



UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2023

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	10806	SMA IPMR ID	84226
Project Short Title	GSP-III	Grant ID	S1-32GFL-000691
	Umoja WBS		SB-018046.01
Project Title	To enhance technical and institutional capacity for land degradation monitoring and reporting in the context of the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030 and SDG15.3		
Project Type	✓ Medium Sized Project (MSP)	Duration months	Planned Jul-21
Parent Programme if child project			Age 32.0 months
GEF Focal Area(s)	Land Degradation	Completion Date	Planned - original PCA 1-Mar-24
Project Scope	✓ Global		Revised - Current PCA
Region	✓ Global	Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	19-Jul-21
Countries		UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	8-Jul-21
GEF financing amount	2,000,000	Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	1-Jul-21
Co-financing amount	USD 545,000	Date of First Disbursement	15-Aug-21
		Date of Inception Workshop, if available	
Total disbursement as of 31 July	1,340,000.33	Midterm undertaken?	✓ No
Total expenditure as of 31 July	USD 1,075,659	Actual Mid-term Date, if taken	
		Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	
		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	
		Expected Financial Closure Date	1-Mar-24

1.2 EA: Project description

The project objective is to enhance technical and institutional capacity for land degradation monitoring and reporting in the context of the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030 and SDG15.3. Consistent with the COP 14 decision, the proposed GSP III is conceived to provide tailored technical capacity and tools for Parties on land use planning including on national-level coordination and cooperation based on, inter alia, integrated land use planning, to guide the implementation of transformative projects and programmes. This also includes strengthening capacities of technical institutions and human resources by providing guidance on estimating and monitoring soil organic carbon for land-use planning, land degradation neutrality monitoring and other applications (Decision 18/COP.14).

The GSP III will provide technical assistance within the framework of GEF enabling activities focusing on three major components based on the lessons learned and issues identified during previous reporting cycle. The project will build on GSP I and GSP II experience in support UNCCD reporting.

Component 1. Component 1: Facilitating UNCCD reporting against agreed indicators through updated and improved tools. Component 1 would focus on establishing or updating reporting tools to support Parties' efforts on reporting to the Convention. This component will be further guided by COP 14 decision for improving the reporting platform, prefilled data (default data) and reporting tools. Through component 1, pre-filled default data in country-specific reporting template will be made accessible to the Parties in all UN languages.

Component 2: Enhancing capacities of country Parties for reporting against UNCCD indicators base and improved versions of technical facilities

This component will respond to country needs highlighted during CRIC 17 to provide clear guidelines and technical support for future reporting. Targeted and timely workshops will be organized at the regional level involving Country Parties relevant for reporting.

Component 3: Enabling Parties to monitor land degradation and develop integrated approaches to address DLDD and gender mainstreaming. This component seeks to take a long term perspective that is beyond a single reporting cycle and will be built on two analyses: i) the study carried out on the tracking of financial flow with the support of GSP II and ii) the report on coordination mechanisms for monitoring UNCCD biophysical indicators and land degradation trends at the national level.

1.3 Project Contact

Division(s) Implementing the project

Ecosystems Division

Executing Agency(ies)

The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD

Name of co-implementing Agency

Names of Other Project Partners

TM: UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)

Ersin Esen

EA: Manager/Representative

Louise Baker

TM: UNEP Task Manager(s)

Adamou Bouhari

EA: Project Manager

Munazza Naqvi

TM: UNEP Budget/Finance Officer

Paul Vrontamitis

EA: Finance Manager

Soi Ha Lie

TM: UNEP Support/Assistant

Eric Mugo

EA: Communications lead, if relevant

2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

TM: UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)

Nature Action

TM: UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)

Governance

TM: PoW Indicator(s)

2.16

EA: UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages

NA

2.1 UNEP PIR

EA: Link to relevant SDG Goals

15.3

EA: Link to relevant SDG Targets

SDG 15: Life on Land, protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss".[1] The Goal has 12 targets to be achieved by 2030. Progress towards targets will be measured by 14 indicators.

