



UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2023

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	10050	SMA IPMR ID	38690
Project Short Title	GFW Caucasus	Grant ID	S1-32GFL-000618
		Umoja WBS	SB-010894
Project Title	Upscaling Global Forest Watch in Caucasus Region		
Project Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium Sized Project (MSP)	Duration months	Planned 36
Parent Programme if child project			Age 46.0 months
GEF Focal Area(s)	Biodiversity	Completion Date	Planned -original PCA September 8 2022
Project Scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional		Revised - Current PCA September 8 2023
Region	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West Asia	Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	September 9 2019
Countries	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	
GEF financing amount	USD 972,604	Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	March 5 2020
Co-financing amount	USD 4,460,000	Date of First Disbursement	26-Jun-20
Total disbursement as of 30 June	USD 43,894	Date of Inception Workshop, if available	April 22 2020
Total expenditure as of 30 June	USD 44,628	4-Mar-23 USD 45,199	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
		29-Mar-22	30-Sep-24 To effectively complete the project objective.
		Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	20-Dec-22
		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	30-Mar-24
		Expected Financial Closure Date	30-Sep-24

1.2 EA: Project description

The project, using technology developed by Global Forest Watch (GFW), will create an interactive forest and land-use web-based portal with local and global data, and in local languages, that will be customizable and include important ready-to-use analyses for better decision making and to more easily share information, in Armenia and Azerbaijan, to focus on how current trends in data, technology, media and human networks can inform decision-making around natural resources. In addition to creating national portals and contributing to global platforms, the project will facilitate national commitments to restoration and improved enable legal and policy conditions across sectors to enhance the roles of trees in agricultural landscapes and to restore forests in ways that support the strategies of avoided deforestation and increased connectivity of forest complexes in all 3 project countries.

1.3 Project Contact

Division(s) Implementing the project

Ecosystems Division

Executing Agency(ies)

World Resources Institute

Name of co-implementing Agency

Names of Other Project Partners

REC Caucasus, Ministry of Environment of Armenia, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

TM: UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)

TM: UNEP Task Manager(s)

TM: UNEP Budget/Finance Officer

TM: UNEP Support/Assistant

Ersin Esen

George Saddimbah

Aska Ochiel

EA: Manager/Representative

EA: Project Manager

EA: Finance Manager

EA: Communications lead, if relevant

Gabrielle Nussbaum

Gabrielle Nussbaum

Chloe Shauck

2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

TM: UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)

Nature

TM: UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)

2.iv: Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration

TM: PoW Indicator(s)

EA: UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages

N/A

EA: Link to relevant SDG Goals

Goal 15

EA: Link to relevant SDG Targets

Target 15.1, Indicator 15.1.1
Target 15.2, Indicator 15.2.1

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

2.2. GEF Core or Sub Indicators

Indicators	Targets - Expected value			Materialised to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
Landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)			1.7 million Ha	Azerbaijan: 671,000 Ha Georgia: 25,000 Ha
11: People benefitting from GEF-financed investment			Azerbaijan: 3,450 Armenia: 2,200 Georgia: 4,600	Azerbaijan: 3,300 Georgia: 4,600
11.1: Male			Azerbaijan: 3,100 Armenia: 2,000 Georgia: 4,100	Azerbaijan: 3000 Georgia: 4100
11.2: Female			Azerbaijan: 350 Armenia: 200 Georgia: 500	Azerbaijan: 300 Georgia: 500

Implementation Status

2023

Final PIR

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

EA: Summary of status
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

In Azerbaijan, the following activities were realized during the reporting period:

The project team led by GIS expert, continued development of an open data portal based on national priorities and needs identified and suggested by multi-stakeholder national technical working group, consisting of representatives of government agencies, NGOs, and academia. Installation of ESRI licenses on the server of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, which will ensure operation of the portal beyond the project, was finalized.

To ensure sustainability of the portal and tools after project ends project team, following recommendations collected from the technical working group and national steering committee meetings, a Terms of Reference was drafted for future maintenance of the portal beyond the project.

Following preparation of the TOR, the trainings were conducted for relevant staff of MENR that will be responsible for database management and maintenance to ensure sustainability after project ends.

In order to ensure that datasets that haven't been displayed on the main atlas are still open, transparent, and easily shared, the maps were integrated into the broader forest website developed within the scope of this project, based on the needs of the MENR, which also include on-the-fly analysis features for decision making. Apart from Atlas itself, the developed website include additional information about the forests, forest management and its protection.

Furthermore during reporting period, a restoration opportunity map was developed. In the process of creation of map the national land use challenges and landscape restoration options to address those challenges were identified; criteria to assess the potential to scale up landscape restoration options selected for mapping and to assess the potential to compile the best readily available spatial data was identified. Maps and area statistics for national restoration options was produced. The development of the map was an iterative process, as draft maps was reviewed within the technical working group and conditions and criteria were adjusted as comments were received.

