



Mid-Term Review of the UNEP Project

“Integrated Landscape Management for Addressing Land Degradation, Food Security and Climate Change Resilience Challenges in The Bahamas”

(GEF ID: 10694/SMA ID: 129377)



UNEP’s GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Unit, Ecosystems Division

UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Office (LACO)

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This report has been prepared by an external consultant as part of a Mid-Term Review, which is a management-led process to assess performance at the project's mid-point. The UNEP Evaluation Office provides templates and tools to support the review process. The findings and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Member States or the UN Environment Programme Senior Management.

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“Integrated Landscape Management for Addressing Land Degradation, Food Security and Climate Resilience Challenges in The Bahamas”
SMA ID: 129377/GEF ID: 10694
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This Mid-Term Review was prepared for UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Office by Noel D. Jacobs Sr.

The reviewer would like to express his gratitude to all persons met and who contributed to this review, as listed in Annex II.

The reviewer would like to thank the project team and in particular UNEP Task Manager Dr. Christopher Cox, UNEP Fund Management Officer George Saddimbah, and UNEP Senior Programme Management Assistant Gloritzel Frangakis Cano for their contribution and collaboration throughout the review process. Sincere appreciation is also expressed to the Project Steering Committee who took time to provide comments to the draft report. The evaluator would also like to thank the Government of The Bahamas.

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The review consultant hopes that the findings, conclusions, and recommendations will contribute to the successful finalisation of the current project and to the continuous improvement of similar projects in other countries and regions.

BRIEF EXTERNAL CONSULTANT BIOGRAPHY

Noel Jacobs Sr has 20 years of experience working in more than 30 countries as an International Development Consultant in project design, management, and evaluation primarily in biodiversity, climate change, marine resources, protected areas, land degradation, sustainable tourism, Blue Economy, and policy development. He has successfully designed many international development projects and has conducted numerous Mid-Term Evaluations of GEF and non-GEF projects. He also has extensive experience as an Institutional Development Consultant, focusing on Institutional Assessments, Organizational Restructuring, Development of Organizational Policies, Strategic Plans, Operational Manuals for Organizations and Projects, Environmental and Social Safeguards policies, and Environmental and Social Management Frameworks. His analytical skills and ability to effectively apply the multi-sector approach in project planning and evaluation and policy development has proven to be a tremendous asset in the delivery of services to a wide diversity of clients in Latin America and the Caribbean and beyond.

About the Review

Joint Review: No.

Report Language(s): English.

Review Type: Mid-Term Review

Brief Description: This report is a Mid-Term Review of the UNEP project: Integrated Landscape Management for Addressing Land Degradation, Food Security and Climate Resilience Challenges in The Bahamas implemented between 2023 and 2026. The project's overall goal is to enhance climate-resilient food production across productive agricultural landscapes through sound Integrated Landscape Management and Land Degradation Neutrality approaches in The Bahamas. The project consists of four components; **(1)**: Strengthening the enabling environment for achievement of land degradation neutrality through improved policy and governance; **(2)**: Demonstrating of regenerative agriculture and resilient food production systems, practices and technologies, **(3)**: Incentivizing uptake and replication of SLM and climate resilient agriculture and **(4)**: Enhancing monitoring and knowledge management systems for land degradation neutrality assessment and agricultural production system resilience assessment and tracking related GEB Indicators. The main partners are the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, the Bahamas Development Bank and the University of The Bahamas. The review sought to assess project performance to-date and to provide formative insights to support the remainder of the project's implementation.

Key words: Integrated Land Management, Sustainable Land Management, Climate Smart Agriculture, restorative agriculture, Land Degradation Neutrality, Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework, gender-sensitive business investment plans, low-cost environmental/agrometeorological systems, knowledge sharing events, Global Environmental Benefits, Theory of Change, strategic relevance, effectiveness, financial management, efficiency, monitoring and reporting, exit strategy, sustainability, project performance, cross-cutting issues.

Primary data collection period: 20 January 2026 to 20 March 2026

Field mission dates: 14 – 20 March 2026

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BAIC	Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation
BDB	Bahamas Development Bank
BAMSI	Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute
BAHNROP	Bahamas Network of Rural Women Producers
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
DEPP	Department of Environmental Planning and Protection
EA	Executing Agency
GEB	Global Environmental Benefit
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HYPR	Half-Year Progress Report
IA	Implementing Agency
ILM	Integrated Land Management
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MTR	Mid Term Review
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PDQ	Project Design Quality
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PISLM	Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management
PMC	Project Management Costs
PMU	Project Management Unit
ProDoc	Project Document
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
ToC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
UB	University of The Bahamas
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USD	United States Dollar

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION TABLE

Table 1: GEF Project Identification Table

GEF Project ID/SMA ID ¹ :	GEF Project ID: 10694/SMA ID: 129377		
Type of GEF Project:	Child: N	Global Coordinating Project:	N
	If yes, provide GEF Programme ² ID:	Medium-Size Project or Full-Size Project:	FSP
UNEP Management (Division/Branch/Unit):	Ecosystems Division/Biodiversity and Land Branch GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Unit.	Executing Agency: <i>(indicate if internally executed)</i> :	Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP)
Sources of Funding (Co-finance):	Country ³ (ies): The Bahamas	Institution ⁴ Name/Type: Government: DEPP; Ministry of Agriculture; BAMSI; Forest Unit; Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC); Bahamas Development Bank. Civil Society Organization: One Eleuthera Foundation Non-governmental Organisation: Bahamas Agripreneur National Farmer Group; Bahamas Network for Rural Women Producers; Cat Island Farmers Association; Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) Others: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).	
Relevant SDG(s):	Goal 5: Gender Equality Target 5.A: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources.		

¹ SMA refers to the ID provided by the Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting Solution (IPMR) system, which was introduced by UNEP in July 2023. Previously, it was referred to as a PIMS ID number.

² GEF Programme refers to 'Parent' project.

³ Where applicable, list countries who have provided project funds and/or co-finance.

⁴ Indicate where funding institutions are any/all of the following: Foundation/NGO; Private Sector; UN Body; Multilateral Fund; Environment Fund.

	SDG 15: Life on Land		
	Target 15.1: Ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems.		
	Target 15.3: Combat desertification, restore degraded land, and soil.		
MTS (at approval):	UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025		
POW Direct Outcome(s) number/reference ⁵ (applicable for projects approved from 2022): OR POW Output(s) number/reference ⁵ (applicable for projects approved pre-2022)	POW Direct Outcome: 2(iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas. 2(iv) Increase in territory of land and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration.	MTS 2025 Outcome(s) number/reference ⁵ (applicable for projects approved from 2022): OR POW Expected Accomplishment(s) number/reference ⁵ (applicable for projects approved pre-2022):	MTS 2025 Outcome: 2B: Sustainable management of nature is adopted and implemented in development frameworks. 2C: Nature conservation and restoration are enhanced.
	POW Output:		POW Expected Accomplishment:
Sub-programme:	Nature Action	Programme Coordination Project (if relevant):	Conservation
UNEP approval date:	15 November 2022	GEF approval date:	01 June 2022
GEF Operational Programme/Cycle # (e.g. GEF-7):	GEF-7	GEF Strategic Priority (e.g. BD4):	LD-1-4 LD-2-5
Focal Area(s):	Land Degradation		
Expected start date ⁶ :	02 June 2022	Actual start date: ⁷	16 November 2022
Planned completion date ⁶ :	30 September 2026	Actual operational completion date:	N/A
Planned project budget at approval:	GEF grant allocation: \$5,717,580		
	Expected co-financing: Cash: In-kind: \$15,092,080		

⁵ For these items do not include full text; only enter the number or reference.

⁶ Expected/planned dates are listed in the Project Document (ProDoc).

⁷ Actual start date is the date of the last signature on the PCA or ICA.

	Total planned budget: \$20,809,660		
Actual expenditures reported (cash only):	GEF grant expenditures reported as of 31 December 2025: \$1,377,340.97		
	Actual co-financing 31 December 2025: \$2,291,816		
	Total actual expenditures reported as of 31 December 2025: \$3,669,156.97		
No. of formal project revisions:	No project revisions	Date of last approved project revision:	N/A
No. of Steering Committee meetings:	6 PSC Meetings	Date of Last Steering Committee meeting:	27 May 2025
Mid-term Review/ Evaluation ⁸ (required or not required):	UNEP requirement:	Y	Mid-term Review/ Evaluation actual date: March 2026
	GEF requirement:	Y	
Terminal Evaluation (planned date):	30 March 2027	Terminal Evaluation actual date:	N/A
Coverage - Country(ies):	The Bahamas	Coverage - Region(s):	Latin America and the Caribbean
Dates of previous project phases:	N/A	Status of future project phases:	N/A

⁸ UNEP projects of four or more years duration require an MTR unless there is an exceptional circumstance. See the *Evaluation in the Project Cycle* section in the [Evaluation Office's operational manual](#). Donor requirements may vary and should be considered in conjunction with UNEP's requirements.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Background

1. The project “Integrated Landscape Management for Addressing Land Degradation, Food Security and Climate Resilience Challenges in The Bahamas” is being implemented with USD 5,717,580 funding from the Global Environment Facility and USD 15,092,80 in co-finance from a combination of government and non-government sources. The project’s actual start date was 16 November 2022 with a planned completion date of 30 September 2026. The project seeks to enhance climate-resilient food production across productive agricultural landscapes through sound Integrated Landscape Management and Land Degradation Neutrality approaches in The Bahamas, in an effort to reduce unsustainable agricultural practices and climate risks.

This Review

2. The review sought to assess project progress towards planned results and objectives, identify challenges it is facing, and recommend corrective actions to improve performance. It assesses performance against seven review criteria⁹ and assigns a score from a six-point scale¹⁰. The review was undertaken to analyse whether the project is on track, what problems or challenges the project is encountering, and what corrective actions are required. Data collection methods included: field observations, in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions and document reviews. Data analysis was based on applying triangulated data to assess performance against a reconstructed Theory of Change and its causal pathways.

Key Findings

3. The project has demonstrated strong performance in strengthening the enabling environment to achieve land degradation neutrality by obtaining Cabinet approval of the updated National Action Programme, acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament, the development of four policy papers inclusive of provisions for Land Degradation Neutrality target-setting to encourage investments in the agricultural sector, and conducted three training workshops to personnel of lead agencies with responsibility for land management. The project was also able to conduct a needs assessment for planting materials, established propagation sites in Andros and Abaco, conducted a Plant Propagation Certification Training Course, and conducted three composting site assessments. A framework for soil and water sampling analysis has been drafted and ten training curricula for farmers in Sustainable Land Management and Climate Smart Agriculture awareness have been developed. A certificate-based gender sensitive training on Sustainable Land Management Methods, Climate Smart Agriculture, and Market Access has been delivered in six target islands of the project, a Business

⁹ (1) Strategic Relevance; (2) Effectiveness (incl. availability of outputs; achievement of outcomes and likelihood of impact); (3) Financial Management; (4) Efficiency; (5) Monitoring and Reporting; (6) Sustainability and (7) Factors Affecting Project Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues.