2.2. GEF Core or Sub Indicators

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

Indicators	Targets - Expected value			Materialised to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	

Implementation Status

2023

2nd PIR

Implementation status & Risk

FY 2023

FY 2022

FY 2021

FY 2020

FY 2019

FY 2018

FY 2017

FY 2016

FY 2015

PIR #

2nd PIR

1st PIR

Rating towards outcomes (DO)
(section 3.1)

S

S

Rating towards outputs (IP)
(section 3.2)

S

S

Risk rating
(section 4.2)

L

L

2.3 Impleme	<p>EA: Summary of status (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)</p> <p>The project was conceived to support the reporting and monitoring capacities of the Parties for the reporting cycle 2022-2023. The new updated version of the reporting portal (PRAIS 4) was launched successfully in November 2022 with the support of the project. This is a geo-spatial platform with several new features introduced against various strategic objectives, especially SO1. The new platform was well received by the Parties and its new features were appreciated. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, in-person training workshops couldn't be held. However, UNCCD and GM made sure to carry out extra ordinary efforts to compensate for this. Pre-recorded videos against all SOs were uploaded on-line to provide step-by-step guidance to the Parties. The user manual and glossary were also provided in UN languages. A team of consultants were available to provide one-on-one backstopping to the Parties who were facing issues. A helpdesk was also established that responded to the received queries within 48 hours. So overall the project's performance remained satisfactory and it was successful and providing help and support to the Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations.</p>	
2.4 Co-finance	<p>EA: Planned Co-finance</p> <p>EA: Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.</p>	<p>USD545,000</p> <p>EA: Actual to date: USD 387,529</p> <p>The co-finance for the project was realized through the estimated time of the UNCCD Secretariat and Global Mechanism's staff time dedicated to project activities. However, the project didnt envisage co-financing from the host countries or national reporting officers. Until now the process of acquiring and recording the co-financing for the project has remained smooth.</p>
2.5 Stakeholder	<p>EA: Date of project steering committee meeting</p> <p>EA: Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)</p>	<p>19-Jan-22</p> <p>Global Mechanism collaborated with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) regarding Strategic Objective 5. The methodological note along with the new reporting template was shared with them for their feedback. The default data for bilateral and multilateral financial assistance (ODA) was also acquired from them and it was provided to the Parties in the template to either verify or replace with their nationally available data.</p>
2.6 Gender	<p>TM: Does the project have a gender action plan?</p> <p>▼ No</p> <p>EA: Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)</p> <p>The project activities officially started with the preparation of the reporting and launch of reporting portal in November 2021. The in-person capacity building workshops couldn't be held due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The support to the Parties was mostly provided through virtual means during the reporting period. Therefore, gender related activities couldnt be reported for this PIR.</p>	
	<p>TM: Was the project classified as moderate/high risk at CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</p> <p>▼ No</p> <p>TM: If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</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, please describe the new risks, or changes</p>

2.7. ESSM

TM & EA: Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?

No

TM & EA: If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including

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

According to the Environment, Social and Economic screening determinations at the time of project conception, the project activities maintain very low risk in terms of environmental, social and economic impacts but on the contrary, the project activities have helped the Parties in monitoring the land degradation trends and encouraged them to adopt sustainable land management practices.

2.8. KM/Learning

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

The official documentation for the CRIC21 to be held in November 2023 was prepared with the support from the project.
<https://www.unccd.int/cric21/official-documents>

Please attach a copy of any products

EA: Main learning during the period

GSP-III project was launched to support the 2022-2023 reporting period. Despite the logistical challenges posed by COVID-19 during this period, the project was able to provide support to the Parties and they were able to submit reports. The analysis of reports was conducted with the project's support and it will be presented and further discussed at the CRIC21 in November 2023. The support from the project is playing an important role in enabling the Parties for monitoring their land resources.