The work on the assessment of forest landscape restoration perspectives in Azerbaijan was carried out in two research regions- Soltanbud forest in Aghdam and the chestnut forest in Gabala. The purpose of this research is to document, identify, and map potential areas suitable for various landscape restoration options in the country. Assessment of Forest Landscape Restoration Perspectives in Azerbaijan was conducted in two selected regions of Azerbaijan: Gabala and Aghdam. The Work was implemented through a multi-participatory process involving government and stakeholders. Degraded forest areas identified for restoration activities represent different types. All selected areas were carefully studied, including field inspections, after which precautionary measures proposed for restoration were taken. Stakeholders involved in these processes agree that the selected areas and proposed restoration scenarios will serve to provide carbon sequestration potential for each of the overall project goals, as well as contribute greatly to local community development and help improve environmental stability.

On 16 September 2022, a technical working group meeting was conducted during which the group agreed on the accuracy of the final version of the restoration opportunities map. The map indicates the areas in which the restoration criteria have been met and provides needed guidance where to conduct further assessment and stakeholder engagement. The map will help government, civil society and business leaders ascertain the way in which they will achieve restoration. The final map was agreed upon by technical working group and was published onto the portal as a layer within the interactive atlas.

Upon finalization of development of restoration opportunities map, the technical working group met on 04 November 2022 to identify the priority landscape for restoration. A more detailed restoration opportunities analysis was performed using the same methodology as the national analysis, including a detailed identification of barriers to restoration and restoration options to address the barriers, a stocktaking of relevant data, maps, and other materials for the priority landscape, and the publication of a map identifying the areas of opportunity within the landscape and the different potential options for restoration.

Development of a publication that quantifies the area of opportunity and potential benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services on a national scale, with more detailed information on potential intervention strategies within the priority landscape was started together with development of feasibility plan to test the restoration options.

During the reporting period, a comprehensive chapter on gender issues in Forest and Landscape Restoration in Azerbaijan was developed where key principles and practical strategies for promoting inclusivity, appropriate language/terminology, and culturally sensitive approaches were outlined; guidance on utilizing various communication channels, such as community gatherings, interactive workshops, social media, TV/radio platforms, to engage stakeholders effectively provided, gender-responsive training programs to enhance stakeholders' understanding of gender dynamics and promote inclusive forest and landscape restoration initiatives proposed, women-led reforestation work and initiatives from different regions of Azerbaijan were identified and success stories added to the chapter.

Apart from technical activities conducted during the reporting period project team carried out activities related to the administrative and project cycle management.

The project team participated and contributed to the discussions in the regional steering committee of the project which took place on July 18, 2022 in Tbilisi, Georgia and on July 26, 2023 in Brussels, Belgium back to back with Land and Carbon Summit. During the meetings the achievements, difficulties encountered during the implementation of the project and the measures envisaged in this regard, as well as the expected results were discussed and the next steps were agreed.

On June 6 of 2023, the National Project Steering Committee (PSC) was conducted where final achievements and last steps were discussed.

During reporting period series of capacity buildings events, and training were conducted all over the country. During these events, the project team informed stakeholders about work done in the framework of the project, explained how to use online atlas and its potential benefits, and the restoration opportunities were briefly highlighted. Detailed information about training and capacity building are provided in sections No. 2.5. Stakeholder engagement and 2.8 Knowledge management.

In Georgia, the following activities were realized during the reporting period:

5 Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings and 2 National Steering Committee meeting were organized in Georgia during this reporting period. These meetings followed the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology to develop the final result of the restoration opportunities map.

A final draft of the map was completed and circulated in May 2023. Maps are uploaded at ArcGIS Portal of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia <https://gis.mepa.gov.ge/portal> Also, web map applications were built in Georgian and English languages using GFW's MapBuilder and will be integrated in any web platform of the Ministry (E.g., Forest and Land Use Atlas of Georgia - <https://atlas.mepa.gov.ge/>). The Maps are uploaded in Georgian and English languages.

A technical report is in the process of being written during this reporting period and will be finalized in September 2023. The report will detail the methodology used to create the restoration maps, results of the maps, recommendations and next steps, including how the better include gender in restoration interventions.

Regionally, the following activities were conducted:

During the reporting period, the project team supported an independent review consultant in conducting the Mid-Term Review (MTR). This report was written by an independent review consultant Ms. Nino Partskhaladze with the support from the task manager Mr. Erin Ersin and the WRI team.

In June 2023, a regional steering committee meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium that reviewed the final results of the project. The steering committee meeting was held adjacent to the Land and Carbon Lab Summit, convening practitioners and users of spatial data for land-use monitoring. During this time, project teams joined the Summit and held tables during the User Marketplace where they showcased the Atlases and project progress.

EA: Planned Co-finance

4,460,000

EA: Actual to date:

2806325

2.4 Co-finance

EA: Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.

Azerbaijan: The committed co-finance is in-kind and amounts to 1,000,000 USD by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. By this reporting period, cumulative co-finance amounts to 354,252 USD.
Georgia: The committed co-finance is in-kind and amounts to 160,000 USD by The Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. By this reporting period, cumulative co-finance amounts to 112,000 USD.
RECC: The committed co-finance is in-kind and amounts to 300,000 USD by The Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus. By this reporting period, cumulative co-finance amounts to 200,000 USD.
WRI: The committed co-finance is cash co-finance and amounts to 2,000,000 USD by World Resources Institute. By this reporting period, cumulative co-finance amounts to 1,380,000 USD.

