achieved</p>	HS
		Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land (metric tons of CO2e)	Mid term target: More than 1,000,000 metric tons of CO2e avoided (10 year period of capitalization)	Final target: More than 3,065,415 metric tons of CO2e avoided (3 years of Implementation + 10 years of capitalization)			
		Number of climate-smart measures and approaches integrated into SLM/SFM	0	5	10	<p>Direct seedling machines were provided under the project to introduce no till agricultural practices.</p> <p>Solid manure spreaders were provided to introduce the use of manure instead of chemical fertilizers</p> <p>Animal manure and chemical fertilizers were compared in different plots in maize and sunflower fields, and use of chemical fertilizers could be limited with no loss of yield where solid manure was applied</p> <p>SOC expert with agricultural background prepared a report on best practices to be implemented to avoid climate change effects and increase SOC</p>	MS

						Field missions conducted with experts to determine the most appropriate areas for water harvesting, polyculture, and agroforestry. These activities will be finalized in the next reporting period.	
		Implementation plan for achieving LDN targets in the Upper Sakarya Basin	No such plan exists	1 implementation plan for achieving LDN targets in the whole Sakarya Basin	1 implementation plan for achieving LDN targets in the whole Sakarya Basin	The implementation plan will be prepared in the 4 th quarter of 2023	MS
	Outcome 3.2: Land productivity increased and livelihoods for local communities strengthened	Increase in annual land productivity trends in Upper Sakarya Basin	Land productivity and incomes are low in the Upper Sakarya basin due to outdated SLM and SFM practices	Mid-term target: Negative trends of LPD are reverted ($target: \Delta NPP \geq 0, where \Delta NPP = NPP_{2021} - NPP_{2018}$)	Final Target: Positive trend in NPP achieved ($target: \Delta NPP \geq 0, where \Delta NPP = NPP_{2021} - NPP_{2018}$) 300 households with improved living conditions 300 women trained in entrepreneurship	The productivity loss in the basin from 2018-2019 has stopped and from 2020 to 2021 an increase has been achieved.	S
		Gender Action Plan for the Upper Sakarya Basin	No such plan exists	Gender Action Plan for the Upper Sakarya Basin	Gender Action Plan for the Upper Sakarya Basin	A gender action plan was developed	S
		Number of gender sensitive climate resilient practices Area covered	Existing practices are not climate resilient	5 practices/200 women 150 ha	10 practices/300 women 200ha	9 Practices were implemented in scope of introduction of soil and land management practices, crop and pasture management practices and alternative practices; - Honeybee Colonies, Beehives and Bee Kits, as well as trainings were provided for 5 women farmers - Rangeland rehabilitation was carried out in 10 ha of land with salt bushes, to provide forage for farmers whose main source of income is animal husbandry	S

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						<p>-Drip irrigation systems applied in 200 da of land in onion, sugar beet and maize fields – tender process finalized</p> <p>- Crop rotation plots were formed for; 300 da with Hungarian vetch (it was implemented with direct seedling), 500 da with oat</p> <p>-Organic soil conditioner (leonardite) and local chickpea variety applied in 300 da, which resulted with 50% yield increase</p> <p>-A greenhouse was established for vegetable production, where members of a women cooperative were trained</p> <p>-Wooden sales booths were established in a pilot sites which is in a dam area, that will help them create alternative income</p> <p>-Milk storage and cooling tank and forage pelletizer were procured under the project, where main income of local people is livestock. The aim was to increase the animal nutrition by using pelletizer (farmers were trained on this) and supporting them to increase the income earned from milk by collecting, storing and selling milk directly to the companies</p> <p>-1 other practice is establishment of home type biogas plants to avoid uncontrolled manure storage and avoid greenhouse gas emissions. This is under procurement process. This practice will also contribute to the below indicator.</p>	
		Number of households with improved living conditions		150 households	300 households	<p>In scope of the improvement of living conditions small scaled biogas systems are planned to be established to prevent uncontrolled manure storage, to provide heating as well as CO2 emissions</p> <p>gender sensitive and climate smart practices implemented will contribute local people's income and living conditions,.</p>	MS

						Procurement process for 30 home type biogas systems were initiated, that will benefit 150 people.	
		Number of women trained	Not existing	50 women	100 women	5 women were trained on beekeeping 47 women were trained on vegetable production and livestock under FFSs. The number will be increased by the upcoming FSSs.	MS
	Outcome 4.1: Upscaling of the LDN DSS to national level covering all of Türkiye (78.4 million ha)	Area covered by the LDN DSS	No national LDN DSS is in place	Land cover classes for the whole of Türkiye identified based on the 6 IPCC classes	National LDN DSS covers the national territory of 78.4 million ha	LDN DSS application covers whole country and by exceeding the target, it is extended to 17 FAO region countries, so this outcome has been achieved.	HS
		LDN metrics for the whole of Türkiye available in DSS	No national LDN DSS or metrics is in place	Land cover classes for the whole of Türkiye identified based on the 6 IPCC classes	LDN metrics for the whole of Türkiye available in DSS	LDN metrics are identified. All LDN metrics are available under LDN DSS. (all achieved)	HS
		LDN target setting in place	No LDN target setting at the national scale	Alternative indicators examined for use at the national scale (socio-economic)	National LDN target setting in place	Türkiye set national targets before the project inception. Based on the DSS results, national LDN targets are under revision. For this purpose, a workshop was held with participation of many different stakeholders to define the roles and responsibilities of the institutions within the revised targets. In 2023, Ministry Partners initiated the process of updating the national strategy and action plan on combatting desertification, which will be aligned with LDN approach. Regarding this, it has been decided to refine the LDN targets in parallel.	S

