

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: 10643	Umoja WBS: SB-017029
SMA IPMR ID: 109101	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000752
Project Short Title: Nature Based Urban Development for Kutaisi City	
Project Title: Low Carbon Solutions through Nature Based Urban Development for Kutaisi City	
Duration months planned:	48
Duration months age:	27 months
Project Type:	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Europe
Countries:	Georgia
GEF Focal Area(s):	Climate Change Mitigation, Land Degradation
GEF financing amount:	\$ 1,504,591.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 15,473,800.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2022-01-13
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2023-12-13
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2022-04-05
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2022-04-19
Date of First Disbursement:	2022-07-12
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:	\$ 723,124.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 434,707.00

Midterm undertaken?:	No
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	2024-12-31
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2025-01-31
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2025-03-30
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2025-07-01
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2025-06-30

1.2 Project Description

The project Low Carbon Solutions through Nature Based Urban Development for Kutaisi City is a 3-year (2022-2025) project initiated by Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) of Georgia and financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project is implemented by the United Nations Environmental Programme with the support of the Regional Environmental Center for the South Caucasus. The beneficiary of the project is Kutaisi Municipality.

The project is aimed at delivering global climate change and land degradation benefits by facilitating a transformative shift towards integrated sustainable urban development in Kutaisi, the second largest city in Georgia. It will do so through three inter-related components. Component 1 will strengthen planning and institutional framework for integrated sustainable urban development; Component 2 will demonstrate feasibility and facilitate investment in integrated low-carbon urban transport and sustainable land management solutions; and Component 3 will build capacities and create awareness among municipal stakeholders and urban residents about the sustainable urban development.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	N/A
Executing Agency (ies)	Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus
names of Other Project Partners	Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Kutaisi Municipality
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Ersin Esen
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	George Saddimbah
UNEP Support Assistants	Charles Imbenzi
Manager/Representative	Maya Talakhadze
Project Manager	Sophiko Akhobadze
Finance Manager	David Mironidze
Communications Lead, if relevant	Mikheil Kurdadze

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	
PoW Indicator(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature: (iv) Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	UNDAF Thematic Area 1: Poverty Reduction UNDAF Thematic Area 2: Democratic Development UNDAF Thematic Area 3: Disaster Risk Reduction
Link to relevant SDG Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts 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"> 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning 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 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

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	
4- Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)		700 ha		As of today, 305 hectares of the Saghoria forest have been upgraded with improved practices. This includes installing 10,829 meters of protective fencing, clearing 48,000 square meters of bramble and thorn, compacting soil across 115,000 square meters, and planting 9,500 units of Imeretian oak. Additionally, 850 meters and 238 meters of water channels have been cleaned. According to the LEPL National Forest Agency, there is currently no need for further active involvement in improving practices within the forest, however it is possible that in future additional cleaning of the water channels, sanitary cuts of the trees and repairing fences will be necessary.
6- Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated		163,800 tCO ₂ e Expected CO ₂ e (direct) during the Project		During the reporting period, preparatory work for GHG emission mitigation has commenced. GhG emission mitigation is defined in activity Activity 2.4.1.

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
				(Development of 1 operational demonstration project plan and oversight supervision of integrated low carbon transport to increased share of urban trips performed by e-buses, cycling and walking, connecting Kutaisi city center to Sataplia Nature Reserve and integrating the purchase of at least 2 electric EU-5 buses with this demonstration). During the reporting period, REC Caucasus has initiated the purchase of two electric buses along with chargers through international tender procedures. The contract with the selected contractor was signed on June 3rd, 2024 with the product supply expected within 4.5 months thereafter (Please refer to Annex 12/Y2 Selection, Bid Evaluation, Contract). Following the delivery, the reduction in CO emissions will be monitored and calculated.
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments		40 % of civilians of Kutaisi city (in total 54,000 civilians, of which 28,000 women /52%/ and 26,000 men /48%/)		20% of civilians of Kutaisi city of which 52% women and 48% men are benefitting from GEF financed investments. Number of the population will be increased after

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
				the buses will be in operation.