¹⁰ The six-point scale is as follows: Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability and Likelihood of Impact are rated from Highly Likely (HL) down to Highly Unlikely (HU). The ratings against each criterion are ‘weighted’ to derive the Overall Project Performance Rating. The greatest weight is placed on the achievement of outcomes, followed by dimensions of sustainability.

Investment Plan Template has been developed, as well as a grant training curriculum, an Integrated Land Management grant criteria, and an Integrated Land Management Grant Facility. The project was also able to conduct a Requirements Analysis for the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System, a two-day key stakeholders' capacity building workshop for the said system and three knowledge sharing events.

4. In terms of rate of implementation, project activities that are delayed include the demonstration of restorative nature-based solutions on selected farms and degraded sites, construction of composting facilities, soil and water sampling collection and analysis, revision of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use carbon methodologies and tools, Sustainable Land Management and Climate Smart Agriculture models and associated trainings, upscaling of the Integrated Land Management Grant Facility, activities related to the installation and configuration of the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System, activities related to establishment and operationalization of an Environmental-Agrometeorological System, Knowledge Management, and implementation of a structured Communications Plan.
5. In consideration of the five Key Strategic Questions to be appraised in this review, in summary it was found that the project activities have integrated well with the work programme and strategies of the Ministry of Agriculture in its mission to achieve national food security and reducing the country's reliance on foreign food imports, complementing and strengthening efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture to sustainably manage agricultural lands. The project has done well at maintaining policy support as evidenced by high-level support by Cabinet and the Parliament and the support of key line ministries for policies developed and proposed by the project. Project stakeholders are supportive of the project, have been receptive to capacity building and consultation opportunities offered by the project thus far, and are optimistic that the project will deliver much more benefits once all planned outputs are achieved. Most collaborating partners have shown assertive leadership in embracing project activities and delivering anticipated returns. While the overall governance mechanism of the project is working well, concerns regarding conflict of interests with some collaborating partners suggesting that the Project Steering Committee to meet more frequently to review and approve project deliverables.

Table 2: Summary project ratings

Criterion	Rating
Strategic Relevance	HS
Effectiveness	MS
Financial Management	S
Efficiency	MS
Monitoring and Reporting	MS
Sustainability	ML
Factors Affecting Performance	MS
Overall Project Performance Rating at Mid-point	MS

Conclusions

6. Overall, the project performed at the **Moderately Satisfactory** level. The project has demonstrated great progress towards an Integrated Land Management Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality in the longer term, via the adoption of the updated National Action Programme and acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament. Coupled to these were capacity building activities for lead agencies with responsibility for land management, and the formulation of proposed land development policies inclusive of provisions for Land Degradation Neutrality target-setting. The project showed strong performance in efforts to incentivize the uptake and replication of Sustainable Land Management and climate resilient agriculture by engaging communities in the development of gender-sensitive business investment plans, a gender-sensitive grant criteria and gender-responsive grant facility for integrated Land Management, in addition to the associated training curriculum to build capacity of beneficiaries to access grants. The project was also able to show strong performance in the delivery of certificate-based gender sensitive training on Sustainable Land Management Methods in six target islands of the project. However, the project only showed moderate performance in restorative climate-smart agriculture, having designed ten training courses, but which are yet to be implemented; assessments for three composting facilities, but for which construction has not started; the inception of establishing three plant propagation facilities; and development of a framework for soil and water sampling analysis.
7. The project showed comparative weaknesses in the delivery of several key outputs required to support outcomes, including the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes; restorative climate-smart agriculture, integrated waste management tools, practices, approaches, technologies and capacity building to support expanded adoption of Sustainable Land Management and regenerative climate-smart agriculture practices; establishment of the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System to improve decision making by technical professionals, farmers, practitioners and other stakeholders; establishment of the environmental/ agrometeorological systems for land resource degradation and agro-climatic assessment; and the Knowledge Management Strategy and Plan and Communication Plan, both of which are critical for supporting the scaling up and mainstreaming of interventions by target beneficiaries including policy and technical support professionals, practitioners, and other beneficiaries.
8. The project's success to date can be attributed to leadership exercised by DEPP in securing political support from Cabinet for the updated National Action Programme, Project Management for leading and maintain a productive working relationship with collaborating partners, dedication and commitment from collaborating partners in capacity building activities to lead land management agencies, as well as support from line ministries for reforms to land development policies. The commitment of collaborating partners has been instrumental, especially for the substantial progress achieved under Component 3 and the moderate progress under component 2. Much work is needed to improve project performance in Components 2 and 4.

Lessons Learned

9. Lesson 1: Misinterpretation of the relative progress of activities contributing to the delivery of project outputs may lead to overestimation of progress in PIRs and at the mid-term.
10. Lesson 2: Reliance on the implied capacity of collaborating partners for the delivery of key project outputs in support of GEF Core Indicators is a high-risk strategy.
11. Lesson 3: Internal capabilities and readiness of the project's collaborating institutions must be assessed to determine if potential implementation risk exists and the degree of such risk, with required mitigation measures defined either in project design or at inception.

Recommendations

12. The findings of this review have produced a total of nine (9) key recommendations to improve project performance and enhance impact, and have been designed to incorporate issues requiring senior management attention.
13. Recommendation 1: Define missing baseline values for five (5) outcome performance indicators in the Project Results Framework, being:
 - 2.2. Farmer population adopting SLM and climate smart measures
 - 3.1(a). Number of agricultural-based investments that have access to markets that incorporate SLM and climate-smart approaches
 - 3.1(b). Productivity/ yield of farms participating in the programme
 - 4.1. Availability and utilization of new data products in national level reporting, research efforts and decision-making.
 - 4.2. Level of awareness among target beneficiaries (by community survey)
14. Recommendation 2: Complete the confirmation of landscape locations to constitute the 17,300 Ha to be subject to improved management to benefit biodiversity.
15. Recommendation 3: Advocate for and support the formulation of an overarching National Agriculture Development Policy inclusive of rationalisation for land use for The Bahamas.
16. Recommendation 4: Make adjustments to the project's governance arrangements to eliminate conflict of interest and improve efficiency.
17. Recommendation 5: Assess Attitude, Practices, and Behavioural Change to consolidate stakeholder support and as a proactive approach to ensure that stakeholders' perspectives and actions align with the project goals.
18. Recommendation 6: Consider a 24-months project extension to facilitate the full completion of the project activities to realize delivery of outputs.

19. **Recommendation 7:** Strengthen project monitoring by introducing indicators for Environmental and Social Safeguards and Human Rights.
20. **Recommendation 8:** Take steps to hasten communications and visibility that is needed to facilitate stakeholder buy-in.
21. **Recommendation 9:** Develop and implement an Exit Strategy for the project to outline how the project will transition, or terminate while minimizing risks, protecting investments, and sustaining benefits.

Table 3: Summary recommendation implementation plan

Rec Number	Approved (Yes/No/Partially)	Responsible Officer/Unit	Mechanism for Implementation
1	Yes	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP	The missing status/baseline values of the identified five (5) outcome indicators will be determined This data will be incorporated into an updated project results framework.
2	yes	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP	Continue working with the relevant team within the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources to confirm the spatial extent of the target acreage.
3	Partially	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP	The proposal to support the formulation of a national agricultural development policy inclusive of rationalization for land use is welcome. However, implementing this recommendation falls beyond the scope and capacity of the project, despite its clear relevance. A more appropriate recommendation may be to formulate an agricultural land policy that addresses the sustainable use of lands designated for agriculture and other related/complementary development.
4	Partially	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP	The composition of the PSC was agreed during project development and inception and has therefore been endorsed by the Government and stakeholders. As such, the designated agencies should remain. This is particularly important because these agencies play significant governance roles in the national agricultural development and environmental management sectors, notwithstanding that they are also resourced to undertake work under the project.
5	Yes	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP	A KAPB survey will be carried out at this time that will contribute to the baseline. The project will formulate the terms of reference and engage a consultant to undertake the survey.
6	Yes	Project Manager, Project Management Unit; Task Manager, UNEP	An extension request will be prepared for UNEP's consideration. The findings and recommendations of this MTR will inform the rationale for extension of the project.
7	Yes	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP; Task	The project team to revisit the Environmental and Social Safeguards (Appendix 15) and consider specific indicators for the safeguards triggered, specifically Safeguard Standards (SS) 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency and SS 8: Labor and working conditions. To be endorsed by the PSC.

		Manager, UNEP	
8	Yes	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP	The communications consultant that has been recruited must present the Knowledge Management Strategy and Plan and Communication Plan immediately for endorsement by the PSC and operationalized thereafter.
9	Yes	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP	This is to be drafted in consultation with the core project partners and the PSC to focus on the likely end-of-project capabilities of the lead agencies with responsibility for land and agriculture to carry on mainstreaming of the project outputs both at the policy and technical level. This should be done within the final 6 months of implementation.

II. THE PROJECT

A. Context

Intervention context

22. The Bahamas is an archipelago of 700 islands and cays surrounded by coral reefs and extensive sand flats. The islands are flat and low-lying and are composed of coral with a limestone base, covered by a thin layer of soil varying in fertility. The negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry have led the Government of The Bahamas to embrace agricultural investments to diversify the economy. The agricultural sector of the Bahamas, however, is plagued with unsustainable agricultural practices, illegal squatting, unregulated mining activities and limited groundwater reserves. Agricultural practices have led to significant land degradation on productive landscapes, coupled with the impacts of climate change, including flooding of agricultural lands. To address land degradation and reduce climate risks, the government sought and obtained funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the project “Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) for Addressing Land Degradation (LD), Food Security and Climate Resilience Challenges in The Bahamas” – (ILM Project). The ILM Project seeks to enhance climate-resilient food production across productive agricultural landscapes through sound Integrated Landscape Management and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) approaches in The Bahamas.

Institutional context

23. The project aligns with the GEF’s and UNEP’s strategic programs, applicable at the time of project design. The project is consistent with the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area (LD-1-4 Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape, and LD-2-5: Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Land Degradation Neutrality. The project is aligned with the 2022-2025 Medium Term Strategy of UNEP, contributing to Outcome 2B: Sustainable management of nature is adopted and implemented in development frameworks, and Outcome 2C: Nature conservation and restoration are enhanced. The project also aligns with UNEP’s Programme of Work 2022-2025, Direct Outcome 2(iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas, and Direct Outcome 2(iv) Increase in territory of land and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration. The project was approved for implementation by the GEF on 01 June 2022, by UNEP on 15 November 2022, with an actual start date of 16 November 2022, and a planned completion date of 30 September 2026. Secured GEF funding for the project is US\$5,717,580 with an in-kind co-financing commitment of US\$15,092,080, for a total project budget of US\$20,809,660. The project is implemented by UNEP’s GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Unit, Ecosystems Division, UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Office (LACO) and is executed by the Department of Environmental Planning & Protection (DEPP), in partnership with the

Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM), the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Sciences Institute (BAMSI), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Bahamas Development Bank (BDB) and the University of the Bahamas (UB).