EA: Date of project steering committee meeting

June 26 2023

EA: Stakeholder engagement
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

Armenia:

In Armenia, Ministry agencies, relevant departments, Hayantar (Arm Forest), Forest Committee have been regularly collaborating with project, forming Technical working group assisting project team on policy, engagement, Armenian priority identification, inventories, devising the potential map of restoration. This model can be used in other GEF projects to enable working environment and sustainable results.

Stakeholder inclusion has been quite effective due to inclusion of all relevant international donors (GIZ, UNDP, IFAD), civil society and universities.

Azerbaijan:

Stakeholder engagement is a major feature of successful project implementation in all 3 project countries. Technical working group meetings are held at least every quarter and sometimes as often as every month.

Project stakeholders were engaged in several ways:

1. Project Steering Committee (PSC) participated in third PSC meeting on June 6 of 2023.
2. Project stakeholders were engaged through the Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings in 5th TWG on September 16 of 2022, in 6th TWG on April 4 of 2022 and again on 7th TWG on 15 February of 2023, as the project activities resumed. The stakeholders were presented the project and were able to make questions and provide comments.
3. Project stakeholders including government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization were engaged in trainings on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map. The online Atlas was presented within the scope of ROAM component and the following meetings took place:

Trainings:

- Ganja state university 05.04.2023
- Ganja Agriculture University 06.04.2023
- Ganja Technology University 07.04.2023
- Western Caspian University 19.04.2023
- Khazar University 28.04.2023
- Baku State University 16.05.2023
- Sheki State Pedagogical University 18.05.2023
- Zaqatala branch of UNEC 11.05.2023
- Shamakhi branch of State Pedagogical University 24.05.2023
- Mingachevir State University 25.04.2023

4. Project challenges were addressed and mitigation measures designed in consultations with the Lead Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.

5. The Project Team also reached out to stakeholders from other international development organizations' representations who are engaged in climate related projects through national events related to climate change to raise awareness on the GFW project's activities and objective. This resulted in additional synergies between Climate Change related national activities.

6. Consultations with Forest Development Service under the MENR was initiated to collect information for data related outcomes.

Stakeholders engaged include.

Azerbaijan:

- Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
- Forestry Action Center
- Biodiversity Protection Center
- National Hydrometeorological Service
- Geodesy and Cartography LLC
- Forestry Development Department

- Azercosmos
- Institute of Soil Science and Agro Chemistry under National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan
- Institute of Geography under National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan
- Sustainable Development Society
- State Service on Property Issues under the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- GIZ GmbH
- UNDP
- FAO
- "Azerbaijan Greening and Landscaping" OJSC
- Botanical Garden

Georgia:

Capacity building and stakeholder engagement is essential to the successful implementation of this project in Georgia. The project is one that relies on a participatory approach and the involvement of key experts and stakeholders to make decision and help guide the direction of the project.

The project has established a multi-stakeholder national technical working group, consisting of government agencies and representatives, NGOs, and academia and determined by the national steering committee on an individual basis, to carry out an assessment of potential restoration opportunities, which is a critical step towards forging a coordinated strategy for scaling up landscape restoration in project countries. An important aspect of this component is the hosting of a series of regional and national workshops focused on analyzing different landscape restoration options for the countries by identifying the most pressing land use challenges currently affecting Georgia, as well as a list of restoration opportunities that could address these challenges. National technical working groups tasked with mapping and quantifying where different restoration options could potentially be implemented in order to help inform a national restoration target that will contribute to the many national priorities. Because of the multi-sector, multi-stakeholder nature of the technical working groups, the priorities would cover a wide range of landscapes including forest lands, agricultural lands and rangelands. These maps have been integrated into the broader forest and land-use web-based portal that was built based on the needs of the MEPA during the GEF-funded "Global Forest Watch" project.

The project supported the technical working group by planning and organizing meetings, facilitating discussions with clear objectives, and ensure that the group's feedback is directing the criteria used to model the restoration opportunity maps. The project identified and documented key success factors in observed cases of successful local and national initiatives, and diagnose policy reforms, institutional strengthening, capacity building, expanded communication an outreach and other interventions that are needed to enable and accelerate the scaling up the enabling conditions for better land-use decisions and forest landscape restoration. A number of workshops and technical report has been developed to ensure the intended beneficiaries know about the portal's existence and understand how to use it for their needs.

TM: Does the project have a gender action plan?



No

2.6. Gender

EA: Gender mainstreaming
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

Armenia:
Equal participation in gender has been ensured in all activities, especially those related to professional skill building. Women and young women as well were invited to all events and trainings to use the opportunity to use landscape restoration, land use, forest related guidance for their future professional development. In the future, women have requested to have more GIS related trainings to improve their knowledge to use Atlas system in their decision-making process and strategic policy advice functions.