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	S	S	L
FY 2023				
FY 2022				
FY 2021				
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Summary of status

The project activities are closely intertwined, generally adhering to the approved workplan, though some are experiencing some delays that affect the completion of related tasks. Progress on each output is underway, with some components already completed (detailed in Sections 3.1 and 3.2). Current assessments indicate satisfactory outcomes and outputs, considering the circumstances. Overall, risks are evaluated as low, reflecting effective management of project challenges and ensuring progress towards established goals.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 15,473,800
Actual to date:	10,007,500
Progress	<p>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</p> <p>As of the current date, a total co-finance of 10,007,500 USD has been secured. This amount includes cash contributions as well as in-kind contributions. The contributors are the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, providing 195,000 USD; Kutaisi City Hall, contributing 8,535,500 USD; and REC Caucasus, contributing 1,277,000 USD. Additionally, within the project additional funds from the Czech Challenge Fund has been received specifically allocated for the preparation of the Integrated Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (ISUMP). Furthermore, a study visit aimed at raising awareness of low carbon transport and its reduced environmental impact was financed through the generosity of Yotong Bus Company.</p>

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2024-02-09
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	<p>Within the reporting period, the project built and maintained constructive and sustainable relationships with stakeholders via consultations as well as actively involving them in the decision-making processes (Please refer to Annex 05/Y2 Meetings, List of Participants and Documents).</p> <p>Within the project a local working group is created for advisory and consultation purposes on different activities and to strategize on low carbon transport in Kutaisi City using integrated approach to land use and transportation planning and on composition and outline for the Integrated Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (ISUMP). The working group consists of the representatives of the central and local government, local CSOs, academia and private sector. Working group meetings are held regularly for reporting the activities and consultations,</p> <p>Apart from it, within the implementation period, consultations with LEPL Agency for Protected Areas and Kutaisi Municipality has been continued for signing a Memorandum of Understanding among the parties. The MoU was signed on March 6, 2024 that covers main areas of cooperation together with the equal gender involvement within the project (Please refer to the Annex 09/Y2 MoU).</p>

	<p>Moreover, consultation with Asian Development Bank to secure further funding for preparation of needs assessment and resource mobilization strategy/plan for Kutaisi Low emission electric urban transportation and green city development and assessment of Investment needs has been conducted (Please refer to Annex 08/Y2 Partners Consultation Meeting Report).</p> <p>Representatives from the Ministries of Environment Protection and Agriculture, Finance, Economy and Sustainable Development and Infrastructure and Regional Development of Georgia as well as Imereti Regional Administration together with the Kutaisi City Hall were actively engaged in the Steering Committee Meetings. Last Steering Committee Meetings of the reporting period were conducted on 28th of July and on 9th of February, 2024 (Please refer to Annex 07/Y2 PSCM N5).</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>Gender Action Plan was prepared from the very beginning of the project, that covers (i) Gender and climate change; (ii) gender equality and low-emission development; (iii) Gender equality and urban development; (iv) Gender action plan matrix.</p> <p>Within the reporting period, fulfilled activities mainstreamed gender issues including gender sensitivity topics. E.g the MoU among LEPL Agency of Protected Areas, Kutaisi Municipality and REC Caucasus mainstreamed gender, namely women gender equality and women participation in the document. Each event conducted within the reporting period, included gender disaggregated indicators that identified percentage of the beneficiaries in different genders. During the reported period, each activities organized within the project by the REC Caucasus were Women dominated. In total 59% of women and 41% of men participated in the meetings (Please refer to Annex 05/Y2 Meetings, List of Participants and Documents).</p> <p>Moreover, within the project a guidance document: Gender Terrain: Navigating Transportation, Land Management abd Degradation was prepared and Kutaisi Municipality employees were trained in the gender role during the policy making processes (Please refer to Annex: 11/Y2 Workshop Report).</p>

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>No</p> <p>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</p> <p>N/A</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> <p>N/A</p>
Complaints and grievances	Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?

related to social and/or environmental impacts	No If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken? N/A
Environmental and social safeguards management	The project has been assessed with a low safeguard risk level. Nevertheless, it consistently prioritized resilience, sustainability, human rights, gender equality, women empowerment, accountability, and leaving no one behind throughout its implementation. To ensure transparency and responsiveness, a project-level grievance mechanism was established. This mechanism allows for swift handling of any complaints that may arise during the project's execution. A dedicated project focal point was also identified and communicated to stakeholders, ensuring that individuals affected by the project could easily file complaints in accordance with established operational procedures. No complaints were received during the reporting period.