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		Number of bankable projects for the LDN fund	No projects for the LDN fund developed in Türkiye	0	1 bankable project	A workshop was planned in cooperation with UNCCD and Mirova, to invite NGOs, Private sector and all stakeholders and to discuss on how to develop project to be funded from LDN Fund. This workshop will be held on the 4th quarter of 2023.	S
	Outcome 4.2: Monitoring of project results, lessons learned and dissemination	M&E system is in place					S
		Baseline and targets for GEB indicators refined	0 0	Project M&E system delivers expected reports and informs project management	Project M&E system delivers expected reports and informs project management	Project is being monitored with PPRs and PIR reports	S
		Mid-term and final evaluation reports	0	Mid-project review recommendations implemented	Final evaluation	MTR Conducted and management response submitted	S
		Experience sharing notes	0	2 Experience sharing notes	3 experience sharing notes	An LDN Publication was developed titled ``Monitoring the Land Degradation Neutrality impact pathway across scales and sectors based on experiences from Türkiye``	S
		National LDN Guideline	1 LDN guideline	National LDN Guideline	1 LDN guideline	Will be prepared by the Ministry on the final year of the project.	-

Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 2.2: Monitoring system and related capacity for LDN in place	Adding sub indicators of climate to DSS	FAO + CEM + Service Provider/Consultant	By early 2024
Outcome 3.1: Improved land management, land cover, and increased soil	Increasing the number of climate-smart measures and approaches through demonstration	FAO + Service Provider/Consultant	By the end of 2023
	Preparing the implementation plan for achieving LDN targets in the Upper Sakarya Basin.	FAO + Service Provider/Consultant	By the end of 2023
Outcome 3.2: Land productivity increased by 10% and livelihoods for local communities strengthened	Increasing number of households with improved living conditions through biogas systems, solar panels etc.	FAO + Service Provider	By the end of 2023
	Training more local women	FAO + Service Provider	

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹³ (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
Outcome 1.1 Enhanced enabling Environment for LDN	Integration of LDN into strategic planning processes Investment program for LDN			
Output 1.1.1: Capacity development program in place on LDN target setting and its implementation for local and central government staff	Number of institutional training courses that integrate LDN Number of people trained at local and central level National and international symposia International LDN exchange	2 150 -	Ministry partners carried out 3 trainings that integrate LDN : i) carbon sink areas in different land uses in arid semi-arid areas, ii) training on LDN and adaptation to climate change iii) usage of multifunctional wind breaks to combat desertification, land degradation and climate change with participation of central and local level officers and farmers and 194 people were trained. Project conducted below activities: 1 technical workshop on land productivity dynamics 1 stakeholder workshop on LDN action Plan and DSS	
Output 1.1.2 Creation of a National Online Information Sharing Forum on LDN for stakeholder engagement	National Online Information Sharing Forum on LDN	1	National Online Information Sharing Forum on LDN website is established	Project Partner, General Directorate of Combatting Desertification and Erosion was transferred to a new Ministry (Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate

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

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

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

				Change) and this website is also transferred and now under improvement
Output 1.1.3. Capacity development program in place for farmers, herders and forest villages in the Upper Sakarya Basin	<p>Number of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) established on modern and sustainable production methods</p> <p>Number of local people trained, including how many women Mass media campaigns on LDN</p> <p>Mass media campaigns on LDN</p>	<p>4 FFS</p> <p>80 local people, 40 of them women</p> <p>No mass media campaign planned for this year</p>	<p>4 Farmer Filed Schools were established on livestock, vegetable production and drip irrigation.</p> <p>97 people trained under FFSs, which 47 of them were women</p>	
Output 1.1.4: Identification of needs for new legislation and/or revisions of existing legislation based on project findings and targeted stakeholder consultations	New and/or revised legislation that operationalize the LDN approach	A GAP analysis for current legislations and 1 workshop	An analysis was prepared and a workshop will be conducted in July 2023	Consistent with annual wp
Output 1.1.5: Integration of the LDN approach and priorities into strategic planning processes at sub-national and national levels	Strengthening of the LDN intersectoral working group	1 meeting during IDR training	IDR training conducted in 2023	
Outcome 2.1	DSS established with calibrated metrics for LDN indicators	LDN DSS established for Upper Sakarya Basin and activated	LDN DSS is established for upper Sakarya, t,hen Türkiye, and extended 17 countries in FAO Region	Project team exceeded the target
Output 2.1.1: Metrics for LDN indicators (i.e.	Calibrated metrics for LDN indicators available	Finalized	Finalized	