B. Summary of Project Design Strengths and Weaknesses

24. **Project Design Strengths** - The problem and situation analysis clearly outlined all required contextual factors, baseline, and barrier analysis. The intervention logic contains clearly described causal pathways leading to intermediate states and desired impacts, drivers and assumptions, and output- and outcome-level results have indicators and targets. The stakeholder analysis was complete with government, non-government, civil society, and project beneficiary organizations identified and their roles in project implementation defined. A costed workplan, budget, and procurement plan were prepared. Co-financing expectations were defined and disaggregated by cash and in-kind. A budget for monitoring activities, including funds for Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation is included and references to cost-effectiveness strategies are addressed. Risks identification with corresponding mitigation measures was developed, covering risks associated with policy level buy-in, climate change, COVID-19, stakeholder buy-in, private sector apathy, land tenure, cost overruns, data sharing, and management protocols. Potential environmental, economic and social negative effects were addressed with the application of UNEP's Safeguards Risk Identification Form, an Environmental and Social Management Framework, and provisions for an Environmental and Social Management Plan. Governance and supervision arrangements are described including the roles of UNEP, DEPP, the PSC and the TAC. Strategies for scaling up, replication and catalytic action were described and plans for dissemination of results and lesson sharing addressed. Knowledge management and communications were addressed, including communications objectives, target audiences, focus of key messages, and communications channels and frequencies.
25. **Project Design Weaknesses** - The human rights-based approach is restricted to a gender context only. The operating context was not assessed to determine existing or future volatile scenarios. No assessment of capacity of partners was conducted during project design or at inception. There is no mention of alignment with the Bali Strategic Plan, however, South-South Cooperation is evidenced by the collaboration with CARDI and the knowledge exchange between the constituent countries via CARICOM. Only one (1) indicator has a baseline value, as evidenced in the Project Results Framework. Indicators for marginalized groups are limited primarily to gender, and in one case, for students. While linkages with other GEF and Non-GEF initiatives were highlighted, how the project is expected to interact with other initiatives to achieve efficiency and economies of scale is not properly articulated. The Project Results Framework does not contain monitoring data collection methods, responsibilities and frequency, given that the design was based on an earlier template. Disaggregation of monitoring data is restricted to male and female participation only. Institutional and financial sustainability were appropriately captured, but no socio-political or environmental sustainability were described. There is

no clearly articulated exit strategy, i.e., there is no evidence of a structured plan outlining how the project will transition, or terminate while minimizing risks, protecting investments, and sustaining benefits.

C. Results Framework

26. The objective of the project is to enhance climate-resilient food production across productive agricultural landscapes through sound Integrated Landscape Management and Land Degradation Neutrality approaches in The Bahamas. The project seeks to achieve these by strengthening the enabling environment for achievement of land degradation neutrality by supporting the adoption of enhanced ILM decision making frameworks to achieve LDN in key government agencies, thus improving policy and governance for ILM. The project supports the demonstration of regenerative agriculture and resilient food production systems, practices and technologies through implementation of restorative nature-based solutions for uptake by farmers, along with the associated training and capacity building in SLM and regenerative climate smart agriculture. The project also incentivizes uptake and replication of SLM and climate resilient agriculture by supporting farmers and community groups with gender-sensitive business investment plans and capacity building to facilitate enhanced production of agricultural and other value-added products from restored landscapes and access to markets. Coupled to the above is project support for evidence-based decision-making toward land degradation neutrality and agricultural production resilience and increased understanding and awareness of relevant environmental issues among decision makers, farmers, and the general public, to facilitate mainstreaming and scaling-up of project approaches and interventions.
27. The project's results hierarchy proposes that support for the implementation of an Integrated Land Management Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework to achieve LDN and the upgrading of policies, regulatory instruments, and incentive regimes to encourage investments will foster LDN integration across the agriculture sector. It advocates that the rehabilitation of productive landscapes using restorative nature-based solutions and climate-smart agriculture will achieve replicable demonstration of effective SLM. The project's results hierarchy also proposes that providing farmers with business investment plans, business development services, capacity building, and access to grants for eco-social business ventures will facilitate the uptake and replication of SLM and CSA. Finally, the project's intervention logic suggests that enhanced understanding for the mainstreaming and uptake of SLM and CSA approaches would be achieved if a National Environmental-Agricultural Production Information System, an agrometeorological systems for land resource degradation and agroclimatic assessment, and associated Knowledge Management and communication strategies are implemented.

Table 4: Summary of project's latest approved results framework (Source: ProDoc)

	Results Statement
Project objective	To enhance climate-resilient food production across productive agricultural landscapes through sound Integrated Landscape Management and Land Degradation Neutrality approaches in The Bahamas.

	Results Statement
Impact	Improved and sustainable crop yields and healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems toward improved livelihoods and well-being and expanded Global Environmental Benefits.
Intermediate state	1) Policy planning and development processes foster LDN integration; 2) Reduced degradation over 23,700 hectares under SLM and nature-based solutions and climate resilient agriculture systems; 3) Increased uptake and replication of SLM and climate resilient agriculture; and 4) Enhanced evidence-based decision-making on LDN among stakeholders.
Project outcomes	1.1: Three lead agencies with responsibility for land management in the Government of The Bahamas adopt an enhanced ILM decision making framework to achieve LDN in the longer term. 2.1: Effectiveness of SLM and regenerative CSA practices demonstrated in target islands with the results documented and disseminated to key stakeholders for replication. 2.2: Farmers and community producer groups trained and supported to adopt SLM and regenerative climate smart agricultural practices. 3.1: Communities contribute to develop, operationalize and replicate gender sensitive business investment plans and market access mechanisms to support livelihood enhancement. 4.1: Enhanced evidence-based decision-making to support evaluation toward land degradation neutrality and agricultural production resilience and contribution to GEBs in productive agricultural landscapes. 4.2: Increased understanding and awareness of relevant environmental issues among decision makers, farmers, the public, facilitate mainstreaming and scaling-up of project approaches and interventions.

	Results Statement
Outputs	1.1.1: Advisory and support services, including capacity building, to develop and implement an ILM Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework to achieve LDN in The Bahamas provided to selected personnel from at least 3 lead national agencies with responsibility for agricultural/rural land management. 1.1.2: Studies and recommendations conveyed in at least 5 policy papers to upgrade relevant land development policies, regulatory instruments and incentive regimes and specify how the LDN target-setting process will be integrated, to encourage investments in the agricultural sector towards LDN, made available to key audiences. 2.1.1: Degraded areas rehabilitated across 10,000 hectares of productive landscapes through demonstration and implementation of restorative nature-based solutions for uptake by farmers/stakeholders. 2.2.1: Suite of at least 10 SLM-LDN, restorative climate-smart agriculture, integrated waste management tools, practices, approaches, technologies and capacity building to support expanded adoption of SLM and regenerative climate-smart agriculture practices across 17,300 ha by at least 700 farmers. 3.1.1: Gender-sensitive business investment plans (inclusive of market access mechanisms), business development services and capacity building to facilitate enhanced production of agricultural and other value-added products from restored landscapes and access to markets made available to farmers and community groups. 3.1.2: Grant mechanism made available to support eco-social business ventures accessed by farmers and community groups. 4.1.1: National Environmental-Agricultural Production Information System (NEAPIS) developed and accessible through multi-stakeholder operational platforms for use to improve decision making by technical professionals, farmers, practitioners and other stakeholders. 4.1.2: Low-cost environmental/ agrometeorological systems for land resource degradation and agro-climatic assessment and accompanying capacity building designed and pilot-tested in six of the target islands by researchers, students, technical professionals and relevant community stakeholders for monitoring trends in land degradation, food system resilience and GEBs at multiple scales. 4.2.1: Knowledge Management Strategy and Plan and Communication Plan for the systematization, publication and dissemination of best practices / lessons learned, and enhancement of awareness using innovative technologies and digital tools to support the scaling up and mainstreaming of interventions by target beneficiaries including policy and technical support professionals, practitioners, other beneficiaries. 4.2.2: Suite of at least 15 specific public awareness resources, media outputs developed and made accessible for use by policy and technical support professionals, practitioners, other beneficiaries and wider civil society. 4.2.3: Series of at least 10 knowledge sharing events for exchanging lessons learned, information dissemination and networking organized and facilitated for participation among policy and technical support professionals, practitioners and other beneficiaries. 4.2.4: Project monitoring and evaluation system operating providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets.

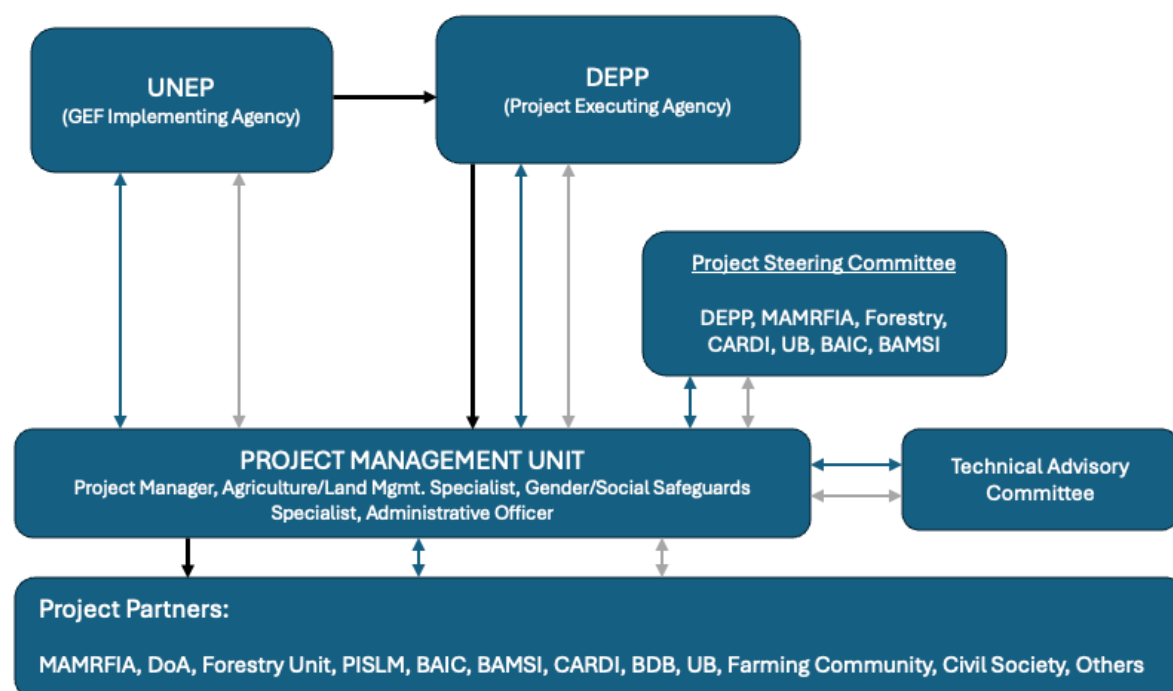
D. Project Implementation Structure and Partners

28. Coordination and overall project supervision is the responsibility of UNEP as the GEF's Implementing Agency, and The Bahamas Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP) is the project's Executing Agency. DEPP is responsible for day-to-day project execution through the support of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Project Coordinator. UNEP's Task Manager provides continuous support and works closely with project personnel in project implementation aspects related to UNEP and the GEF implementation requirements. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is composed

of four teams working for Components 1-4 and are considered partner collaborating institutions of the ILM Project. The PSC is tasked with ensuring that the project meets goals announced in the Project Result Framework by helping to balance conflicting priorities and resources. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides technical oversight, guidance and support during project implementation and is responsible for reviewing and providing recommendations on project methodological processes and activities to the PMU for its consideration.