2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	<p>A user-friendly web-based Knowledge Management System (NMS) will be developed to facilitate information sharing, enhance awareness, and support dissemination and replication efforts within the project. This system will be integrated into the existing Kutaisi City website.</p> <p>The web-based NMS aims to connect local citizens with resources related to climate-smart practices, low-carbon development, sustainable urban land-use and spatial planning, sustainable transport, urban mobility, and tools for Land Degradation (LD), Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and Sustainable Land Management (SLM).</p> <p>During the reporting period, activities related to knowledge management have commenced. Specifically, awareness-raising materials have been prepared and published on the Kutaisi Municipality website. Notably, an article highlighting the significance of urban forests and their benefits was crafted and made available under the title "Urban Forests as Our Saviors in Concrete Jungles." This article can be accessed at: http://kutaisi.gov.ge/open_news/1445</p> <p>Another article shedding light on the advantages of electric vehicles in urban transportation was prepared and published on the municipality's webpage. Titled "Electric Vehicles: Paving the Way for Sustainable Urban Transport," this article provides insights into the benefits of incorporating electric vehicles into urban mobility. It is accessible at: http://kutaisi.gov.ge/open_news/1538.</p>
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	<p>Furthermore, a guidance document titled "Gendered Terrain: Navigating Transportation, Land Management, and Degradation" has been prepared, emphasizing the roles of gender in the fields of transportation and land management. Kutaisi Municipality representatives have undergone training based on the insights provided in this document. For detailed information, please refer to Annex 12/Y2 Workshop Report attached to this report.</p>
Main learning during the period	<p>An insightful study tour focused on electric urban transport was organized with the generous support of Yutong Bus company in October 2023. This study tour was a significant opportunity for participants to delve deeper into the advantages of green transportation and gain firsthand experience by visiting electric bus manufacturing facilities in China. The primary objective of the workshop held in China was to enhance understanding of the numerous benefits associated with electric transport solutions. Participants had the unique opportunity to explore the latest advancements in electric vehicle technology and witness firsthand the manufacturing processes involved in producing electric buses. This immersive experience provided valuable insights that will contribute to the ongoing efforts to promote sustainable urban transport initiatives in Kutaisi City (See annex: 01/Y2– Workshop/Study Visit Report submitted to the semi annual report).</p> <p>Moreover, during the reporting period a training on gender role in transport and land management sector. A document was prepared within the project "Gendered Terrain: Navigating Transportation, Land Management and Degradation"(See Annex 11/Y2 Workshop Report) and based on that a training was conducted on 28th of June 2024 in Kutaisi Ciy Hall. The training was attended by respective heads and employees of the department of the City Hall of Kutaisi.</p>