land cover, soil organic carbon and land productivity) identified, tested and calibrated				
Output 2.1.2: Output 2.1.2: DSS integrated and tested	Integration for LDN DSS	Finalized	Finalized	
Output 2.1.3: Land cover classes and land degradation levels in demonstration area in the Upper Sakarya basin identified	Land cover classes and land degradation levels in the Upper Sakarya Basin verified	Production and verification of Land cover classes through UASIS	Draft Land Cover Maps (LC data layer) of the Project area was prepared under UASIS, national LC data is planned to be used in DSS when ongoing UASIS validation is finished.	Although this output is achieved with LDN DSS system, it will be improved with national UASIS land cover data, once it is finalized by the Ministry partner
Outcome 2.2: Monitoring system and related capacity for LDN in place	LDN monitoring system in place with target setting agreed	Finalized	Finalized	LDN DSS can monitor changes in terms of LDN
Output 2.2.1: LDN target setting based on current and existing monitoring infrastructure and metrics agreed	Target setting and hot spots and cold spots for gains and losses identified	Refining LDN targets	LDN targets were set before the project and LDN DSS identified hot spots and cold spots for gains and losses. In addition, the best LPD model, reflecting the country's hot & cold spots, gains & losses was determined through a participatory expert workshop. LDN targets will be refined by project Ministry partners with support of the project.	
Output 2.2.2: Effective and economic approach for soil organic carbon monitoring identified and disseminated	Agreed soil organic carbon monitoring approach	Finalized	Finalized	
Output 2.2.3: Türkiye's existing land degradation monitoring system calibrated to	TCM and LPD Models tested	Test by DSS and workshop	A participatory workshop was conducted on LPD with participation of experts from various national institutions including project ministry partners, local level partners/project implementers, academia, and NGOs. 5	The TCM Model has been calibrated by MoAF before the inception of the project.

monitor LDN indicators and for testing in the Upper Sakarya Basin			different LPD maps were compared using another DSS interface developed for this purpose, where users can obtain statistics at the national and district level both on LPD and TCM, to compare assessments and identify the most representative model.	DSS now allows comparison of TCM and LPD, and both can be used for multi criteria analysis
Output 2.2.4: LDN-related reporting capacity improved	Web-based Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System (IDR) operationalized Training of decision-makers and technical staff	1 training	A training was carried out IDR training conducted in February 2023 with participation of 50 people from different institutions	-
Output 2.2.5: Climate variability integrated into the LDN DSS and tested in the Upper Sakarya Basin	Sub-indicators of climate variability tested in the Upper Sakarya Basin for the TCM and SOC Models	Monitoring, testing and analyzing sub-indicators of climate factor of the TCM and SOC Models	Climatic data was collected from responsible institutions and the data preparation process is ongoing. Climate data is going to be added to DSS.	Although this is mainly a co-finance activity, ministry partners requested for FAO's contributions for technical support. This will be finalized until next reporting period
Outcome 3.1: Improved land management, land cover, and increased soil organic carbon in the Upper Sakarya basin				
Output 3.1.1: Participatory landscape-specific improvement plans based on priorities identified by the DSS covering 4,313,827 ha of land	Ha of land covered by landscape-specific improvement plans	Finalized	<p>In order to achieve this output, project foresees 3 activities i) Integration of LDN into existing land-use plans in the Upper Sakarya Basin ii) Development of participatory micro basin planning and iii) Focus group discussions and community consultations</p> <p>This output is achieved by the following activities : i) The neutrality mechanism is implemented by DSS which considers biophysical (e.g. catchment) and administrative (e.g. province) spatial domain of land use planning and decision making, and it was extended to whole country. ii & iii: focus group discussions were held and participatory</p>	-

			micro basin was prepared by the involvement of local people and all responsible institutions	
Output 3.1.2: Demonstrations of SLM and SFM best practices in forests, rangelands and croplands that provide carbon benefits on 14,000 ha of land	Area covered by SLM and SFM best practices	Co-finance activity	Co-finance reports for 2023 has not been received yet. However midterm targets are exceeded	Project partners Exceeded the targets
Output 3.1.3: Measures and approaches for reducing the impacts of climate variability integrated into SLM and SFM practices	Number of climate-smart measures and approaches integrated into SLM/SFM	3 practices planned	Animal manure and chemical fertilizers were compared in different plots in maize and sunflower fields, and use of chemical fertilizers could be limited with no loss of yield where solid manure was applied Field missions conducted with experts to determine the most appropriate areas for demonstrations and tech specs under preparation.	Water harvesting, polyculture, and agroforestry practices will be introduced. These activities will be finalized in the next reporting period.
Output 3.1.4: Preparation of an implementation plan for achieving LDN targets in the whole Upper Sakarya Basin	Implementation plan For achieving LDN Targets in Upper Sakarya Basin	Development of one implementation plan for achieving LDN targets in the whole Sakarya Basin	The implementation plan will be prepared in the 4th quarter of 2023. The LDN SLM action plan already developed a base for this plan, and it will be built on the main findings	It was mainly planned for the first half of the year but postponed
Outcome 3.2: Land productivity increased and livelihoods for local communities strengthened				
Output 3.2.1: Introduction of gender sensitive sustainable livelihood strategies	Gender Action Plan for Upper Sakarya Basin	Development of one Gender action plan	Gender action plan was developed	
Output 3.2.2: Introduction of gender-sensitive climate	Number of gender sensitive climate resilient practices	4 practices including	-Crop rotation plots that were formed previous year were cultivated with following species -Establishment of a greenhouse and irrigation	