29. Key partners in project delivery include the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Family Island Affairs (MAMRFIA), with technical support from the Department of Physical Planning, Department of Agriculture (DoA), and the Forestry Unit on all institutional and governance reform efforts by the project. The DEPP and the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) are leading project activities to upgrade the National Action Programme (to include LDN targets), relevant land development policies, regulatory instruments and incentive regimes. The DEPP, MAMRFIA, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the DoA, the Department of Environmental Health Services, and the Department of Lands and Surveys are key partners for the development of the ILM Strategy. The MAMRFIA and the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) will be the focus of SLM policy extension under the project. The Plant Propagation Management Committee supported by the project includes as its members MAMRFIA, DoA, Forestry Unit, Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI), and the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority. Other key partners include the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) that leads SLM and CSA efforts of the project, while BAMSI and BAIC lead capacity development for farmers. The Bahamas Development Bank (BDB) is instrumental in the development of grant mechanisms, while the University of the Bahamas (UB) leads the development of the National Environmental-Agricultural Production Information System, both supported by the project.

Figure 1: Organigram of the project with key project stakeholders



E. Stakeholders

30. Stakeholders were classified by type as defined in the table below in consideration of the possible impact they may have on project implementation and outcomes, and arranged according to Mendelow's Power-Influence/Interest¹¹ distribution.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder Type	Role in the Project	Power/Influence/Interest
Ministry of Agriculture Marine Resources and Family Island Affairs	Government	Guidance on policy and regulatory elements related to sustainable development of the agriculture and fisheries sectors and determine pathways for enhancing sustainability. High-level policy guidance on cross-sectoral integration .	High Power / High Interest
Department of Agriculture	Government	Technical guidance in identification of suite of climate-smart solutions, infrastructure requirements for restorative measures. Inputs on policy directions related to incorporation of SLM and enhancing enterprise development.	High Power / High Interest
Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP)	Government / Executing Agency	The DEPP is the Project Executing Agency and leads and coordinate the development of the project with stakeholders; it provides overall project management on a day-to-day basis, guiding all project interventions.	High Power / High Interest

¹¹ Stakeholder Analysis: Mendelow's Matrix. <https://bacoach.nl/2025/01/stakeholder-analysis-mendelows-matrix/>

Forestry Unit	Government	Provide expert advice on integration of forestry and agro-forestry systems in sustainable agriculture and land management for nature-based restorative solutions.	High Power / High Interest
Department of Physical Planning	Government	Policy guidance on land management and integration across other development sectors.	High Power / Low Interest
Department of Gender and Family Affairs	Government	Advisory roles in ensuring gender consideration and safeguards are adequately built into the project Activities.	High Power / High Interest
The Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC)	Government	Guidance in design of the enterprise development aspects of the project to include commodity marketing options.	High Power / Low Interest
Caribbean Agricultural Research and development Institute (CARDI)	International / Intergovernmental Organisation	Technical support on the demonstration of shade house technology for year-round vegetable production and the introduction of improved silvopastoral systems and housing designs for small ruminants.	High Power / High Interest
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) – no longer engaged with project given capacity challenges that emerged following project inception	International / Intergovernmental Organisation	Technical support and lead on restorative and climate-smart agriculture and related capacity building.	High Power / High Interest
Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM)	International / Intergovernmental Organisation	Guidance and regional cooperation support in component design in translating the UNCCD LDN framework to national policy and roles in knowledge dissemination to the wider Caribbean. PISLM is also involved in aligning the NAP to the current UNCCD Strategy.	High Power / Low Interest
Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)	International / Intergovernmental Organisation	Consultative partner on restorative and climate smart agriculture and silvopastoral systems.	Low Power / High Interest
The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI)	Academic / Research Institution	Guidance in design of the enterprise development and capacity building aspects of the project, and the incorporation of experiences from its research and demonstration facilities to design the climate-smart agriculture solutions.	High Power / High Interest
University of The Bahamas	Academic / Research Institution	Technical guidance on requirements for design and development of monitoring and knowledge management systems (KMS), and has implementation responsibilities for the configuration, installation, and management of the information management systems being supported by the project.	High Power / High Interest
Cat Island Conservation Institute	Academic / Research Institution	Consultative inputs to design of proposed monitoring systems and avenues for youth and community participation through evidence-based knowledge and participatory science.	Low Power / High Interest

One Eleuthera Foundation	Non – Governmental Organisation	Provide logistical guidance and assist in making the connections with stakeholders on the island of Eleuthera.	Low Power / High Interest
Friends of the Environment, Abaco	Non – Governmental Organisation	Guidance and information related to the channels of communications and knowledge sharing opportunities within the context of the communities of Abaco.	Low Power / High Interest
The Nature Conservancy	Non – Governmental Organisation	Guidance on channels of communications and knowledge sharing within The Bahamas with particular emphasis on the Family Islands and the potential roles of on the ground environmental awareness partners in the promotion of the awareness and local training.	Low Power / High Interest
Bahamas Development Bank	Private Sector / External Consultants	Consultative inputs on modalities for establishment and operation of the financial grant mechanism being supported by the project.	High Power / High Interest
Bahamas Agripreneur National Farmer Group	Private Sector / External Consultants	Consultation on proposed SLM practices in agriculture and required technical support; challenges in accessing agricultural lands, sustainable financing and management efficiencies.	Low Power / High Interest
Bahamas Network for Rural Women Producers	Private Sector / External Consultants	Consultation on proposed SLM practices in agriculture and required technical support; challenges in accessing agricultural lands, sustainable financing and management efficiencies.	High Power / Low Interest
Cat Island Farmers Association	Private Sector / External Consultants	Consultative inputs to design of proposed SLM practices in agriculture and required technical support.	High Power / Low Interest
Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers	Private Sector / External Consultants	Consultative inputs to design of proposed SLM practices in agriculture and required technical support.	High Power / Low Interest

F. Changes in Design during Implementation

31. There have been no key events that affected the project scope or parameters. There have been no costed or no-cost extensions of the project, and neither have there been any formal revisions. There are no new sources of funding for the project beyond what was approved by the GEF on 01 June 2022. To date, the project has not faced any external challenges such as natural disasters, political unrests or conflict of any kind.

G. Project Financing

32. The project falls under the Full-Size Project category of the GEF, with an overall project budget of USD\$20,809,660.00, comprising of a GEF allocation of USD\$5,717,580.00 and co-financing support of USD\$15,092,080.00, all in-kind, from various partners including

government institutions, academia, national technical institutes, NGOs, private sector organisations, and inter-governmental organisations. As of 31 December 2025, 36% of GEF funds had been disbursed and 24% has been expended as per Table 5 below.

Table 5: GEF Budget amount disbursement and Expenditures as at 31 December 2025

GEF project amount	5,717,580	
Date of disbursement	Amount	Percentages
11/01/2023	571,758.00	10
20/09/2024	200,000.00	3
27/03/2025	1,301,317.68	23
TOTAL DISBURSED as at 31 December 2025	2,073,075.68	36
Expenditures as at 31 December 2025	1,377,340.97	24%
Unspent balance as at 31 December 2025	4,340,239.03	76%

Detail - GEF expenditures by budget category and year to 31 December 2025

Expense category		Expenditure by year				Total
		2022	2023	2024	2025	
10	NATIONAL PROJECT PERSONNEL					
1101	National Project Coordinator	6,000.00	72,000.00	72,000.00	72,000.00	222,000.00
1102	Project Staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1120	Administrative Staff	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1201	International Consultants	0.00	0.00	0.00	38,384.00	38,384.00
1202	National Consultants	0.00	14,000.00	30,000.00	29,000.00	73,000.00
1601	Staff Travel & Transport	0.00	0.00	4,396.65	11,096.45	15,493.10
1999	SUB-TOTAL (NATIONAL PROJECT)	6,000.00	86,000.00	106,396.65	150,480.45	348,877.10
20	SUB CONTRACT COMPONENT					
2201	Sub Contract to governmental agencies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2301	Sub Contract to private firms	0.00	259,892.20	244,999.78	455,214.62	960,106.60
2999	SUB-TOTAL (SUB CONTRACT)	0.00	259,892.20	244,999.78	455,214.62	960,106.60
30	TRAINING COMPONENT					
3201	Training	0.00	2,828.75	-243.75	3,839.98	6,424.98
3301	Meetings	7,849.76	9,001.35	-116.25	3,405.00	20,139.86
3999	SUB-TOTAL (TRAINING)	7,849.76	11,830.10	-360.00	7,244.98	26,564.84
40	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT					
4101	Office supplies and consumables	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4102	Laboratory supplies and consumables	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4201	Non-Laboratory Purchase	0.00	1,290.30	0.00	1,008.70	2,299.00
4202	Laboratory Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4301	Office Premises	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4302	Research Facilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4999	SUB-TOTAL (EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES)	0.00	1,290.30	0.00	1,008.70	2,299.00
50	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT					
5101	Equipment maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	151.30	151.30
5201	Publication, Translation, Dissemination and reporting costs	0.00	5,497.59	1,035.10	0.00	6,532.69
5202	Audit Reports	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	12,500.00	16,000.00
5301	Communications (tel, fax, e-mail, etc..)	0.00	5,754.77	0.00	0.00	5754.77
5302	Others	0.00	0.00	3,389.43	7,665.24	11,054.67
5303	Technical Support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5999	SUB-TOTAL (MISCELLANEOUS)	0.00	11,252.36	7,924.53	20,316.54	39,493.43
9999	GRAND TOTAL	13,849.76	370,264.96	358,960.96	634,265.29	1,377,340.97

Table 6: Co-financing table (GEF projects only)

Co-financing (Type/Source)	UNEP own Financing (US\$1,000)		Government (US\$1,000)		Other* (US\$1,000)		Total (US\$1,000)		Total Disbursed (US\$1,000)
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
Grants									
Loans									
Credits									
Equity investments									
In-kind support			9,062	648	6,030	1,157	5,092	1,805	1,805
Other (*) -			0	235	0	251	0	486	486
Totals			9,062	883	6,030	1,408	5,092	2,291	2,291

* This refers to contributions mobilized for the project from other multilateral agencies, bilateral development cooperation agencies, NGOs, the private sector and beneficiaries.

III. REVIEW METHODS

33. In line with the UNEP Evaluation Policy¹² and the UNEP Programme and Project Management Manual¹³ the Mid-Term Review (MTR) is undertaken approximately half-way through project implementation to analyse whether the project is on track, what problems or challenges the project is encountering, and what corrective actions are required. The review has two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote operational improvement, learning and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned.
34. The main target audiences for the review findings are UNEP, the DEPP, Government of The Bahamas, the Project Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and project partners and collaborators, including NGOs, civil society organizations, local farmer communities, and other stakeholders directly involved in or affected by the project, including the Bahamas Network for Rural Women Producers, the Cat Island Farmers Association, and the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers, among others.