2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	N/A for now
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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
Enable a transformative shift towards sustainable urban development within and outside of Kutaisi City of Georgia by strengthening planning and institutional frameworks, demonstrating and scaling-up investment in integrated low-carbon electric solutions in transport	Tonnes of GHG emission reductions reduced cumulatively and lifetime investment, t CO2		163,800 tCO2 reduced annually	3.276 million tCO2 over lifetime of investment (20 years)	N/A for now	Preparatory works to reduce GHG emissions has started. Namely, within the project two electric buses and a charger are procured via international tender procedures (See Annex 12/Y2 Executive Order, Bid Evaluation, Contract attached to this report). Buses are not yet supplied and they are not in operation now, as soon as it starts operations, the monitoring of GHG reduction will be commenced.	S
	Landscapes under improved practices - ha			700 ha	320 ha	As of today, 305 hectares of the Saghoria forest has been restored with improved practices. This includes installing 10,829 meters of protective fencing, clearing 48,000 square meters of bramble and thorn, compacting soil across 115,000 square meters, and planting 9,500 units of Imeretian oak. Additionally, 850 meters and 238 meters of water channels have been cleaned. According to the LEPL National Forest Agency, there is currently no need for further active involvement in improving practices within the forest, however it	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						is possible that in future additional cleaning of the water channels, sanitary cuts of the trees and repairing fences will be necessary.	
	Number of direct beneficiaries			54,000 of civilians of Kutaisi City (28,000 female, 26,000 male)		20% of civilians of Kutaisi city of which 52% women and 48% men are benefiting from GEF financed investments. Number of the population will be increased after the buses will be in operation	S
The Kutaisi municipality takes actions to implement low emission development (low-carbon electric public transport) strategies and sustainable land management in and around Kutaisi	Number of policies developed that lead to development of integrated land-use or other urban sectoral development plan for Kutaisi	0		1	40%	To facilitate the development of integrated land-use and other urban sectoral development plans for Kutaisi, a series of roundtable discussions and consultation meetings were held throughout the reporting period. These meetings involved stakeholders from central and local government, academia, the private sector, and local civil society organizations (refer to Annexes: Half Year Progress Report Annex 20/Y1 Municipal Workshop Report submitted in February, and Annex 10/Y2 Roundtable Meeting Report - attached). During these engagements, the focus was on finalizing the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the preparation of Phase II of the Kutaisi General Master Plan. Concurrently, initial data collection	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						efforts were initiated by Kutaisi City with the support of REC Caucasus, as reported in the previous PIR. An expert has been hired to prepare the ToR, with work expected to commence in July 2024, marking a significant step toward advancing comprehensive urban planning and development policies for Kutaisi.	
Economic and technical feasibility of integrated municipal projects (green public transport and green urban development) have been demonstrated in Kutaisi	Number of demonstration projects in operation	0		2	1	Preparations for the demonstration project focusing on the development and oversight of integrated low-carbon transport to increase the share of urban trips by e-buses, cycling, and walking, connecting Kutaisi city center to Sataplia Nature Reserve, have commenced. Specifically, through international tender procedures, two electric EU-5 buses along with chargers have been purchased. These buses are scheduled for delivery in October 2024 (Annex 12/Y2 Executive Order, Bid Evaluation Report, Contract). Additionally, preparations are ongoing for another demonstration project aimed at sustainable land management in the urban forest areas of Kutaisi City.	S
	Number of concept notes issued to GCF to scale-up low carbon transport in Kutaisi	0		1	20%	This output will be completed after consultant studies on general improvements to low emission transport routes and potential for green city	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						development (Activity 2.1.2), on intense study with design and financial and economic analyses of low emission transport solution from Kutaisi to Sataplia Nature Reserve (Activity 2.2.1) and on investment needs assessed for low carbon public transport system that has been disseminated to policymakers (Activity 2.2.2) will be completed. Working with ADB to complete the above mentioned activities is in progress.	
	Number of months of continuous monitoring of economic and financial analysis on the low carbon transport in Kutaisi	0	3	12	0	Work with the ADB is in progress. Indicator will be measured after the activities will be completed.	S
The Kutaisi municipality takes actions to implement low emission development (low-carbon electric public transport) strategies and sustainable land management in and around Kutaisi	Number of Low Emission Development Strategies and Integrated Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for Kutaisi city prepared considering national low carbon, green growth, and sustainable development priorities	0		2	60%	During the reporting period, the preparation of the Integrated Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (ISUMP) and the Local Economic Development Strategy (LEDS) has commenced. The ISUMP is being developed with additional financial support secured through the project. This document is being prepared by the Czech company SMARTPLAN, funded by the Czech Challenge Fund and Czech UNDP. Simultaneously, the LEDS is under preparation by REC Caucasus. Inception reports for both the ISUMP (in English) (Annex 13/Y2 ISUMP Inception Report) and	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						LEDS (Annex 14/Y2 LEDS Inception in Georgian) are included in this report .	
The practitioners of Kutaisi apply the new knowledge and increased capacity on low-carbon electric public transport and sustainable land management	Increase in the capacity development scorecard	15%	40%	80%	50%	<p>Within the reporting period a study visit to raise awareness on the low carbon transport has been conducted attended by the management (Mayor and Deputy Mayor) of Kutaisi City Hall and representative of Ministry or Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia (See semiannual report annex N01/Y2 Workshop/Study Visit Report submitter in February). Moreover, raising awareness materials have been prepared and uploaded on Kutaisi City hall's website. Notably, an article highlighting the significance of urban forests and their benefits was crafted and made available under the title "Urban Forests as Our Saviors in Concrete Jungles." This article can be accessed at: http://kutaisi.gov.ge/open_news/1445 Another article shedding light on the advantages of electric vehicles in urban transportation was prepared and published on the municipality's webpage. Titled "Electric Vehicles: Paving the Way for Sustainable Urban Transport," this article provides insights into the benefits of incorporating electric</p>	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						<p>vehicles into urban mobility. It is accessible at: http://kutaisi.gov.ge/open_news/1538Fu rthermore, a guidance document titled "Gendered Terrain: Navigating Transportation, Land Management, and Degradation" has been prepared, emphasizing the roles of gender in the fields of transportation and land management. Kutaisi Municipality representatives have undergone training based on the insights provided in this document. For detailed information, please refer to Annex 11/Y2 Workshop Report attached to this report.</p>	
	% of population familiar with Kutaisi City website	0	10%	40%	20%	Project activities are regularly published by the municipality on its web and social pages.	S