resilient practices to enhance land productivity	Number of women trained	alternative practices for increasing local people's income 30 women	for vegetable production targeting women -Establishment of wooden sales booths for local people to support them -Provision of milk storage and cooling tank and forage pelletizer to support local people in terms of creating an income increase through good animal nutrition and high sales price 47 women trained under FSS	
Outcome 4.1: Upscaling of the LDN DSS to national level covering all of Türkiye (78.4 million ha)				
Output 4.1.1: LDN metrics for the whole of Türkiye entered into the LDN DSS and land cover classes and land degradation levels identified	LDN metrics for the whole of Türkiye available in DSS	Finalized	Finalized	Finalized
Output 4.1.2: LDN target setting at national scale in place	LDN target setting is in place	-	Türkiye has set national targets before project inception During the preparation of LDN SLM Action Plan based on DSS, refined target setting is discussed with stakeholders. Upon Ministry Partner's request, it is decided to refine the LDN targets during the update process of the national strategy and action plan on combatting desertification, which will be aligned with LDN approach, during the next reporting period	
Output 4.1.3: Development of bankable projects for the LDN fund (at least 1)	Number of bankable projects for the LDN fund	Conduction of one workshop to determine bankable project ideas under LDN fund	A workshop was planned in cooperation with UNCCD and Mirova, to invite NGOs, Private sector and all stakeholders and to discuss on how to develop project to be funded from LDN Fund. This workshop will be held on the 4th quarter of 2023.	

Outcome 4.2: Monitoring of project results, lessons learned and dissemination				
Output 4.2.1: Global Environmental Benefits monitored and assessed	M&E system is in place Lessons learned disseminated	-	Project is being monitored with PIRs and PPRs	
Output 4.2.2: Mid-term and final evaluation conducted	Mid-term and final evaluation reports	MTR	MTR conducted	
Output 4.2.3: Experience sharing on Project-related “lessons-learned” and a national LDN guideline published	Experience sharing Notes LDN guideline	Development of one LDN guideline	-An LDN guideline is expected to be developed by Ministry partner (CEM)	

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

- Several capacity building activities, including rapid rural appraisals for micro basin planning, technical workshops and FFS trainings were held within the project.
- 4 FFSs were established in project pilot sites. FFSs provided an opportunity for farmers to introduce new technologies through comparing their conventional technologies developed with their own tradition and culture. Half of the 97 FFS members were women, which resulted in enhanced cooperation among each other, strengthened women farmers, and good knowledge on land degradation.
- Required data on LDN indicators were collected and/or produced, then improved through participatory workshops. As encouraged by UNCCD, a country specific land cover transition matrix was produced under the project. Following this, the best available land productivity dynamics (LPD) model was selected as well as the most appropriate algorithms to analyze these data sets.
- These improved data was integrated to DSS for contributing to SDG 15.3.1 reporting. UNCCD PRAIS-4 Strategic Objective Indicators Reporting for 2022 of Türkiye, was performed using the LDN DSS platform. Türkiye PRAIS-4 report has been one of the most successful report submitted to UNCCD.
- Soil samples were taken from 39 different points within the Upper Sakarya Basin to determine SOC values. In general, the SOC value was found to be lower than Turkey's average of 47.02 t.C.ha-1. Overgrazing for pastures, a lack of rehabilitation work, monoculture in agricultural lands, excessive land cultivation, vulnerability of lands to wind and water erosion, and a lack of studies on water harvesting were regarded to be the main causes.
- The project supported Project Ministry Partners (CEM) in the UNCCD COP-15 to organize side events on LDN and LDN DSS.
- Project was invited to the Regional Workshop in Ecuador on LDN and SLM, to present on the project outputs related to LDN target setting, achieving LDN on the ground and LDN DSS.
- A "land degradation" assessment was made on a national scale using the LDN - DSS method and Türkiye DEMIS erosion model, and an "LDN –SLM Action Plan" was put forward based on provinces through best SLM approaches and practices Besides, this action plan includes strategic targets which aims to contribute mainstreaming LDN into policies.
- Project continued to demonstrate the LDN approach through field implementations and supporting local people especially women:
 - o Participatory micro basin plan was developed.
 - o Socio economic surveys were conducted, and gender action plan was developed.
 - o Crop rotation plots were continued and in total of 300 da rainfed agricultural land and the use of organic soil conditioner (leonardite) were demonstrated in comparative plots. The study resulted with almost %50 of yield increase in the plots where leonardite was applied.
 - o A greenhouse was established, irrigation systems were provided and members of the women cooperative were trained under FFS. Food dryer oven and vacuum packaging machine was provided to enable the cooperative sell the vegetable during the year.
- Project will focus on preparation of a permaculture plan and demonstration of best practices in the upcoming months. Appropriate areas were selected with project partners and technical specifications are under preparation.
- New FFSs are going to be established available in 3 project provinces soon.

The challenges on increasing the ownership of the partners have mostly eliminated and the project extension after mid term review has contributed to have time for field implementations especially seasonal demonstrations.