2.9. Stories

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

NA

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
Objective							
To enhance technical and institutional capacity for land degradation monitoring and reporting in the context of the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030 and SDG15.3	The 2021-22 UNCCD reporting process provides country Parties with the capacity and motivation to continue UNCCD reporting and monitoring.	Limited experience or knowledge of reporting against the revised UNCCD progress indicators	NA	Majority of Parties that are contacted for the evaluation consider positively their skills and motivation for future UNCCD reporting.	80%	Despite the challenges faced during the reporting period, the feedback received from the Parties about the support received through GSP was positive. The pre-recorded videos and other online learning material provided in advance helped in creating awareness and understanding of the reporting process amongst the Parties and helped in keeping them motivated. The team of experts was available to troubleshoot any problem that they faced so a positive momentum was maintained during the reporting period.	S
Outcome 1.1: UNCCD country Parties use the reporting platform and regularly produce national reports that meet UNCCD reporting standards.	Number of Parties that use the UNCCD reporting platform for preparing the report	Parties have not yet used the new and updated reporting platform	NA	90% of reports that are submitted by countries using the new reporting platform and it is used regularly by the Parties to monitor land degradation trends.	64%	64% countries reported through the portal. The reporting portal was launched in November 2021 for the current ongoing reporting period. The new reporting portal (PRAIS4) contains improved geo spatial features which are aimed at not only to help the Parties with completion of reporting in a successful manner but also to support the Parties in making informed decisions based on the land degradation trends in the country. Revised and updated user manual guidance was and the effectiveness and impact of the project will be more obvious by the next reporting timeline.	S
Outcome 2.1: Country Parties able to apply UNCCD guidelines and equipped with technical understanding of the reporting requirements for UNCCD and SDG 15.3	% of Parties that submit national reports assess, improve and/or validate data on biophysical progress indicators,	Parties have treated data on biophysical progress indicators for the 2017-18 UNCCD reporting	NA	75% of Parties submitted national reports assess, improve and/or validate data on biophysical progress	90%	Parties were able to submit national reporting with the help of the project. The default data provided by the project against biophysical indicators was used to ascertain the land degradation trends. In some cases, the default data was further improved and validated by the Parties	S

				progress indicators.		utilizing natonional sources.	
Outcome 3.1: UNCCD country Parties monitor land degradation and mainstream gender in Land Degradation Neutrality	Parties develop integrated land use planning based on improved monitoring of land degradation indicators and explore opportunities for financing.	Parties have limited capacity of land degradation monitoring and subsequent land use planning.	NA	50 % of develop integrated land use planning based on improved monitoring of land degradation indicators and explore opportunities for financing.	0%	The work on this outcome will be carried out in synergy with GEF project, tilted, Integrating Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Land Use Planning frameworks to enable national UNCCD enabling environments. The project is approved and will be inception phase soon and the activities under this outcome will be .defined in collaboration with the project	HU
Outcome 3.2: Parties are able to incorporate reliable financial resources data into the activities to address DLDD planning.	Parties capable of making informed decisions about resource mobilization for UNCCD related interventions.	No guideline for systematic assessment of financial flows using global datasets	NA	The results of the global assessment are disseminated by 31/12/2023	60%	Parties reported against various indicators under the Strategic Objective-5 on the new template. Quantitative information was provided by the Parties against the indicators on Official Development Assistance and domestic sources. This information wasn't received in previous reporting cycles. Analysis was carried out which will be presented at CRIC21. This will contribute to helping the Parties in making informed decisions about UNCCD related interventions.	S

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
		copy from previous			
Output 1.1.1 An Improved UNCCD reporting system to collect, assess and utilize data on Land Degradation, Desertification and Drought (DLDD) and LDN indicators	30/11/2021	50%	100%	Work on improved reporting portal started with the funds from GSP-II but since after its approval, GSP-III contributed towards developments of updated reporting portal (PRAIS4).	S
Output 1.1.2 Standardized quality assurance guidelines for UNCCD reporting produced and disseminated to key stakeholders and country Parties in five regional UNCCD annexes..	30/12/2022	100%	100%	The quality assurance guideline was prepared and the received information from the Parties was scrutinized using the criteria provided in the guidelines.	S
Output 1.1.3 Preliminary analysis of UNCCD reporting submitted by Parties and dissemination of results	30/03/2022	0%	100%	The preliminary analysis of the UNCCD reporting submitted by the countries is completed and results will be disseminated at CRIC21 to be held in November 2023.	S