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	Municipal development policies that lead to development of integrated land-use or other urban development plan for Kutaisi	2025-12-31	30%	50%	Throughout the reporting period, the development of integrated land-use and urban sectoral plans for Kutaisi was facilitated through a series of roundtable discussions and consultation meetings involving stakeholders from central and local government, academia, the private sector, and local civil society organizations (refer to Annexes: Half Year Progress Report Annex 20/Y1 Municipal Workshop Report submitted in February, and Annex 10/Y2 Local Working Group Meeting Report). The primary focus during these engagements was placed on the finalization of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for Phase II of the Kutaisi General Master Plan. Concurrently, initial data collection efforts were initiated by Kutaisi City with the support of REC Caucasus, as reported in the previous Periodic Implementation Report (PIR). An expert has been hired to complete the ToR, with work anticipated to commence in July 2024. This marks a significant step toward advancing comprehensive urban planning and development policies for Kutaisi.	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) and Integrated Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (ISUMP) for Kutaisi City	2025-03-31	35%	60%	During the reporting period, efforts have begun to prepare both the Integrated Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (ISUMP) and the Local Economic Development Strategy (LEDS). The ISUMP is receiving additional financial support from the project and is being developed by SMARTPLAN, a Czech company funded by the Czech Challenge Fund and Czech UNDP. REC Caucasus is currently doing a household survey that will be an integral part of the document. Concurrently, REC Caucasus is actively working on the preparation of the LEDS. Attached to this report is an inception reports for both the ISUMP (in English) and LEDS (in Georgian), providing initial insights into their development processes (see Annexes 13/Y2 and 14/Y2 Inception Reports of ISUMP and LEDS). These initiatives signify significant strides towards enhancing sustainable urban mobility and economic development strategies in Kutaisi.	S
	Land degradation hot spots, trends and drivers around Kutaisi mapped and disseminated to Kutaisi municipality	2023-06-30	100%	100%	Map of land degradation hotspots, trends and drivers has been prepared (reported as an Annex 21/Y1 in previous PIR). Roundtable discussions to identify and approach to hotspots has been conducted (reported as an Annex 21/Y1 in previous	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					PIR). Municipality, local CSO's, Academia and private sector participated in the roundtable discussions. The map and analytical document have been disseminated in the Municipality.	
	Improved communication with Sataplia Nature Reserve	2025-03-31	80%	100%	A Memorandum of Understanding among LEPL Agency for Protected Areas, Kutaisi Municipality and REC Caucasus has been signed (Annex 09/Y2 Memorandum of Understanding)The finalized Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marks a significant milestone, solidifying the collaborative efforts among the LEPL APA, Kutaisi City Hall, and REC Caucasus. This MoU delineates the scope of cooperation within the project, with a primary focus on advancing lowemission transport initiatives to commute from Kutaisi to the Sataplia Nature Resort. Additionally, the MoU encompasses the crucial task of preparing thorough financial and economic analyses for the proposed low-emission transport solutions connecting Kutaisi and the Sataplia Nature Reserve.The document encompasses provisions for regular meetings and places special emphasis on the recognition and promotion of gender equality throughout the duration of the cooperation. According to document	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					parties will create a working group to discuss	
	Capacity development and technical support	2025-03-31	0%	50%	A guidance document titled "Gendered Terrain: Navigating Transportation, Land Management, and Degradation" has been prepared, emphasizing the roles of gender in the fields of transportation and land management. Kutaisi Municipality representatives have undergone specific training based on the insights provided in this document. For detailed information, please refer to Annex 11/Y2 Workshop Report attached to this report. It is planned to continue working toward organising seminars on partnership formation and coordination mechanisms on integrated approach to land use and transportation planning.	S