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

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

	FY2023 Development Objective rating ¹⁵	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating ¹⁶	Comments/reasons ¹⁷ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	HS	S	<i>Project achieved majority of the targets during the reporting period. Considerable progress was accomplished under all components, especially women farmers were strengthened under FFSs, ownership enhanced among stakeholders, and wide use of DSS was performed at central and local level. Preparation of LDN DSS action plan, UNCCD country reporting and for refining national LDN targets should be emphasized. In addition, project continued to demonstrate the LDN approach through introducing best SLMs as well as supporting local people.</i>
Budget Holder	HS	S	<i>The project is progressing well and producing replicable results as targeted in the project document. Considering the project extension after the MTR, project is expected to deliver all outputs and set a model on LDN setting, planning and decision making.</i>
GEF Operational Focal Point ¹⁸	HS	S	<i>Despite the great difficulties encountered especially during the Covid-19 period, the implementation has been quite satisfactory. The successful progress of the project and the achievement of its goals, even in difficult times, deserve praise. The successes achieved in this process will benefit the project area and set an important example for sustainable land management and agricultural practices throughout Turkey. The promotional activities are critical for the project's success and the importance of cooperation in innovative approaches should be considered during the rest of the project implementation. In this regard, it is evaluated that the Project has made good progress in terms of both achieving the expected outputs and implementing field activities.</i>
Lead Technical Officer ¹⁹	HS	S	<i>Project achieved majority of the targets during the reporting period. I concur with the Project Coordinator's assessment that the team made significant progress during the reporting period. A cornerstone of our project's accomplishments has been the initiation of the Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) planning, targeting women. These efforts will start to provide an avenue for income generation activities for women. Through this approach, we are not only supporting gender equality but also paving the way for an improvement in their livelihoods.</i>

¹⁵ **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

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

¹⁷ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

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

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

			<p><i>The Decision Support System (DSS) has been another significant pillar of progress. Its effectiveness and utility have gained so much attention from countries and projects worldwide. The recognition is well-deserved as it embodies a sophisticated, data-driven approach for land degradation neutrality assessment, reporting and decision making. The goal is to have this DSS serve as a pioneer model for other regions, aiding the global cause of Land Degradation Neutrality.</i></p> <p><i>The upcoming period will see us focusing on finalizing the remaining planned activities. We are aware of the timeline and the expectation to deliver by the end of 2024. The team remain optimistic and motivated to reach these milestones. The project will continue its positive trajectory and accomplish its main objectives and activities by the end of 2024, aiming at fulfilling the donor's and recipient country's (Türkiye) requirements.</i></p> <p><i>Overall the implementation was very satisfactory up to now – considering major challenges that the team faced, in particular during the covid 19 period.</i></p>
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	HS	S	<p><i>The project has delivered beyond the targets of its developmental objectives and has developed a very useful and well appreciated decision support system. The project should be considered as an example of good practice for transformatory impact through GEF interventions. The gaps in the implementation regarding piloting land conservation measures and improving livelihoods will be focused on during the extension period to reach successful achievement of all the project's targets.</i></p>

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

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

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

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

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

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (Esm-unit@fao.org) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>)

6. Risks

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

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²¹	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Lack of close and collaborative cooperation between key institutional stakeholders	L	Y	Close and collaborative cooperation between many institutional stakeholders will be essential for the project to achieve its stated goal and objectives. This will be achieved through involvement of all stakeholders from the early beginning of the project, preparation of project document and through establishment of working group for the project implementation as well as the project steering committee. Promotional materials and communication strategy will be developed and, regular meetings and presentation of project results in different phases of the project implementation will be organized.	During the reporting period, project team held meetings with central level decision makers and experts, and several field visits were conducted to the project pilot sites. Participatory workshops and trainings helped the involvement of project partners to the project implementation. More stakeholders were encouraged to be involved with the project. DSS has helped to support this process since it is a tool that can be used with different institutions.	
2	Unclear responsibilities of institutions at national and local level	L	Y	Clearly defined and legally prescribed responsibilities of different institutions as well as involvement of all of responsible institutions are the main project goals. Moreover, the project will support improvement of the institutional framework and through that ensure sustainability of the project results after its finalization.	The project has established a project implementation team with the involvement of central and local level project focal points. This team of experts is working in close cooperation with each other and is being updated by the project through meetings and workshops. Besides, roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders are clearly defined in the PSC.	

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

3	Low technical capacity at local national level	M	Y	Capacity and technical expertise of stakeholders are weak. To mitigate this risk, the project will support a capacity building through development of program for trainings during the project, taking into account specific needs of stakeholders. It will also support a national Information Sharing Forum.	Capacity building activities including technical workshops and trainings were conducted. FFSs also strengthened the ownership of local level stakeholders and beneficiaries as well as building capacities on best SLMs. Project team supported project partners in terms of producing technical documents such as maps, reports and DSS and carried out capacity building activities.	
	Natural disasters	L	Y	Natural disasters, such as drought and floods, may impede the adoption of new technologies. The project is designed as a multi-year intervention, where demonstrations can be run over several seasons. The project will also be linked to the drought early warning services of the MAF.	Although it was foreseen to link the project to the drought early warning systems of the Ministry in the project preparation phase, no system has been established yet. However, MAF has prepared strategies and the project is taking into consideration of drought and designing the field demonstrations that contributes efficient use of water resources and climate resilient practices are introduced in project pilot sites.	
	Climate change	L	Y	The MAF, with support of FAO technical expertise, are in a good position to adopt new research results on how to enhance resilience of SLM and SFM practices to climate change and, when necessary, adapt local livelihood strategies, which is supported under output 2.2.1 of the project.	Climate smart agricultural and forestry practices were implemented within the project.	
	COVID-19 Pandemic	M	N	The Covid -19 pandemic broke out short after the inception of the project. The effects of pandemic may result by weak engagement of stakeholders and delayed implementation of the field activities. In this regards, close monitoring of project activities and negotiations with key partners to revise the work plan was implemented.	During the Covid-19 restrictions, project team established close communication through online stakeholder meetings, trainings and mails. Stakeholders were informed about any delay or revision on the work plan. Soon after the pandemic circumstances' end, in person meetings, workshops and training were conducted. Field implementations initiated immediately and project team conducted field missions to project sites to strengthen the stakeholder engagement and monitor field work.	