A. Data Collection

Primary data sources

35. **Interviews, Questionnaire, and Site Visits** – Primary data were collected through stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and site visits to assess specific, real-time impacts, outcomes, and progress of project implementation. This approach ensured high accuracy, relevance to tailored MTR questions, and deeper, current insights into beneficiary experiences and project effectiveness. Stakeholders that were not available for either physical or virtual in-person interviews were provided with an electronic semi-structured questionnaire developed based on the questions in the MTR Evaluation Framework in Annex I of the Inception Report. Site visits were conducted to obtain first-hand observations of project activities in the field and to engage project partners and beneficiaries in focus group discussions on project progress and challenges.
36. The criteria to select respondents for the MTR process was guided by the project's objectives, the need for diverse perspectives, and the requirement for information-rich data to ensure MTR credibility, depth, and usability of the findings. Respondents were chosen based on their direct connection to the project, ensuring they possess the knowledge required to answer the MTR questions. Respondents included direct beneficiaries such as stakeholders involved in implementation, management, or funding, and indirect beneficiaries including community members or partners affected by the project's outcomes. In the selection of respondents, in addition to diversity of perspectives, the MTR sought to obtain demographic variety, geographic coverage, and the capture of opposing views. The criteria to select sites visited was based on those receiving direct project investments and where both project successes and challenges may be observed *in-situ*, coupled to possibilities of convening focus group discussions

¹² <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/41114>

¹³ <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/42752>

with project stakeholders and beneficiaries in the field. A total of twenty-two persons were engaged in the review and included thirteen females and nine males, from ten organisations. Project sites were visited at three locations: New Providence, Grand Bahama, and Abaco. Of the stakeholders listed in Annex II, UNEP staff and representatives of the University of The Bahamas and the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management were engaged virtually; all others were engaged via physical in-person interviews, with the exception of one person from the Bahamas Development Bank who provided written responses to the MTR questionnaire.

Table 7: Review respondents and field visits

Stakeholders - Individuals			A. Total number involved (M/F)	B. Number contacted (M/F)	Sample size (% B/A) ¹⁴	C. Total number responded Total (M/F)	Response rate (% C/B) ¹⁵
Project Team	Project Team (with management responsibilities e.g. Project Management Unit)	Implementing agency	2M/1F	2M/1F	100%	2M/1F	100%
		Executing agency(ies)	3F/1M	3F/1M	100%	3F/1M	100%
Beneficiaries	Direct Beneficiaries: (e.g. duty bearers, gatekeepers, training participants, etc.)		3M/5F	3M/5F	100%	3M/5F	100%
	Indirect Beneficiaries: (e.g. household members, civil society representatives, group members, etc.)		3M/4F	3M/4F	100%	2M/4F	85.7%
Stakeholders - Entities			A. Total number involved	B. Number contacted	Sample size (% B/A) ¹⁶	C. Total number responded	Response rate (% C/B) ¹⁷
Partners	Project implementing/ executing partners (receiving project funds)		7	7	100%	5	71.4%
	Project collaborating/ contributing partners ¹⁸ (not receiving project fund)		6	6	100%	5	83.3%
Field Visits		Region / country / locality ¹⁹	A. Total number sites	B. Number sites visited	Sample Size (%B/A) ²⁰		
		Latin America and the Caribbean	7	3	43%		

Strategies for inclusivity

¹⁴ Percentage of people involved in the project who were contacted.

¹⁵ Percentage of people contacted who responded.

¹⁶ Percentage of entities involved in the project who were contacted.

¹⁷ Percentage of entities contacted who responded.

¹⁸ Contributing partners may be providing resources as either cash or in-kind inputs (e.g. staff time, office space etc.).

¹⁹ In case of a global project, the unit of analysis is 'region'. In case of a regional or multi-country project, the unit of analysis is 'country'. In case of a single country project, the unit of analysis is 'locality', which could refer to a city, town, village, etc.

²⁰ Percentage of total number project sites in each region, country or locality that were visited.

37. To ensure the inclusion of women and potentially vulnerable segments of beneficiaries that are relevant to the project, the review exercised great flexibility in offering multiple modes (in-person, focus groups, virtual) of engagement for women, men, and potentially vulnerable segments of beneficiaries, including the possibility to offer women-only spaces if necessary or requested. This approach allowed participants to speak openly without fear of retaliation or domination by more powerful groups, and allowed for divergent views to be manifested freely. Through-out the review process, MTR questions were presented in a simple and easily understandable form, and all efforts were made to foster a safe and trusting environment that enables stakeholders' inputs to the MTR process.

Secondary data sources

38. **Desk Review** – The reviewer conducted a comprehensive desktop that involved collecting and analysing existing, readily available information about the project, as a key step to understanding the context, problem statement, objectives, intervention logic, stakeholders and partners, identification of trends and challenges in project implementation. Relevant background documentation reviewed included: documents from inception meetings; Steering Committee meeting documents; technical project reports; sector studies; training agendas and participant lists; project communications materials; links to relevant knowledge sharing platforms; the Project Document and Appendices; project design documents; Annual Work Plans and Budgets; Project Results Framework; Half-Year Progress Reports (HYPRs); Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports; financial reports; documents evidencing project activities by collaborating partners; other technical meeting minutes; Evaluations/Reviews of similar projects; and other documents of relevance available on UNEP's Anubis platform.

a. Data Analysis

39. A mix of qualitative and quantitative methods were used to evaluate progress, efficiency, and effectiveness. Key approaches included comparative analysis, and trend analysis, involving desk reviews, stakeholder interviews, and surveys to identify necessary adjustments and lessons learned. Quantitative analysis focused on analysing performance indicators, budgetary spending rates, and milestone completion percentages against the original Project Results Framework, budget, and planned timeline. Thematic analysis was used to understand the context, challenges, and "why" behind performance numbers. Process evaluation focused on how the project is being implemented to identify operational strengths, bottlenecks, and weaknesses. A theoretic analysis was conducted to assess if the project's logic model is holding true or if the context has changed, requiring an adjustment in strategy.

b. Limitations and Mitigation Strategies

40. Limitations to the MTR review included unresponsiveness from some key project partners, the departure of a key project partner leaving a void in the delivery of some project activities, the distance between project sites and the logistical complications and costs of

moving between islands to visit project sites . The Mid-Term Review Budget is not enough to visit project sites on all seven (7) islands prioritized for interventions by the project. Stakeholders seem to be able to speak only about those aspects of the project they are directly involved in, but are unable to articulate what the project is doing otherwise.

c. Ethical Considerations

41. Throughout this review process and in the compilation of the Final Review Report, efforts have been made to represent the views of both mainstream and more marginalised groups. Data were collected with respect for ethics and human rights issues. All pictures were taken, and other information gathered after prior informed consent from people, all discussions remained anonymous, and all information was collected according to UNEG guidelines and UN 'Standards of Conduct'.

IV. THEORY OF CHANGE AT REVIEW

42. In UNEP evaluations, and consistent with the GEF Theory of Change Primer (STAP Advisory Document)²¹, the TOC is used to illustrate the logical sequence of intended changes or “causal pathways”, showing the causal linkages between changes at different results levels and identifies the factors influencing those changes (means-ends relationships). The objective of the ILM Project is to enhance climate resilient food production across productive agricultural landscapes through sound ILM and LDN approaches in The Bahamas. This section presents the project’s results framework at design (Table 8) and the drivers and assumptions that are necessary to transition between results levels (Table 9). No reformulations are proposed to the results framework, drivers or assumptions in the TOC at Review.

Table 8: Justification for reformulation of results statements

Formulation in original project document(s) – <i>insert source/date</i>	Formulation for reconstructed ToC at review inception (RTOC)	Justification for reformulation and/or consultant’s explanatory notes on the interpretation ²² of the result
(LONG LASTING) IMPACT		
Improved and sustainable crop yields and healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems toward improved livelihoods and well-being and expanded Global Environmental Benefits.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
INTERMEDIATE STATES		
1) Policy planning and development processes foster LDN integration.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
2) Reduced degradation over 23,700 hectares under SLM and nature-based solutions and climate resilient agriculture systems.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
3) Increased uptake and replication of SLM and climate resilient agriculture.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
4) Enhanced evidence-based decision-making on LDN among stakeholders.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
PROJECT OUTCOMES		
1.1: Three lead agencies with responsibility for land management in the Government of The Bahamas adopt an enhanced ILM decision making framework to achieve LDN in the longer term.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
2.1: Effectiveness of SLM and regenerative CSA practices demonstrated in target islands with the results documented and disseminated to key stakeholders for replication.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A

²¹ Stafford Smith, M. 2020. *Theory of Change Primer, A STAP Advisory Document*. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, D.C.

²² In some instances, the results statement may not need to be reformulated, but implied meanings need to be made explicit or understanding clarified. In other cases, it may be necessary to specify the stakeholder, etc.

2.2: Farmers and community producer groups trained and supported to adopt SLM and regenerative climate smart agricultural practices.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
3.1: Communities contribute to develop, operationalize and replicate gender sensitive business investment plans and market access mechanisms to support livelihood enhancement.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
4.1: Enhanced evidence-based decision-making to support evaluation toward land degradation neutrality and agricultural production resilience and contribution to GEBs in productive agricultural landscapes.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
4.2: Increased understanding and awareness of relevant environmental issues among decision makers, farmers, the public, facilitate mainstreaming and scaling-up of project approaches and interventions.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
OUTCOME INDICATORS [comment if relevant]		
N/A	N/A	N/A
OUTPUTS		
1.1.1: Advisory and support services, including capacity building, to develop and implement an ILM Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework to achieve LDN in The Bahamas provided to selected personnel from at least 3 lead national agencies with responsibility for agricultural/rural land management.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
1.1.2: Studies and recommendations conveyed in at least 5 policy papers to upgrade relevant land development policies, regulatory instruments and incentive regimes and specify how the LDN target-setting process will be integrated, to encourage investments in the agricultural sector towards LDN, made available to key audiences.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
2.1.1: Degraded areas rehabilitated across 10,000 hectares of productive landscapes through demonstration and implementation of restorative nature-based solutions for uptake by farmers/stakeholders.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
2.2.1: Suite of at least 10 SLM-LDN, restorative climate-smart agriculture, integrated waste management tools, practices, approaches, technologies and capacity building to support expanded adoption of SLM and regenerative climate-smart agriculture practices across 17,300 ha by at least 700 farmers.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
3.1.1: Gender-sensitive business investment plans (inclusive of market access mechanisms), business development services and capacity building to facilitate enhanced production of agricultural and other value-added products from restored landscapes and access to markets made available to farmers and community groups.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
3.1.2: Grant mechanism made available to support eco-social business ventures accessed by farmers and community groups.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
4.1.1: National Environmental-Agricultural Production Information System (NEAPIS) developed and accessible through multi-stakeholder operational platforms for use to improve decision making by technical professionals, farmers, practitioners and other stakeholders.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
4.1.2: Low-cost environmental/ agrometeorological systems for land resource degradation and agro-climatic assessment and accompanying capacity	No reformulation proposed.	N/A

building designed and pilot-tested in six of the target islands by researchers, students, technical professionals and relevant community stakeholders for monitoring trends in land degradation, food system resilience and GEBs at multiple scales.		
4.2.1 Knowledge Management Strategy and Plan and Communication Plan for the systematization, publication and dissemination of best practices / lessons learned, and enhancement of awareness using innovative technologies and digital tools to support the scaling up and mainstreaming of interventions by target beneficiaries including policy and technical support professionals, practitioners, other beneficiaries.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
4.2.2: Suite of at least 15 specific public awareness resources, media outputs developed and made accessible for use by policy and technical support professionals, practitioners, other beneficiaries and wider civil society.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
4.2.3: Series of at least 10 knowledge sharing events for exchanging lessons learned, information dissemination and networking organized and facilitated for participation among policy and technical support professionals, practitioners and other beneficiaries.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
4.2.4: Project monitoring and evaluation system operating providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
OUTPUT INDICATORS [comment if relevant]		
N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 9: Justification for reformulation / expansion of drivers and assumptions