Output 1.1.4 Revised and updated user manual guideline, e-learning modules and online training material developed to support country Parties in the UNCCD reporting process.	30/07/2021	95%	100%	User manual guideline and glossary were provided to the Parties in UN languages. E-learning modules and pre-recorded videos were also provided to the Parties which displayed step-by-step guide to the Parties for completion of their reports.	S
Output 2.1.1 Stakeholders' knowledge and capacity on data collection, management, analysis; gender mainstreaming in SLM and monitoring of land degradation enhanced through five Regional level capacity building training workshops on data collection, management, analysis; gender mainstreaming in SLM and monitoring of land degradation	30/09/2022	70%	100%	The capacity building workshops are replaced by virtual learning material including tutorials and pre-recorded videos, user manual, glossary etc due to COVID19. In addition, subject experts/consultants were hired to provide one-on-one support and a helpdesk is also functional.	S
Output 3.1.1 Guidelines and tools for National Focal Points on land degradation monitoring to inform Land Use Planning and interventions to combat land degradation, desertification and drought and gender mainstreaming in SLM developed and disseminated.	06/06/2023	0%	0%	Work on this output will be initiated in collaboration with the the GEF project, Integrating Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Land Use Planning frameworks to enable national UNCCD enabling environments.	S
Output 3.2.1 Financial monitoring framework for tracking resources for UNCCD-related interventions developed.	30/06/2023	100%	100%	The financial reporting framework was improved. SO-5 reporting template and indicators were revised providing an opportunity to the Parties for creating meaningful trends of financial flows for UNCCD implementation. This will enable Parties to make informed decisions based on quantitative and reliable information.	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/understood. Low likelihood	Low : Well developed, stable Management Structure and Roles/responsibilities are clearly defined/understood. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low : Steering Committee and/or other project bodies meet at least once a year and Active membership and participation in decision-	Low : Steering Committee and/or other project bodies meet at least once a year and Active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC provides direction/inputs. Low
3 Implementation schedule	Low : Project progressing according to original work plan and Adaptive management is practiced and regular monitoring. Low likelihood of	Low : Project progressing according to original work plan and Adaptive management is practiced and regular monitoring. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
4 Budget	Low : Activities are progressing within planned budget and Balanced budget utilisation including PMC. Low likelihood of potential negative	Low : Activities are progressing within planned budget and Balanced budget utilisation including PMC. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
5 Financial Management	Low : Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and Audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use 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
6 Reporting	Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project	Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and implementation issues. Low likelihood of
7 Capacity to deliver	Low : Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before	Low : Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of

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)

2nd 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.

[illegible]

Consolidated project risk



This section focuses on the variation. The overall rating is discussed in section 2.3.

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 instance (PIR-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom
Political and institutional risks: Limited uptake of reporting and adoption of the progress indicators due to lack or insufficient capacity at national level and lack of necessary political will to report/ Reporting to UNCCD may be considered as a lower priority for developing countries	Adequate involvement of the national focal points and national officers was made sure during the reporting process.	Online sessions were organized to keep the national stakeholders involved.	The significant role of UNCCD reporting will be highlighted for the UNCCD Focal Points through dissemination of reporting results.	CRIC 21, November 2023	Project Management

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	Minor amendments
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		

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
Original Legal Instrument					
Amendment 1	Revision				
Extension 1	Extension				

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) (<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)(<https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/assets/general/Geocoding%20User%20Guide.docx>)

Location Name Required field	Latitude Required field	Longitude Required field	Geo Name ID Required field if the location is not an exact site	Location Description Optional text field	Activity Description Optional text field
Kenya	-1.28333	36.81667	184744		

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

[Annex any linked geospatial file]