Azerbaijan:
The project has been implemented the Project Gender Action Plan in the following way:

- The Project Management Unit (PMU) has been tracking progress on gender-sensitive indicators in the Project Result Framework.
- Project stakeholders were made aware of the project Gender Action Plan through the PSC meetings and the Inception Workshops.
- The PMU has been ensuring equal gender balance within the project beneficiaries and conduct gender analysis and surveys for all workshops and webinars: among the PSC meetings and Inception Workshops participants women represent on average 52% of the attendants.

Gender responsive measures resulted in the following gender related statistics:

Activity	Men	Women
3rd Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting	94	
5th Technical Working Group meeting	137	
6th Technical Working Group meeting	117	
7th Technical Working Group meeting	169	
Ganja state university	928	
Ganja Agriculture University	465	
Ganja Technology University	3616	
Western Caspian University	2119	
Khazar University	1415	
Baku State University	2618	
Sheki State Pedagogical University	1139	
Zaqatala branch of UNEC	1525	
Shamakhi branch of State Pedagogical University	2227	
Mingachevir State University	2442	

This project relies on the advice and consensus of technical working groups, made up of experts in their respective disciplines. Of these meetings, 49% of the participants were female. The project is planning on conducting more women-oriented meetings and capacity building opportunities, particularly in Armenia and Azerbaijan and plan to focus on gender in the creation and implementation of the capacity building plans.

Apart from these, during reporting period comprehensive chapter on Gender issues in Forest and Landscape Restoration in _____

2.7. ESSM

<p>TM: Was the project classified as moderate/high risk at CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>TM: Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>TM: If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</p>		<p>TM: If yes, please describe the new risks, or changes</p>	
<p>TM & EA: Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</p>	<p>No</p>		
<p>TM & EA: If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including</p>			

EA: Environmental and social safeguards management
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

negative impacts or environmental and social risks are expected from this project, as the project output will be technical tools and maps that will help provide greater transparency for national land use data and improved decision making with easier tools to assess datasets. After restoration opportunities assessment maps are created, the project will assess safeguards and potential impacts of restoration in priority areas as part of the draft policy instrument, which is one of the project outputs.

EA: Knowledge activities and products
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

This project developed Atlases in Armenia and Azerbaijan and new restoration opportunities maps in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. Reports are in the process of finalization to review maps, the methodology used to create them, and their applications, including analysis of a priority landscape in Armenia and Azerbaijan. In Georgia, this report will have a section understanding gender, and in Azerbaijan a gender sensitivity report is in the process of finalization.

Please attach a copy of any products

EA: Main learning during the period

2.8. KM/Learning

EA: Stories to be shared
(section to be shared with communication division/
GEF communication)

In Armenia, the restoration maps created have led to prioritization of another project that used this map to implement restoration intervention activities.

2.9. Stories

3. RATING PROJECT PERFORMANCE

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

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)	EA: Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	TM: Progress rating
Outcome 1.1							
Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in Armenia	Number of documented decisions on land-use made that have been influenced by the use of GFW tools and knowledge products	0	Concept note on use cases validated by the stakeholders	2			S
	Number of hectares identified for potential restoration opportunities using tool	0	Draft restoration c	260,000 Ha			S
	Number of good practices documented on the use of GFW tools to improve women's participation in decision making	0	3	5			S
Outcome 1.2							
Enable improved management of forests and conservation of biodiversity by providing information to support sustainable land-use management and support forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in Azerbaijan	Number of documented decisions on land-use made that have been influenced by the use of GFW tools and knowledge products	0	Concept note on use cases validated by the stakeholders	2	2	As targeted, up to date 2 decisions on land-use were made which have been influenced by the use of GFW tools and knowledge products. So far, by Forest Development Service decisions were made for restoration of 113 ha in Barda, 18 ha in Shabran, and 20 ha in Gabala during 2023. Moreover restoration of additional 1150 ha were included in State Program which will be implemented till the end of 2026.	S
	Number of hectares identified for potential restoration opportunities using tool	0	Draft restoration c	71,000 Ha	80,000 Ha	80,000 hectares were identified for potential restoration opportunities using relevant tool which is high than targeted.	S
	Number of good practices documented on the use of GFW tools to improve women's participation in decision making	0	3	5	10	Several training programs were conducted with participation of wide range of stakeholders including government officials, academia, CSOs, and others to improve capacities of stakeholders in Azerbaijan to apply GFW to land use decisions. However, apart from the Government, currently online atlas is not available for general audience. Project team is in close contact with main beneficiary of the project – Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in order to made online atlas publicly available. Its expected to do so by the end of 2023 after finalizing website adjustment.	S
Outcome 1.3							

Enable improved forest landscape restoration, planning and implementation in Georgia	Number of hectares identified for potential restoration opportunities using tool	0		10,000 Ha	25,000 Ha	REC Caucasus and WRI produced maps for potential restoration opportunities via existed and available data in different entities and also the global data sources; Maps are uploaded at the web portal of MEPA.	S
			Draft restoration c				
Outcome 2.1							
Stakeholders in Armenia capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs	Number of use cases of land use decisions and insights through the use of the tools	0	3	10			S
Outcome 2.2							
Stakeholders in Azerbaijan capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs	Number of use cases of land use decisions and insights through the use of the tools	0	3	10		Several training programs were conducted with participation of wide range of stakeholders including government officials, academia, CSOs, and others to improve capacities of stakeholders in Azerbaijan to apply GFW to land use decisions.	S
Outcome 2.3							
Stakeholders in Georgia capacitated to apply GFW to land use decisions by participation in exchanges and training programs	Number of use cases of land use decisions and insights through the use of the tools	4-Mar-20	4-Mar-23	30-Sep-23		To effectively complete the project objective.	S
		8-Mar-22	3	29-Mar-22	30-Sep-24		#
							#