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

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
L	L	

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

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

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
Recommendation 1: Request a project extension of a minimum of one year, ideally 18 months.	Accepted - Project extension was approved.
Recommendation 2: Review the SRF outputs and indicators and revise the SRF. For clarity this exercise should: i. Reduce the number of outputs and output indicators – outputs currently include elements of activities and fine-grained detail of deliverables. Many of these outputs can be coalesced into a single situational output. Currently there are 24 outputs, arguably too many to track and resulting in reporting on activities and deliverables multiple times within the SRF. ii. Remove output indicators from the PIR. iii. Ensure that there is a clearly articulated indicator, baseline and target. iv. Remove or rephrase indicators that are activities or re-stating the output or indicator. v. Provide additional and clearer outcome indicators. vi. Provide a set of objective-level indicators. vii. Overall it should seek to reduce the number of indicators in the SRF.	Partially accepted- Revised SRF (by the MTR team) is submitted for the approval of the PSC and partially accepted. Since a TOC and revised SRF is submitted to PSC with extension request, no TRA (Threat Reduction Assessment) exercise conducted.
Recommendation 3: PIU attendance in SC meetings should be separated from SC members with clear terms of reference and non-executive status	Accepted- PIU participation in the PSC will be defined in the TORs
Recommendation 4: Dedicated activity to target institutions and organizations to raise awareness of the DSS and its usefulness in supporting the planning process. This would include identifying target audiences (e.g. MoAF, OGM, TRGM, but also other organisations which would not normally consider LD within their planning remit) and tailoring the awareness and any training to their needs under component 3. Awareness and basic training workshops should be run and tailored to the specificities of their institutional remit. 2 – 3-day workshop/s should be organized with the following purpose: • Introduction of DSS. • Analysis techniques in planning. • How to use DSS in micro basin analysis. • Developing a micro basin development plan. The expected output of this workshop is a “developed micro basin development plan by using DSS”. Depending on the budget, two or more regional workshops could be organized.	Accepted- specific meetings and half day trainings conducted with project partners 2 days technical “training workshop” was conducted on 13-14 June 2023, for mentioned purposes in the recommendation. Regional workshops will be organized in the upcoming months.
Recommendation 5: Technical training for CEM IT experts to continue to develop the DSS (particularly with coding) and respond to emerging technical issues and challenges.	Accepted- Coding training will be held on the 4 th quarter of 2023
Recommendation 6: Expand the range of LDN-related activities currently being delivered through the service providers in the field to include process related activities such as establishing cooperatives and supporting women’s participation in their governance.	Accepted- An additional cooperative training was conducted under FFS to encourage women farmers on establishing cooperatives. Field

	demonstrations targeting women will be maintained.
Recommendation 7: Expand the range of crops and technologies currently included in the FFSs. This should be accompanied by a set of agreed performance and impact indicators (including financial data for farmers) for participatory evaluation by farmers	Accepted- A new FFS LoA is under preparation
Recommendation 8: Monies currently being reported by the project as “cash” co-financing are re-assessed as either “in-kind” or “grants”.	Rejected by the PSC. In order to avoid any confusion, project will keep `cash`` and `in-kind`` for co-financing
Recommendation 9: There should be a significant budget revision take place to i) agree on where any surplus can be spent and, ii) agree activities that can be financed with budget allocations which have not yet been dispersed, this might include increasing the scope of the FFS, etc. Going forwards, a simple “dashboard” budget for use by the SC should show the budget by component for easy understanding and to identify any bottlenecks at an early stage. This revision can take account of any extension expected.	Partially Accepted – budget revision will be made in 2023
Recommendation 10: Any revision to the SRF should include a capacity indicator at the outcome level or objective level (ideal). Ideally this should be based upon a scorecard approach	Accepted- PSC agreed to conduct a workshop and use scorecard approach to better reflect the expected changes on capacity building (directly related with Component 1) these changes will be reflected in the next PIR
Recommendation 11: The project should become more proactive in ensuring that the four components are mutually supporting. This can be achieved by utilising a process exercise, the MTR suggests Scenario Planning (see Annex 8) although other “tools” are also useful. The purpose of such an exercise is to supplement existing planning tools (including the DSS) to address issues of scale, complexity and uncertainty and to facilitate broad participation (also at different scales and hierarchies) and to support LDN target setting exercises. The process should be essentially a cognitive exercise to bridge the gap between conventional planning tools and processes, training and capacity building and the “behavioural changes” identified in the original project TOC. This could include specific training in participation and extension (e.g. OGM) and management planning (TRGM).	Partially accepted- Although a very useful tool, scenario planning requires experienced consultants, time, and budget to carry out the exercise. Besides, it would be more useful to be held at the beginning of the project, preferably during the PPG phase. However, PSC agreed to conduct a modified exercise to measure the impact of the project activities, that will also reflect how the project components interacts and supports each other. This exercise will be held on the second half of 2023
Recommendation 12: Specific gender indicators should be included at the outcome and objective level in the SRF.	PSC agreed on defining and adding specific gender indicators to the SRF. Project will collect gender disaggregated data for the upcoming implementations
Recommendation 13: Convene a workshop with project stakeholders to determine the best way for the project to contribute technical expertise and material resources to the recovery efforts and to ensure that any LD issues related to recovery effort and future risks are correctly identified and addressed.	Project partners has already requested emergency meetings to consult about probable options to convey funds and technical support to the earthquake affected areas. Project team and Ministry partners will continue to work together to determine the needs and support recovery.