Formulation in original project document(s) – insert source/date	Formulation for reconstructed ToC at review inception (RTOC)	Justification for reformulation and/or consultant's explanatory notes on the interpretation²³ of the driver or assumption
DRIVERS		
1. Issues of land degradation as a result of unsustainable practices are of national priority and there is focused attention to address negative impacts (soil fertility decline, reduced agricultural productivity) and degraded ecosystems services.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
2. Climate crisis and impacts in terms of extreme events will drive policy directives in moving toward LDN through SLM and adoption of CSA.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
3. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and vulnerability of the tourism sector highlight the need for a diversified economic base to include agriculture.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A

²³ In some instances, the drivers or assumptions may not need to be reformulated, but implied meanings need to be made explicit or understanding clarified. In other cases, it may be necessary to add driver and assumptions that were not previously identified in the original TOC or results framework.

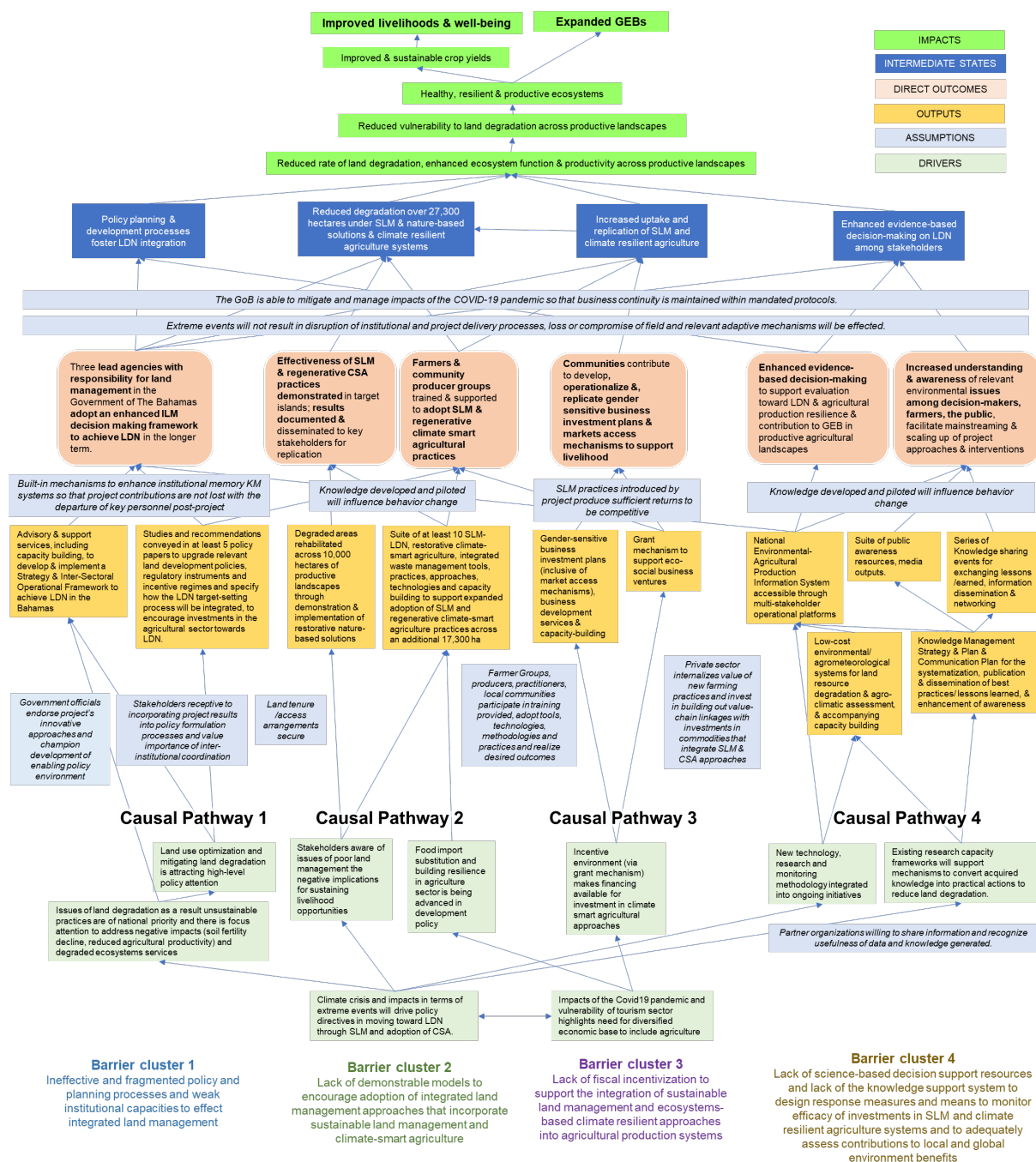
4. Land use optimisation and mitigating land degradation is attracting high-level policy attention.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
5. Stakeholders aware of issues of poor land management and negative implications for sustaining livelihood opportunities.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
6. Food import substitution and building resilience in the agriculture sector is being advanced in development policy.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
7. An incentive environment (via a grant mechanism) makes financing available for investments in climate smart agriculture approaches.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
8. New technology, research, and monitoring methodology integrated into ongoing initiatives.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
9. Existing research capacity frameworks will support mechanisms to convert acquired knowledge into practical actions to reduce land degradation.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
ASSUMPTIONS		
1. Partner organisations to share information and recognise usefulness of data and knowledge generated.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
2. Government officials endorse the project's innovative approaches and champion development of enabling policy environment.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
3. Stakeholders receptive to incorporating project results into policy formulation processes and value importance of inter-institutional coordination.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
4. Land tenure/access secure.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
5. Farmer Groups, producers, practitioners, and local communities participate in training provided, adopt tools, technologies, methodologies and practices and realise desired outcomes.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
6. Private sector internalises value of new farming practices and invests in building value chain linkages in commodities that integrate SLM and CSA approaches.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
7. Built-in mechanisms to enhance institutional memory of KM systems so that project contributions are not lost with the departure of key personnel post-project.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
8. Knowledge developed and piloted will influence behaviour change.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A
9. SLM practices introduced by the project produce sufficient returns to be competitive.	No reformulation proposed.	N/A

43. An assessment by the reviewer of the project's overall intervention logic and Theory of Change confirmed that no changes to the Project Results Framework, assumptions or drivers are necessary, and as such, the TOC graphic presented at CEO Endorsement is used in this Main MTR Report as the 'TOC at Review'. The primary sources of information used to inform the TOC assessment included the GEF CEO Endorsement Document and annexes, The UNEP Project Document and annexes, the Project Results Framework, the project's Half-Yearly Progress Reports, Project Implementation Reviews, the Gender Strategy & Action Plan, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Guidance Document, technical reports produced by collaborating partners, completed stakeholder questionnaires, and stakeholder inputs from virtual and in-person engagements. The triangulation of information from these multiple sources was critical to confirm the continued existence and relevance of the causal linkages between changes at different results levels.

44. The project's TOC identifies system drivers of policy change that are moving towards LDN through SLM and adoption of CSA, and the need to reduce vulnerability and exposure by diversifying the economic base from tourism alone to include agriculture. The TOC advocates that achieving LDN can lead to the desired impacts of improved and sustainable crop yields and healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems toward improved livelihoods and well-being and expanded GEBs. To achieve this, the following intermediate states must be attained: (a) the institution of policy, planning and development processes that foster LDN integration, (b) reduction of land degradation through restorative SLM, nature-based solutions and climate resilient agriculture systems, (c) uptake and replication of SLM and CSA, and (d) enhancement of evidence-based decision-making on LDN. As outlined below, the TOC presents four (4) causal pathways including drivers of positive change and assumptions for achieving the desired intermediate states, impacts, and GEBs.
45. **Causal Pathway 1 – IF** support to implement an Integrated Land Management Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework to achieve LDN is provided to agencies for agricultural/rural land management; and **IF** policies, regulatory instruments, and incentive regimes are upgraded to encourage investments in the agricultural sector towards LDN; **THEN** policy, planning and development processes that foster LDN integration would have been achieved. This pathway assumes government will embrace the development of the enabling policy environment and stakeholders value inter-institutional coordination.
46. **Causal Pathway 2 – IF** degraded productive landscapes are rehabilitated through restorative nature-based solutions for uptake by farmers/stakeholders, and **IF** restorative climate-smart agriculture, integrated waste management tools, practices, technologies, and capacity building is supported for expanded adoption of SLM and regenerative climate-smart agriculture; **THEN** replicable demonstration of effective SLM and regenerative climate smart agriculture would have been achieved. This pathway assumes that stakeholders and community farmer groups will be receptive to the training and tools provided and that SLM will produce sufficient returns to be competitive.
47. **Causal Pathway 3 – IF** gender-sensitive business investment plans, business development services and capacity building to enhance production of agricultural products from restored landscapes are made available to farmers; and **IF** a gender-responsive grant mechanism is accessible to farmers and community groups to support eco-social business ventures; **THEN** the uptake and replication of SLM and CSA would have been facilitated with participation by female and male farmers. This pathway assumes that the private sector will internalize new farming practices and invest in commodities that integrate SLM and CSA approaches.
48. **Causal Pathway 4 – IF** A National Environmental-Agricultural Production Information System is developed and accessible through multistakeholder operational platforms; **IF** Low-cost agrometeorological systems for land resource degradation and agroclimatic assessment is designed and pilot tested for monitoring trends in land degradation, food system resilience and GEBs at multiple scales; and **IF** a gender-responsive Knowledge Management Strategy and Communication Plan for the systematization, publication and dissemination of best practices lessons learned is implemented; **THEN** enhanced

understanding for the mainstreaming and uptake of SLM and CSA approaches would have been achieved. This pathway assumes that partner agencies will share knowledge and that knowledge developed and piloted will influence behaviour change.

Figure 2. Theory of Change at Review



V. REVIEW FINDINGS

49. This section provides an analysis of all triangulated data relevant to the parameters of the review criteria. Review findings are presented in an objective manner, relate to the review objectives/questions, and are supported by indicative evidence. “Factors Affecting Performance” are discussed as appropriate in each of the review criteria as cross-cutting issues, and associated ratings are provided at the end of the assessment of each review criterion. The complete ratings table is included under the Conclusions below.