2 Facilitating investment in low emission electric public transportation and green city development	Needs assessment and resource mobilization strategy/plan for Kutaisi Low emission electric urban transportation and green city development	2024-11-30	15%	50%	Supported by additional funding from the Asian Development Bank, a thorough study is currently being conducted to evaluate and enhance low-emission transport routes. This study includes comprehensive analyses of potential improvements, as well as detailed financial and economic assessments. Moreover, it encompasses an evaluation of investment needs, with the findings intended for dissemination to policymakers. The ultimate goal is to	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					provide valuable insights that will guide informed decision-making in strategic transportation planning.	
	Economic and financial analysis and design of low emission electric public transportation solutions of identified Kutaisi City to Sataplia Nature Reserve corridor	2024-02-29	25%	25%	ToR for the Economic and financial analysis and design of low emission electric public transportation solutions is prepared.	MU
	A GCF concept note that proposes scale up low-carbon transport in Kutais	2024-09-30	0%	20%	This output will be completed after consultant studies on general improvements to low emission transport routes and potential for green city development (Activity 2.1.2), on intense study with design and financial and economic analyses of low emission transport solution from Kutaisi to Sataplia Nature Reserve (Activity 2.2.1) and on investment needs assessed for low carbon public transport system that has been disseminated to policymakers (Activity 2.2.2) will be completed. Working with ADB Ito complete the above mentioned activities is in progress.	MS
	At least 2 operational demonstration projects	2025-03-31	15%	50%	Preparations are currently underway for a demonstration project aimed at developing and overseeing integrated low-carbon transport solutions to enhance the usage of e-buses, cycling, and walking for urban trips connecting Kutaisi city center with Sataplia Nature Reserve. This initiative involves the	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					procurement of two electric EU-5 buses and associated chargers through international tender procedures, with delivery scheduled for October 2024 (see Annex 12/Y2 for Executive Order, Bid Evaluation Report, and Contract details). Furthermore, efforts are ongoing to prepare for another demonstration project focused on sustainable land management within Kutaisi City's urban forest areas.	
3 Capacity development, knowledge management and M&E for integrated low carbon city development	Capacity needs assessment development plan	2023-12-31	20%	30%	With the cooperation of municipality employees, preparation of the capacity development plan has been started. Project local coordinator had meetings with suitable stakeholders at the Municipality. Capacity Development plan is being prepared in parallel of the policy documents. Interviews with the suitable stakeholders are planned.	S
	At least 200 key actors from the public and private sectors demonstrate increased knowledge and capacity on low carbon electric urban transport and sustainable land management	2025-03-31	30%	60%	On Kutaisi City Hall's website, awareness-raising materials have been prepared and uploaded. Notably, an article titled "Urban Forests as Our Saviors in Concrete Jungles" has been crafted and made available. It highlights the significance and benefits of urban forests and can be accessed at: http://kutaisi.gov.ge/open_news/1445 Additionally, another article titled	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					"Electric Vehicles: Paving the Way for Sustainable Urban Transport" has been prepared and published on the municipality's webpage. This article provides insights into the benefits of incorporating electric vehicles into urban mobility and is accessible at: http://kutaisi.gov.ge/open_news/1538Fu Furthermore, a guidance document titled "Gendered Terrain: Navigating Transportation, Land Management, and Degradation" has been prepared, emphasizing gender roles in transportation and land management. Kutaisi Municipality representatives have undergone training based on the insights provided in this document. Detailed information can be found in the attached Annex 11/Y2 Workshop Report.	
	User friendly knowledge management and awareness raising system under a Kutaisi City website	2025-03-31	0%	30%	This output covers two activities: (i) Activity 3.3.1. Web developer recruited to bring together platform on the integrated solutions to policymakers and the general public and (ii) Activity 3.3.2. Routine maintenance of site and updating of information. For now, raising awareness materials are prepared and uploaded on the Kutaisi Municipality website. Those materials will be later consolidated on the platform created within the project.	S