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize

No

8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²². Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework	Some indicators and targets were updated during MTR (please see annex-3) Current report is based on the updated Results Framework	As a result of MTR, 02.02.2023	LTO, GTO and project steering committee
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule			
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

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

8. Stakeholders' Engagement

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

There is not a specific stakeholder engagement plan which was prepared for the project, however a stakeholder analysis was developed in the PPG phase. Since LDN approach requires coordination between ministries and sectors involved in land management, 3 main ministries were indicated as the main responsible institutions in the pro doc. In due time, the structure of the Ministries has changed and two important sectors, forestry and agriculture, were mainstreamed in one Ministry; ``Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry``.

In October 2021, national coordinator institution and member of the PSC; General Directorate of Combatting Desertification and Erosion, moved under the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change (MoEUCC) .

Besides, project takes steps to involve different stakeholders to build capacities and strengthen the enabling environment for LDN, including NGOs, academia and private sector.

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders’ Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government institutions			
MoEUCC-General Directorate of Combatting Desertification and Erosion (CEM)	Project lead Institute, Executing partner, Main Beneficiary	During the reporting period, close collaboration was continued with central level stakeholders through project meetings and workshops. Several field visits were conducted to project pilot sites to increase ownership among local level stakeholders. Technical meetings and trainings including DSS, as well as field demonstrations enhanced their involvement.	Most of the challenges on stakeholder engagement was overcome with close follow up and cooperation
MoAF- General Directorate of Forestry (OGM)	Executing partner, Main Beneficiary		
MoAF- General Directorate of Agricultural Reform (TRGM)	Executing partner, Main Beneficiary		
General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM)	Executing partner, Main Beneficiary		
NGOs ²³			
Tekirdag Lead Farmers Association	Service provider on farmer field schools	Tekirdag Lead Farmers Association is the first and only farmer association that provides professional consultancy services in Türkiye with regards to FFS. Association is functioning with 395 member farmers and 6 agricultural engineer consultants (with expertise on plant production, irrigation etc..) on 420.000	

²³ Non-government organizations

		decares of land, providing consultancy in the country .	
Others²⁴			
Farmers, shepherds	Local beneficiary, FFS, incentives provision	Farmers` knowledge capacities enhanced on LDN and SLM best practices by implementing field demonstrations.	The involvement of female farmers in the project activities was a challenge in the previous reporting period. However, FFS trainings provided an important support to overcome this challenge.
UNCCD	Observer	Project team is in contact with UNCCD and UNCCD focal points in country	
Academia	Beneficiary	Academia is involved to the project through technical expert workshops. Especially DSS brought their attention. Academia both contributed to the technical workshops on DSS and use the system for scientific purposes.	

²⁴ They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women's groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then

9. Gender Mainstreaming

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

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	A Gender report was prepared during the PPG phase Socio economic surveys on LDN was conducted and a Gender Action Plan was developed in this reporting period
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	Project includes gender sensitive outputs like introducing alternative practices for women and trainings for women. In this regard, a greenhouse was established for the use of a women cooperative and they were supported by provision of machinery. In addition, 47 women were trained under FFS and majority of the participants for FFS exchange visits were women farmers.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	As reported in the previous PIR; women farmers were involved to the micro basin planning studies carried out in Kutahya. Also, gender action plan helped to define women's participation is low in decision making processes, so project focused on strengthening local women.
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	A women cooperative was supported by the project and a cooperative training was provided for women farmers in Kutahya, to encourage them establish a cooperative for selling milk products.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	No	But project includes gender indicators
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	A Gender expert supports the team from FAO Türkiye
Any other good practices on gender	N/A	

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, <u>during this reporting period.</u>	
Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.	The project does not have a knowledge management strategy.
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.	<p>The project communication strategy includes 3 video products. Starting from early 2022 to late 2023 videos, photographs and interviews have been shot from the field. This videos will be finalized late 2023 and will be on: i) Achieving LDN on the ground: best SLMs from the field, ii(Farmer Field Schools and iii)animation video on LDN Decision Support System</p> <p>In addition, communication team is working on a brochure on Decision Support System that will explain the benefits and usage of the system.</p> <p>Besides, press releases were prepared regarding the activities that took place during the reporting period, and shared on official social media accounts.</p>
Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	<p>Farmer Field Schools trainings were conducted in project pilot sites. In Kutahya, farmers were trained on livestock (animal diseases, nutrition, etc.) and 2 surveys were conducted in the beginning and at the end of the training modules.</p> <p>Participation of women farmers were encouraged during the whole process. At the end of the trainings, women farmers were willing to establish a cooperative to sell the milk products. Although they were very hesitant at the begging, they showed a huge attention to attend the exchange visits and field days. They explained their expressed their appreciation ``We are making our lives both by agriculture and livestock. These training helped us see our knowledge and technology needed to be updated. We are appreciated and we believe we will be able to earn more than we do now, we will be able to teach our children better in the future``.</p>