A. Strategic Relevance

Alignment to UNEP’s, Donors’ and Countries’ (global, regional, sub-regional and national) Strategic Priorities

	Assessment and Evidence of Alignment with Strategic Priorities	Level of alignment <i>full, partial, or not at all</i>
UNEP Priorities	MTS (2022-2025)²⁴ : The project contributes to Outcome 2B: Sustainable management of nature is adopted and implemented in development frameworks, and Outcome 2C: Nature conservation and restoration are enhanced POW (2022-2025)²⁵ : The project contributes to Direct Outcome 2(iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas, and Direct Outcome 2(iv) Increase in territory of land and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building²⁶ : South-South Cooperation²⁶: Collaboration with CARDI and knowledge exchange via CARICOM.	Full Full Not at all Partial
Donor Priorities	The project is consistent with the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area (LD-1-4 Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape, and LD-2-5: Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN).	Full
Country / Regional / Global Priorities	The project is aligned with the UNCCD call for updating and strengthening National Action Programmes (NAPs); with the country’s Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC); and	Full

²⁴ Refer to the MTS under which the project was approved.

²⁵ Refer to the POW under which the project was approved.

²⁶ If applicable.

	with the integrated ecosystem management approach for biodiversity conservation prescribed in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).	
Complementarity/Coherence with other interventions	The project's proposed outcomes complement the following three projects: GEF-UNEP Bahamas Pine Islands (BPI) Forest/Mangrove Innovation and Integration; GEF-UNEP Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas; and GEF-UNEP Implementing Land, Water and Ecosystem Management (IWEco) in The Bahamas.	Full

Findings Statements on Strategic Relevance and Complementarity

50. The project has contributed to the updating of the NAP and the voluntary LDN target setting process, as well as to the three Tiers of Programme Planning, by developing science-based assessments of land conditions and the identification of existing data gaps and promotion of awareness of the causes and effects of land degradation. The project is contributing to adaptation measures articulated in the INDC in respect to enhancing resilience through ongoing investment in SLM and climate-smart agricultural systems being piloted with project support to enhance carbon sequestration and soil carbon storage. The project is supporting the integrated ecosystem management approach to biodiversity conservation through investments in support of comprehensive planning for sustainable agriculture including conservation and improvement of agricultural soils, programmes of integrated pest management, agricultural systems that are environmentally friendly and evaluation and adoption of new product technologies.
51. Current project investments complement recently concluded efforts by other initiatives in The Bahamas to integrate biodiversity considerations and ecosystem services into forest management and land use planning and in the development of sustainable land and forestry management and contribute to sustainable livelihoods. Project investments also complement other ongoing investments in the country to strengthen management of marine protected areas and their integration into broader landscape planning to reduce pressures on ecosystem services and biodiversity from competing resource uses. Project activities complement those of the GEF IWEco project that is developing a model of integrated land, water and ecosystem management for The Bahamas and other Small Island Developing States, as well as the implementation of innovative solutions for maintenance of ecosystem health in East Grand Bahama, strengthening of environmental monitoring and evaluation systems, and the policy, legislative and institutional enabling environment in support of natural resource management and enhance knowledge exchange and best practices.

Rating for Strategic Relevance: **Highly Satisfactory**

a. Effectiveness

Table 10: Availability of Outputs

Outputs/Performance	Narrative Assessment of Progress	Sources of Information/Evidence
1.1.1: Advisory and support services, including capacity building, to develop and implement an ILM Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework to achieve LDN in The Bahamas provided to selected personnel from at least 3 lead national agencies with responsibility for agricultural/rural land management. Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) Performance is exceptional with the mid-term target having been exceeded. As a general observation, for all trainings supported by the project, female participants are higher than male participants. Overall performance at the mid-term for the delivery of this output is estimated at 95%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: Cabinet approval and adoption of the updated National Action Programme (NAP) and acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament provides a higher level of legitimacy and institutionalization of project outputs than what was originally intended in project design. This is further manifested by the government's support to the process for developing the Land Registration Bill and the Land Adjudication Bill.	The project has made substantial progress in the development, approval, and operationalization of an ILM Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework, having achieved Cabinet approval and adoption of the updated National Action Programme (NAP) and acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament. Three (3) of four (4) planned targeted trainings and workshops with lead agencies with responsibility for land management have been conducted focusing on the NAP alignment with the UNCCD, review and strengthening of the aligned NAP, and validation of the Land Assessment Report of The Bahamas. The project also complemented efforts to develop the Land Registration Bill and the Land Adjudication Bill, both of which will contribute significantly to ILM and SLM objectives. Level of delivery at mid-point: partially (almost fully).	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Final Aligned NAP Final National Land Assessment Report
1.1.2: Studies and recommendations conveyed in at least 5 policy papers to upgrade relevant land development policies, regulatory instruments and	The project has made substantial progress in the formulation of proposed land development policies inclusive of provisions for LDN target-setting to encourage investments in the agricultural sector	Haly Yearly Progress Reports

incentive regimes and specify how the LDN target-setting process will be integrated, to encourage investments in the agricultural sector towards LDN, made available to key audiences. Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) Performance is exceptional with the mid-term target having been exceeded. Overall performance at the mid-term for the delivery of this output is estimated at 80%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: Optimism and commitment by project principals at the Forest Department and the Bahamas National Trust to champion LDN target-setting and investments in the agricultural sector towards LDN beyond 'policy papers' to legal incorporation in the Forestry Act and the Bahamas National Trust bylaws.	towards LDN, having developed four (4) of five thus far: 1. Integrated Coastal Forest Land Use Planning; 2. Mandatory Re vegetation and Native Species Restoration; 3. Incentives for Sustainable Agro Forestry and Community Based Management; 4. Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System. There is an intention that these proposed policies will be incorporated in the planned amendment of the Forestry Act and the Bahamas National Trust bylaws, consistent with the findings and recommendations of a Gap Analysis on Existing Land Management Related Legislations by the PISLM. However, it is important to note that the scope of the project's delivery of this output, and consistent with the Project Results Framework, is to deliver '<i>policy papers that support ILM and promote SLM</i>' independent of whether these are incorporated into existing or new Acts. Level of delivery at mid-point: partially.	Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Gap Analysis on Existing Land Management Related Legislations
2.1.1: Degraded areas rehabilitated across 10,000 hectares of productive landscapes through demonstration and implementation of restorative nature-based solutions for uptake by farmers/stakeholders. Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) Performance in the delivery of this output is moderate with some mid-term targets met, with overall performance estimated at 38%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery:	The project's contract with IICA was cancelled after almost two years of challenges in quality and timeliness of delivery, resulting in delay in the implementation of the National Land Assessment and other Component 2 activities. In an effort to address the technical gap created by the departure of IICA, the project hired an Agronomist and a Composting Expert and created spaces for other collaborating partners (BAMSI, CARDI, BDB, PISLM) to have a greater institutional presence in project implementation. A needs assessment for planting materials has been conducted, with strong collaboration and engagement with local agricultural stakeholders, extension officers, community leaders, and the Ministry of Agriculture, resulting in enhanced trust and participation from farmers, and effective communication. Project efforts to establish demonstration of restorative nature-based solutions on	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Certificates of Environmental Clearance Framework for Soil and Water Quality Monitoring to Support Regenerative Agriculture and Climate Resilience in The Bahamas

The project's demonstrated resilience in moving forward with all activities under this output, notwithstanding the delays and distractions caused by the non-performance of IICA.	selected farms and degraded sites is delayed, even though an outline of a structured and phased approach to establishing and monitoring demonstration models of nature-based solutions on selected farms and degraded landscapes has been prepared. This will allow for the program to be implemented in successive phases to ensure adequate preparation, participatory implementation and systematic evaluation of results. MOUs for target areas to establish Plant Propagation Facilities were completed along with the required Certificate of Environmental Clearance which initially delayed the process; the establishment of the first propagation site is on-going in the islands of Andros and Abaco. The project has completed the Plant Propagation Certification Training Course as planned. Three (3) composting sites assessments have been conducted to date. The project has identified local potential engineers who could do the actual construction of the composting facilities based on the approved design, recognizing that the procurement of works is a lengthy process. A framework for soil and water sampling analysis has been drafted with the actual sampling activity in its inception phase. The project has initiated exploratory talks with the Bahamas based Agricultural and Environmental (Multi-Purpose) Cooperative Society Ltd for a potential professional engagement to review, and revise AFOLU carbon methodologies and tools for all forest carbon accounting and support agricultural methodologies Level of delivery at mid-point: Partially.	Needs assessment for planting materials National Land Assessment Report - Bahamas
2.2.1: Suite of at least 10 SLM-LDN, restorative climate-smart agriculture, integrated waste management tools, practices, approaches, technologies and capacity building to support expanded adoption of SLM and regenerative climate-smart agriculture practices across 17,300 ha by at least 700 farmers.	Ten (10) training courses have been designed for a hybrid approach using webinar with practical sessions in person for selected topics; the curriculum has been finalized and educational and human resources required identified through joint intervention by three (3) major collaborators: BAMSI, CARDI and BDB. Actual trainings are currently underway. The identification and upscale of effective SLM-LDN regenerative CSA models, the implementation of Train-	Half Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team

Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) Performance in the delivery of this output is delayed, and mid-term targets have not been met; overall performance estimated at 36.9%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: The commitment of BAMSI, CARDI and BDB to push on with their roles in the delivery of this output notwithstanding the absence of IICA has significantly contributed to the implementation progress obtained thus far.	the-Trainer Workshops on upscaling SLM-LDN regenerative CSA models, online courses on climate-smart agricultural systems and SLM, and the preparation and distribution of SLM Training Manuals are delayed due to re-assignment of work originally under the IICA partnership. Of note is the pending need to complete the identification of landscapes parcels to constitute the 17,300 Ha to be subject to improve management practices to benefit biodiversity. Some of the land originally identified have been re-purposed since project start-up, for example, for housing. Level of delivery at mid-point: Partially.	Interviews with collaborating partners
3.1.1: Gender-sensitive business investment plans (inclusive of market access mechanisms), business development services and capacity building to facilitate enhanced production of agricultural and other value-added products from restored landscapes and access to markets made available to farmers and community groups. Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) Performance in the delivery of this output is on track, with mid-term targets being met; overall performance estimated at 78%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: BAMSI and BDB have demonstrated a strong commitment to the project intended goals and outcomes and are contributing significantly to project performance at the mid-term.	The project through its collaborative partner BAMSI, has developed and delivered certificate-based gender sensitive training on SLM Methods, CSA, and Market Access in six (6) of the seven target islands of the project. The BDB has developed a draft Business Investment Plan Template, but which still needs to be finalized and approved by the PMU and the PSC. The BDB also developed a grant training curriculum to support targeted capacity building for prospective beneficiaries in grant access, with the actual training ongoing. A gender specialist was engaged by the BDB to conduct a gender analysis that will inform design and refinement of the ILM grant criteria, training content and market integration interventions, ensuring that project activities respond to gender specific barriers and post-COVID 19 recovery opportunities. Level of delivery at mid-point: Partially.	Half Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners