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

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

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

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

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

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

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Lack of Municipal co-financing to invest in sustainable transport	Outcome 2	M	L	N/A						Kutaisi Municipality actively works with developing partners to secure investments in sustainable transportation. Communication

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										between ADB and Kutaisi Municipality is in progress that will assess the needs and prepare plan/strategy for low carbon transport system development.
Lack of Public Interest in Cycling in Kutaisi	Outcome 1-2	L	L	N/A						Household survey has started within the reporting period and results will be identified shortly. However stakeholders of the project highlight the interest toward cycling
Climate change impacts including increased precipitation and flooding	Outcome 1-2	L	L	N/A						no precipitation or flooding within the reporting period in Kutaisi Municipality.
Increasing traffic & car ownership. resulting in increases in GHG emission higher than reductions achieved by the project	Outcome 2	L	L	N/A						No substantial change so far.
Increasing number of visitors in the Sataplia natural reserve that may lead to nature degradation	Outcome 1	L	L	N/A						No substantial change so far.
Low political priority	Outcome 1-2	L	L	N/A						Transportation has never had low political priority.
Lack of coordination among stakeholders	Outcome 1-3	L	L	N/A						Within the reporting period. all stakeholders were actively engaged in the project implementation. Conducted activities shows their involvement.
Risks related to novel Coronavid-19 pandemic and postpandemic restrictions	Outcome 3	M	L	N/A						During the reporting period. COVID19 pandemic is ended. There is no infection risk that may cause any

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										delays or cancellation of the activities.
		L	L	N/A						Overall, project implementation risk is low.

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

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

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

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

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

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

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

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	Yes
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

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
Kutaisi City	42.27230406287694	42.70796042155853			

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

N/A for this reporting period

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

Additional Supporting Documents:

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
Annex 12_Y2 Selection, BID Evaluation Report, Contract.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-23 01:53:32	<u>Download</u>
ANNEX 14:Y2 LEDS Inception.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 10:11:43	<u>Download</u>
Annex 13:Y2 ISUMP Inception Report.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 10:11:33	<u>Download</u>
Annex 11:Y2 Workshop Report.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 10:11:08	<u>Download</u>
Annex 10:Y2 - Roundtable Discussions Report.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 10:10:57	<u>Download</u>
Annex 09:Y2 MoU.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 10:10:46	<u>Download</u>
Annex 08:Y2 Partners Consultation Meeting Report.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 10:10:37	<u>Download</u>
Annex 07:Y2 PSCM N5.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 10:10:22	<u>Download</u>
Annex 06:Y2 Expert Group Meeting Report.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 10:10:12	<u>Download</u>
Annex 05:Y2, Meetings, List of Participants and Documents.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 10:09:47	<u>Download</u>