For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

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

Output	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	EA: Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	TM: Progress rating
Under Comp 1 Output 1.1.1 Stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest and biodiversity data in Armenia					
Analysis on decision making and stakeholder engagement within the forest and biodiversity sectors	Jul-20	100%	100%		S
Drafting of stakeholder map and decision tree for the forest and biodiversity sectors	Oct-20	100%	100%		S
Research and inventory on available spatial and non-spatial data and their use in decision making	Jul-20	100%	100%		S
Compiling, cleaning and organization of database, including creation and implementation of data and metadata standards	Dec-20	100%	100%		S
Discussion on results of data and data gaps within technical working groups and national steering committee	Dec-20	100%	100%		S

Under Comp 1 Output 1.1.2: Creation of an interactive forest portal including development of ready-to-use analyses to improve and more easily share forest information in Armenia

Assess database and decision-making tree with technical working group and decide which data to display in portal based on national needs	Mar-21	100	100%		S
Assessment of national priorities of decision made within the forest and biodiversity sectors by technical working group and national steering committee Customize portal template based on national needs and priorities	Mar-21	100	100%		
Customize portal template based on national needs and priorities	Dec-21	100	100%		S
Develop and create specialized analyses and dashboards based on recommendations of technical working group and national steering committee	Dec-21	100	100%		S
Determine TOR for database management and atlas maintenance to ensure sustainability of the tools created after project end	Dec-22	20			S

Under Comp 1 Output 1.1.3 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Armenia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied

Assess national land use challenges and landscape restoration options with technical working group		100	100%		S
Identify the conditions necessary for successful implementation of different restoration options on a national scale with technical working group		100	100%		S
Stocktaking and collection of relevant maps, reports, and expert opinion based on the conditions determined in activity 1.1.3.2		100	100%		S
Produce maps for national potential restoration options		85			S
Review maps with technical working group and adjust conditions and criteria as needed		85			S
Finalize landscape restoration potential map with technical working group and publish results as a layer in the portal		85			S

Under Comp 1 Output 1.1.4: Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forestrestoration planning

Identification of priority landscape by technical working group and national steering committee		80			S
Stocktaking of relevant maps, reports, and interviews with stakeholders in priority landscape		90			S
Development of publication quantifying the area of opportunity and potential benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services with various types of restoration nationwide, with detail on intervention within the priority landscape		10			S
Development of a feasibility plan to test out restoration options and strategy for chosen priority landscape		0			S
Draft submission of Bonn Challenge pledge based on outcome of deliverable 1.2.3.6.1		N/A			

Under Comp 1 Output 1.2.1 Stakeholder and decision-making mapping and analysis, including identification and inventory of available forest and biodiversity data in Azerbaijan

Analysis on decision making and stakeholder engagement within the forest and biodiversity sectors	Jul-20	100	100%	The activity was completed in 1st year of project implementation	S
Drafting of stakeholder map and decision tree for the forest and biodiversity sectors	Aug-20	100	100%	The activity was completed in 1st year of project implementation	S
Research and inventory on available spatial and non-spatial data and their use in decision making	Oct-22	90	100%	Research and inventory on available spatial and non-spatial data and their use in decision making was almost finalized in previous years, but was still continued throughout the project in order to find more data. Data collection is now complete	S

Compiling, cleaning and organization of database, including creation and implementation of data and metadata standards	Mar-23	75	100%	All data was compiled and cleaned and the database established and organized	S
Discussion on results of data and data gaps within technical working groups and national steering committee	Jun-23	90	100%	Discussion on results of data and data gaps within technical working groups and national steering committee was continued and finalized during the reporting period.	S

Under Comp 1 Output 1.2.2: Creation of an interactive forest portal including development of ready-to-use analyses to improve and more easily share forest information in Azerbaijan

Assess database and decision-making tree with technical working group and decide which data to display in portal based on national needs	Mar-21	100	100%	The activity was completed during 2nd year of project implementation.	S
Assessment of national priorities of decision made within the forest and biodiversity sectors by technical working group and national steering committee Customize portal template based on national needs and priorities	Oct-21	100	100%	The activity was completed during 2nd year of project implementation.	S
Customize portal template based on national needs and priorities	Oct-22	70	100%	Customization of portal template was continued and completed based on national needs and priorities.	S
Develop and create specialized analyses and dashboards based on recommendations of technical working group and national steering committee	Nov-22	20	100%	Needed specialized analyses and dashboard opportunities of the portal were discussed during several meetings of technical working group and national steering committee. Based on these discussions and recommendations, specialized analyses and dashboards of the portal was created for the Atlas.	S
Research and develop legislative recommendations and protocols for establishing portal within Ministry	Oct-21	100	100%	The activity was completed during 2nd year of project implementation.	S
Determine TOR for database management and atlas maintenance to ensure sustainability of the tools created after project end	Mar-23	20	100%	In order to ensure sustainability of the tools created after project end TOR for database management and atlas maintenance was determined. Maintenance of atlas will be carried out by representatives of Forest Development Service, hence TOR was based on	S