	
<p>Please provide links to related website, social media account</p>	<p>PRINT MEDIA</p> <p>https://web.interpress.com/app/document/detail/1773922589/2/a8f1a414-7694-95cc-d77e-4d3bbabd3d8e</p> <p>https://web.interpress.com/app/document/detail/1773869544/2/a8f1a414-7694-95cc-d77e-4d3bbabd3d8e</p> <p>https://web.interpress.com/app/document/detail/1842921993/2/a8f1a414-7694-95cc-d77e-4d3bbabd3d8e</p> <p>https://web.interpress.com/app/document/detail/1842965365/2/a8f1a414-7694-95cc-d77e-4d3bbabd3d8e</p> <p>https://web.interpress.com/app/document/detail/1844117780/2/a8f1a414-7694-95cc-d77e-4d3bbabd3d8e</p> <p>https://web.interpress.com/app/document/detail/1842975636/2/a8f1a414-7694-95cc-d77e-4d3bbabd3d8e</p> <p>INTERNET MEDIA</p> <p>https://basakgazetesi.com/haber/eskisehirde-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi-723857.html</p> <p>https://www.bursahaber.com/eskisehir/eskisehirde-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi-h2495383.html</p> <p>https://www.nehaber24.com/eskisehirde-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi</p> <p>http://www.sonhaber.com.tr/verim-artacak--227277.html</p> <p>https://www.haber16.com/haber-oku/814844/</p> <p>http://www.olay53.com/haber/oku-1121443.htm</p> <p>http://www.istanbulhaber.com.tr/oku-haber-2206174.htm</p> <p>http://www.mersintime.com/eskisehirde-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi</p> <p>https://www.eskisehirhaber26.com/gundem/eskisehirde-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi-h25762.html</p> <p>http://www.karsmanset.com/haber/oku-969402.htm</p>

	<p> https://www.t4haber.com.tr/eskisehir-de-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi/366384/ https://www.kamu3.com/eskisehir-il-tarim-ve-orman-mudurlugunde-birlesmis-milletler-gida-ve/567399/ https://www.inegolonline.com/haber/haber/oku-2292254/ https://www.konyahaber42.com/eskisehir-de-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi-173621 https://www.medyagazete.com/haber/eskisehirde-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi-571505 https://www.ihha.com.tr/eskisehir-haberleri/eskisehirde-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi-4016905/ https://www.haberinsaati.com/eskisehir-de-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi/2693/ https://www.millirade.com/eskisehirde-iklim-dostu-proje-hakkinda-gorus-alisverisi http://www.eskisehirinsaatemizligi.com/index.asp?sec=3&newsid=192612 http://www.eskisehirinsaatemizligi.com/index.asp?sec=3&newsid=193914 https://www.tarimpusulasi.com/haber/sivrihisarda-arazi-tahribati-onlenecek-37529 http://eskisehirdenhaberler.com/?sec=1&newscatid=7&newsid=198382 http://www.eskisehirinsaatemizligi.com/index.asp?sec=3&newsid=198382 https://www.afyonkenthaber.com/sivrihisarli-ureticiler-tekirdag-onderciftcileri-ile-bulustu/77236/ https://www.2eylul.com.tr/haber/ciftciler-bulustu-79399 </p> <p>TWEETS FROM FAO:</p> <p> https://twitter.com/faoturkiye/status/1656938271342043138 https://twitter.com/faoturkiye/status/1666389325544669184 https://twitter.com/faoturkiye/status/1666389485230125058 https://twitter.com/faoturkiye/status/1544623686313025538 https://twitter.com/faoturkiye/status/1661357335602659329 https://twitter.com/faoturkiye/status/1592498777700831235 https://twitter.com/faoturkiye/status/1585245140322766848 </p>
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	<p>Publications and videos are under progress</p> <p>Project poster https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZVd4Gk7s1YgimRnrHUHhVIXC4YQO9nB8 FAO Newsletter https://www.fao.org/3/cc1809en/cc1809en.pdf </p>
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details	<p>Şafak Toros safak.toros@fao.org </p>

11. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

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

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

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

12. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁵	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ²⁶	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
Local government	CEM	Cash & in-kind	13,200,000	4,549,256	3,932,797	Already exceeded 13,200,000
Local government	OGM	Cash & in-kind		16,008,555	10,400,620	
Local government	TRGM	Cash & in-kind		1,949,254	1,641,051	
Local government	TAGEM	Cash & in-kind		1,345,773	876,746	
GEF Agency	FAO	Cash & in-kind	400,000	337,478	257,478	
TOTAL			13,600,000	24,190,315	16,851,214	

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

²⁵Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

²⁶Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions)

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits

Implementation Progress Rating. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Risk rating will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks

Annex 2.

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 & Activity Description

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