Under Comp 1 Output 1.2.3 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Azerbaijan based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied

Assess national land use challenges and landscape restoration options with technical working group	Jun-22	100	100%	The activity was completed during 2nd year of project implementation.	S
Identify the conditions necessary for successful implementation of different restoration options on a national scale with technical working group	Jun-22	100	100%	The activity was completed during 2nd year of project implementation.	S
Stocktaking and collection of relevant maps, reports, and expert opinion based on the conditions determined in activity 1.1.3.2	Nov-22	20	100%	Desk review as well as discussions with stakeholders during technical working group meetings on different restoration options on a national scale was carried out during this period	S
Produce maps for national potential restoration options	Dec-22	0	100%	Following recommendations from technical working group maps for national potential restoration options was produced by using ESRI tools.	S
Review maps with technical working group and adjust conditions and criteria as needed	Feb-23	0	100%	Produced restoration opportunities maps was discussed with stakeholders and adjusted following their recommendations.	S
Finalize landscape restoration potential map with technical working group and publish results as a layer in the portal	Apr-23	0	100%	Following adjustment of restoration opportunities maps, they were added as a layer in the portal.	S

Under Comp 1 Output 1.1.4: Development of a draft policy instrument, including a feasibility plan of 1 priority landscape, necessary for forestrestoration planning

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Identification of priority landscape by technical working group and national steering committee	<p>In Azerbaijan, the following activities were realized during the reporting period:</p> <p>The project team led by GIS expert, continued development of an open data portal based on national priorities and needs identified and suggested by multi-stakeholder national technical working group, consisting of representatives of government agencies, NGOs, and academia. Installation of ESRI licenses on the server of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, which will ensure operation of the portal beyond the project, was finalized.</p> <p>To ensure sustainability of the portal and tools after project ends project team, following recommendations collected from the technical working group and national steering committee meetings, a Terms of Reference was drafted for future maintenance of the portal beyond the project. Following preparation of the TOR, the trainings were conducted for relevant staff of MENR that will be responsible for database management and maintenance to ensure sustainability after project ends.</p> <p>In order to ensure that datasets that haven't been displayed on the main atlas are still open, transparent, and easily shared, the maps were integrated into the broader forest website developed within the scope of this project, based on the needs of the MENR, which also include on-the-fly analysis features for decision making. Apart from Atlas itself, the developed website include additional information about the forests, forest management and its protection.</p> <p>Furthermore during reporting period, a restoration opportunity map was developed. In the process of creation of map the national land use challenges and landscape restoration options to address those challenges were identified; criteria to assess the potential to scale up landscape restoration options selected for mapping and to assess the potential to compile the best readily available spatial data was identified. Maps and area statistics for national restoration options was produced. The development of the map was an iterative process, as draft maps were reviewed within the</p>	30	100%	Priority landscape -Tugay (riverflood territories) was identified by technical working group.	S
Stocktaking of relevant maps, reports, and interviews with stakeholders in priority landscape	Apr-23	0	100%	Desk review as well as discussions with stakeholders were carried out about prioritized landscape.	S
Development of publication quantifying the area of opportunity and potential benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services with various types of restoration nationwide, with detail on intervention within the priority landscape	Apr-23	0	100%	Publication was developed quantifying the area of opportunity and potential benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services with various types of restoration nationwide. In total 4 types of restoration were covered with detail on intervention within the priority landscape.	S
Development of a feasibility plan to test out restoration options and strategy for chosen priority landscape	May-23	0	100%	Feasibility plan to test out restoration options and strategy for prioritized riverflood landscape - Tugay forest was developed.	S
Draft submission of Bonn Challenge pledge based on outcome of deliverable 1.2.3.6.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	The government of Azerbaijan submitted a pledge to the Bonn Challenge on October 2019, immediately after the project approval by the GEF, committing to restore	
Under Comp 1 Output 1.3.1 Restoration opportunity map that quantifies the area of opportunity in Georgia based on the best knowledge and science developed, tested, and applied					
Assess national land use challenges and landscape restoration options with technical working group	Jul-20	100	100%	COVID-19 pandemic and governmental regulations has impacted on implementation of activities under the project in time. Short TWG meetings were organised via zoom online and activity accomplished in June 2021.	S
Identify the conditions necessary for successful implementation of different restoration options on a national scale with technical working group	Jul-20	100	100%	Delay in implementation of the activity is caused by Covid -19 pandemic regulations. This activity accomplished in April 2022	S
Stocktaking and collection of relevant maps, reports, and expert opinion based on the conditions determined in activity 1.1.3.2	Dec-22	90	100%	Delay of implementation of this activity is caused by Covid -19 pandemic regulations as it was explained in last PIR. The stocktaking of the relevant data has started in April 2022, after defining, which data are available	S
Produce maps for national potential restoration options	May-22	15	100%	Available data defined; official letters for submitting the defined data to the project team are sent to relevant Departments and agencies; Some data are submitted and	S
Review maps with technical working group and adjust conditions and criteria as needed	Feb-23	0	100%	Multiple technical working group meetings were held to review draft maps.	S

Finalize landscape restoration potential map with technical working group and publish results as a layer in the portal	May-23	0	100%	Final maps approved by technical working group and national steering committee in May 2023	S
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Under Comp 2 Output 2.1.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups in Armenia to drive the direction of the project

Identify and invite key members to join technical working group and national steering committee based on stakeholder recommendations		100	100%		S
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At least quarterly meetings held within the technical working group and at least yearly meetings held of national steering committee to provide advice and recommendations for project		Armenia: In Armenia, Ministry agencies, relevant departments, Hayantar (Arm Forest), Forest Committee have been regularly collaborating with project, forming Technical working group assisting project team on policy, engagement, Armenian priority identification, inventories, devising the potential map of restoration. This model can be used in other GEF projects to enable working environment and sustainable results. Stakeholder inclusion has been quite effective due to inclusion of all relevant international donors (GIZ, UNDP, IFAD), civil society and universities.	100%		S
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Under Comp 2 Output 2.1.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization in Armenia

Develop training and outreach plan based on results of stakeholder analysis performed and assessment of current capacity and capacity needed		100	100%		S
Implement training and capacity plan developed		30			S
Creation of outreach materials for widespread uptake		90			S
Organize targeted workshops on results of restoration opportunities analysis and use of the portal		50			S

Under Comp 2 Output 2.2.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups in Azerbaijan to drive the direction of the project

Identify and invite key members to join technical working group and national steering committee based on stakeholder recommendations	Mar-22	Armenia: Equal participation in gender has been ensured in all activities, especially those related to professional skill building. Women and young women as well were invited to all events and trainings to use the opportunity to use landscape restoration, land use, forest related guidance for their future professional development. In the future, women have requested to have more GIS related trainings to improve their knowledge to use Atlas system in their decision-making process and strategic policy advice functions. Azerbaijan: The project has been implemented the Project Gender Action Plan in the	100%	The main stakeholders were mapped and technical working groups and steering committee were established during the 1st year of project implementation.	S
At least quarterly meetings held within the technical working group and at least yearly meetings held of national steering committee to provide advice and recommendations for project	Jul-23	50	100%	Technical working group meetings were held more than quarterly and a national steering committee meeting was held yearly.	S
Under Comp 2 Output 2.2.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization in Azerbaijan					
Develop training and outreach plan based on results of stakeholder analysis performed and assessment of current capacity and capacity needed	Jan-23	5	100%	Training and outreach plan was developed based on results of discussion at technical working group meetings.	S
Implement training and capacity plan developed	Feb-23	0	10%	To implement plan, training materials were developed and trainings held with relevant stakeholders and users of the Atlas	S
Creation of outreach materials for widespread uptake	Mar-23	0	100%	2 reports related to restoration opportunities were published	S
Organize targeted workshops on results of restoration opportunities analysis and use of the portal	Jun-23	0	95%	Several workshops were conducted with participation of wide range of stakeholders including government officials, academia, CSOs, and others to explain how to use the portal as well as discuss the results of restoration opportunities	S
Under Comp 2 Output 2.3.1 Creation of multi-sectoral working groups in Georgia to drive the direction of the project					
Identify and invite key members to join technical working group and national steering committee based on stakeholder recommendations	Mar-20	100	100%	Technical working group and steering committee established immediately after project inception	S
At least quarterly meetings held within the technical working group and at least yearly meetings held of national steering committee to provide advice and recommendations for project	Jul-23	100	100%	5 technical working group meetings were organized during this reporting period. In total 29 TWG meetings were carried out. 27 meetings were organised online via zoom platform and 2 meetings were conducted physically during this reporting period.	S

Under Comp 2 Output 2.2.2 Training and outreach on use of the portal and restoration opportunities map for government, NGOs, academia, and other civil society organization in Georgia

Develop training and outreach plan based on results of stakeholder analysis performed and assessment of current capacity and capacity needed	Jan-23	0	100%	Outreach and training plan developed for implementation at the beginning of this period	S
Implement training and capacity plan developed	Jul-23	0	90%	Trainings implemented on results of the Atlas during this period; Additional trainings planned for July	S
Creation of outreach materials for widespread uptake	Jul-23	0	80%	The draft technical report is being developed and to be finalised after this reporting period in August 2023.	S
Organize targeted workshops on results of restoration opportunities analysis and use of the portal	Jul-23	This project developed Atlases in Armenia and Azerbaijan and new restoration opportunities maps in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. Reports are in the process of finalization to review maps, the methodology used to create them, and their applications, including analysis of a priority landscape in Armenia and Azerbaijan. In Georgia, this report will have a section understanding gender, and in Azerbaijan a gender sensitivity report is in the process of finalization.	100%	5 technical Working Group Meetings were organised during this reporting period permanently discussing and justifying the results and the final training for experts was conducted after this reporting period in July 2023 on tools to use the web-portal.	S

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

4 Risk Rating

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

Risk Factor	EA's Rating	TM's Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	✓ Low: well developed, stable management structure and roles/responsibilities are clearly defined. Low likelihood of project delays.	✓ Low: well developed, stable management structure and roles/responsibilities are clearly defined. Low likelihood of project delays.
2 Governance structure - Oversight	✓ Low: Steering Committee and/or other project bodies were established once a year and active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC provides direction/inputs.	✓ Low: Steering Committee and/or other project bodies were established once a year and active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC provides direction/inputs.
3 Implementation schedule	✓ Low: Activities are progressing within planned budget and balanced budget utilization. PMO Low likelihood of potential delays.	✓ Low: Activities are progressing within planned budget and balanced budget utilization. PMO Low likelihood of potential delays.
4 Budget	✓ Low: Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project partners and. Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of	✓ Low: Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project partners and. Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of
5 Financial Management	✓ Low: Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project partners and. Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of	✓ Low: Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project partners and. Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of
6 Reporting	✓ Low: Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project partners and. Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of	✓ Low: Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project partners and. Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of
7 Capacity to deliver	✓ Low: Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project partners and. Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of	✓ Low: Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project partners and. Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of

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)

Final 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.

Risk	Risk affecting:		Risk Rating						Variation respect to last rating	
	CEO ED	Outcome / outputs	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	PIR 6	Δ	Justification
Decision makers do not need better tools and information to improve sustainable land use planning and implement forest landscape restoration	L		L	L	L	L			=	
Tools developed within the scope of this project are not utilized by stakeholders.	M		M	M	M	M			=	
Weak coordination among ministerial bodies and lack of support from national governments	M		M	M	M	L			↓	Project deliverables are finalized with support from government and relevant Ministries
Sub-optimal capacity in countries hampers sufficient uptake	M	4-Mar-20	#####	#####	L	L			=	
The needs and priorities of the more disadvantaged groups of society, including youth and women's groups are not adequately taken into account by the project	M	8-Mar-22	#####	#####	To effectively complete the project objective.	L			=	
GFW proves to be insufficiently cost effective in certain uses and contexts	L		L	M	L	#####			=	
Lack of national-level data would limit the tool's potential effectiveness for many national and local level management challenges, including landscape-level management	M		M	M	L	#####			=	
Technical working groups are not available to meet regularly	H		L	L	L	#####			=	
COVID -19 pandemic restrictions to in-person events.	Not Applicable		L	L	L	L			=	

COVID-19 pandemic restrictions might affect access to the office to project team.

COVID-19 pandemic restrictions to movement might delay procurement of international expertise and jeopardize their work.

Conflict between 2 project countries occurred during this project and impacted collaboration between project countries

Conflict between 2 project countries occurred during this project and impacted project implementation during the conflict period as national priorities changed and offices were closed

2 essential project team members sadly passed away during this project and as a result the project experienced turnover and delays.

	Not Applicable	L	L	L	L				=	
	Not Applicable	L	L	L	L				=	
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	M	M				=	
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	L	L				=	
	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	M	M	L				↓	New staff members have now been in their position in over a year and staffing has been stable.

Consolidated project risk

	Not Applicable	M	M	L	L					This section focuses on the variation. The overall rating is discussed in section 2.3.
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4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

List here only risks from Table A and B above that have a risk rating of M or higher in the current PIR

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom
Tools developed within the scope of this project are not utilized by stakeholders.	All tools will continue to be developed with stakeholders to ensure ownership and therefore utilization. Next periods will see more capacity building as well which will help ensure utility of tools.	Capacity building through trainings and documentation were implemented to help ensure uptake of the tools.	Continued capacity building, handoff of tools and documentation will be implemented in the final months of the project	remainder of the project	project partners
Conflict between 2 project countries occurred during this project and impacted collaboration between project countries	As conflict lessens, the Project intends to resume planning coordination activities between regional Project countries.	Regional steering committee meeting held in Brussels, which included countries in conflict.	Sharing of atlases created with project teams and brainstorming of further impact of project tools on a regional level	remainder of the project	project partners

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.

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	
Components and cost	
Institutional and implementation arrangements	
Financial management	
Implementation schedule	Explain in table B
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 amendments

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

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP
Original Legal Instrument		4-Mar-20
Amendment 1	Revision	8-Mar-22
Extension 1	Extension	

Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
4-Mar-23	30-Sep-23	
29-Mar-22	30-Sep-24	To effectively complete the project objective.

30-Mar-24
30-Sep-24

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project Longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=4/21.84/82.79>) or GeoNames(<http://www.geonames.org/>) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here(<https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/assets/general/Geocoding%20User%20Guide.docx>)

Location Name <small>Required field</small>	Latitude <small>Required field</small>	Longitude <small>Required field</small>	Geo Name ID <small>Required field if the location is not an exact site</small>	Location Description <small>Optional text field</small>	Activity Description <small>Optional text field</small>
Baku, Azerbaijan	40.39712	49.84327	587116		
Tbilisi, Georgia	41.7151	44.8271	611717		
Yerevan, Armenia	40.1872	44.5152	616052		

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

[Annex any linked geospatial file]