3.1.2: Grant mechanism made available to support eco-social business ventures accessed by farmers and community groups Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) Performance is on track with the mid-term target having been met. Overall performance at the mid-term is 59.3%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: The BDB has demonstrated a strong commitment to the project intended goals and outcomes and is contributing significantly to project performance at the mid-term.	The BDB has developed an ILM grant facility to stimulate agricultural productivity and market integration by providing targeted financial support to farmers. The facility leverages existing lending infrastructure, institutional expertise, and relationships within the agriculture sector to finance SLM and climate-smart agribusinesses. The BDB has initiated the grant roll-out process with an identified list of active farmers, organizations, & learning entities currently implementing SLM practices, and with the release of grants conditional upon beneficiaries' completion of the required trainings. The BDB has also designed a monitoring plan for the grants program, and seeks to institutionalize sustainability by mainstreaming tools, templates and investments frameworks into BDB existing service offering and policy environment, with the aim to expand the service to other non-ILM areas and generate more fund in order to increase access for farmer beneficiaries. Level of delivery at mid-point: Partially.	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners
4.1.1: National Environmental-Agricultural Production Information System (NEAPIS) developed and accessible through multi-stakeholder operational platforms for use to improve decision making by technical professionals, farmers, practitioners and other stakeholders. Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) While the capacity building target has been met, agencies formally collaborating and actively contributing/using NEAPIS and the environmental agro-met system has not been achieved, and no UNCCD/LDN-specific reporting products are being generated. Delivery of this output delayed with overall performance estimated at 40%.	Requirements Analysis for the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System (NEAPIS) and a two-day key stakeholders' capacity building workshop for the NEAPIS have been conducted by the University of The Bahamas (UB). UB is also currently designing an end-to-end workflow which will be the basis for NEAPIS. However, the installation and configuration of the NEAPIS is delayed due to internal organizational issues within UB. The project is pursuing this diligently with UB. Level of delivery at mid-point: Partially.	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners

Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: It seems that progress was advancing well initially with this output, until some change or event occurred within UB that is directly affecting project implementation.		
4.1.2: Low-cost environmental/ agrometeorological systems for land resource degradation and agro-climatic assessment and accompanying capacity building designed and pilot-tested in six of the target islands by researchers, students, technical professionals and relevant community stakeholders for monitoring trends in land degradation, food system resilience and GEBs at multiple scales. Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) Performance in the delivery of this output is delayed, and mid-term targets have not been met; overall performance estimated at 30%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: Apparent institutional apathy by the Bureau of Meteorology and internal organizational issues at UB are directly affecting project delivery.	Progress by the Bureau of Meteorology to deliver several key projects activity is severely delayed. The Requirements Analysis for the Environmental-Agrometeorological System, the design and development of the Environmental Agrometeorological System, procurement of the field equipment, installation and capacity building, and the implementation, testing, and validation of Environmental-Agrometeorological System are all behind schedule. In interviews conducted during the Review, it is apparent there is disagreement between the project and the Bureau of Meteorology on the equipment to be procured, the source of the equipment, and the overall procurement method. It also seems questionable whether delivery of project activities is a priority for the Bureau of Meteorology. Capacity building for stakeholders in the Environmental - Agrometeorological System by UB is only partially delivered, and while UB has developed a framework and plan for the citizen science initiative, its operationalization is still pending. Level of delivery at mid-point: Partially.	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners
4.2.1 Knowledge Management Strategy and Plan and Communication Plan for the systematization, publication and dissemination of best practices / lessons learned, and enhancement of awareness using innovative technologies and digital tools to support the scaling up and mainstreaming of interventions by target beneficiaries including policy and technical support professionals, practitioners, other beneficiaries.	Knowledge Management (KM) and overall communications by the project have been way below expectations, with structured communications apparently not treated as a priority by the project. A draft KM Strategy and Action Plan has been developed by UB, but its implementation is still pending, while discussions with PISLM are ongoing regarding support and hosting of the KM Hub. An ILM Communications Officer was recently hired in November 2025 even though multiple earlier efforts made in this regard were	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners

Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) Performance in the delivery of this output is delayed, and mid-term targets have not been met; overall performance estimated at 30%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: Internal organizational issues at UB are directly affecting project delivery.	unsuccessful, and at the project's mid-term, an ILM communications plan is just being developed. Level of delivery at mid-point: Partially.	
4.2.2: Suite of at least 15 specific public awareness resources, media outputs developed and made accessible for use by policy and technical support professionals, practitioners, other beneficiaries and wider civil society. Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s) Performance in the delivery of this output is delayed, and mid-term targets have not been met; overall performance estimated at 10%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: The late hiring of the ILM Communications Officer is drastically delaying delivery of multiple outputs.	The development and implementation of a series of high-quality short videos documenting the implementation of SLM technologies, set of poster series, knowledge documentation on the specific experiences of Bahamian farmers, and appearances on radio programs are all delayed at the mid-term. This is directly linked to the late hiring of the ILM Communications Officer. Level of delivery at mid-point: Partially.	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners
4.2.3: Series of at least 10 knowledge sharing events for exchanging lessons learned, information dissemination and networking organized and facilitated for participation among policy and technical support professionals, practitioners and other beneficiaries. Performance against Indicator(s) and Target(s)	A total of three out of ten knowledge sharing events have been conducted by the project, including UB's organization of World Soil Day, where partners were also informed about the project's progress and about LDN and ILM more broadly. Due to the late hiring of the ILM Communications Officer, the documentation of the information shared at knowledge events, the production of a synthesis video, and their use to produce information for the knowledge hub have not been implemented.	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners

Performance in the delivery of this output is delayed, and mid-term targets have not been met; overall performance estimated at 10%. Other information, not related to the indicators, that demonstrates Output delivery: The late hiring of the ILM Communications Officer is drastically delaying delivery of this output.	Level of delivery at mid-point: Partially.	
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52. Assessment of project outputs is based on mid-term targets defined in the Project Results Framework, validated against the results of project implementation to date as reported in the PIRs and other project reports, as observed during the MTR, and with due consideration of inputs provided by the Project Team and collaborating partners during interviews conducted as part of this MTR process. At the time of the MTR and based on assessment of performance at the output level, the overall delivery for **Component 1** has been estimated at **87.5%**. The project has made substantial progress in the strengthening of the enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality through improved policy and governance, through the development, approval, and operationalization of an ILM Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework, and Cabinet approval and adoption of the updated National Action Programme (NAP) and acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament. The project has also developed four (4) policy papers inclusive of provisions for LDN target-setting to encourage investments in the agricultural sector, and has provided three (3) training workshops to personnel of lead agencies with responsibility for land management.

Figure 2. Project Inter-Agency Collaboration Meeting



53. At the time of the MTR and based on assessment of performance at the output level, the overall delivery for **Component 2** has been estimated at **37.4%**. A needs assessment for planting materials has been conducted, with strong collaboration and engagement with local agricultural stakeholders, extension officers, community leaders, and the Ministry of Agriculture, resulting in enhanced trust and participation from farmers. Project efforts to establish demonstration of restorative nature-based solutions on selected farms and

degraded sites is delayed. MOUs for target areas to establish Plant Propagation Facilities were completed along with the required Certificate of Environmental Clearance which initially delayed the process; the establishment of the first propagation site is on-going in the islands of Andros and Abaco. The project has completed the Plant Propagation Certification Training Course as planned, and three (3) composting site assessments have been conducted to date, however, actual construction of composting facilities is delayed. A framework for soil and water sampling analysis has been drafted with the actual sampling activity in its inception phase. The revision of AFOLU carbon methodologies and tools is delayed. Ten (10) training curricula for farmers in SLM and CSA awareness have been developed through joint intervention by three (3) major collaborators: BAMSI, CARDI and BDB, with actual trainings just started. All activities related to SLMLDN regenerative CSA models and associated trainings are delayed, as these were to be delivered via the now terminated IICA partnership.

Figure 3. Plant Propagation Course



54. At the time of the MTR and based on assessment of performance at the output level, the overall delivery for **Component 3** has been estimated at **68.7%**. The project has delivered

certificate-based gender sensitive training on SLM Methods, CSA, and Market Access in six (6) of the seven target islands of the project. The BDB has developed a draft Business Investment Plan Template and a grant training curriculum, with the actual training just getting underway. The BDB is developing a gender-responsive design and refinement of the ILM grant criteria, training content and market integration interventions, and has also developed an ILM grant facility to stimulate agricultural productivity and market integration, and to finance SLM and climate-smart agribusinesses. The grant roll-out process has started and the BDB has also designed a monitoring plan for the grants program.

Figure 4. Launching of Grant Programme and Farmers Training Curriculum



55. At the time of the MTR and based on assessment of performance at the output level, the overall delivery for **Component 4** has been estimated at **24.0%**. Requirements Analysis for the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System (NEAPIS) and a two-day key stakeholders' capacity building workshop for the NEAPIS have been conducted by UB. All other activities related to the installation and configuration of the NEAPIS is delayed. All activities related to establishment and operationalization of an Environmental-Agrometeorological System are delayed. A structured Knowledge Management for the project is not being implemented, and the project's Communications Plan is just being developed. A total of only three out of ten knowledge sharing events have been conducted by the project to date. The documentation of the information shared at knowledge events, the production of a synthesis video, and their use to produce information for the knowledge hub have not been implemented.

Figure 5. Stakeholder Consultations on Design of the NEAPIS



Progress Towards Project Outcomes

Table 11: Progress towards project outcomes

Outcome 1.1:	Three lead agencies with responsibility for land management in the Government of The Bahamas adopt an enhanced ILM decision making framework to achieve LDN in the longer term.
Performance Indicator(s) and Target(s):	Indicator 1.1.1. Number of national policy position statements on LDN endorsed by government and stakeholders. Mid-Term Target: One (1) Indicator 1.1.2. Number of national agencies that formally adopt an Inter-sectoral coordination mechanism on LDN. Mid-Term Target: One (1)

Sources of Information /Evidence:	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners Final Aligned NAP Final National Land Assessment Report
Narrative Assessment:	The project has made substantial progress in the strengthening of the enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality through improved policy and governance through Cabinet approval and adoption of the updated National Action Programme (NAP), acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament, and planned trainings and workshops with lead agencies with responsibility for land management, thus enhancing the overall ILM decision making framework to achieve LDN in the longer term. The project has developed four (4) policy papers inclusive of provisions for LDN target-setting and for the promotion of ILM and SLM, however official 'endorsement' of these policies must be formalized, consistent with Indicator 1.1.1 above, and to complement the updated NAP. This outcome is well on track to be achieved before the end of the project, with necessary drivers in place and the assumptions of available political will demonstrated.
Level of progress:	Substantial Progress

Outcome 2.1:	Effectiveness of SLM and regenerative climate-smart agriculture practices demonstrated in Abaco, Andros, Cat Island, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama, Long Island and New Providence. Results documented and disseminated to key stakeholders for replication.
Performance Indicator(s) and Target(s):	Indicator 2.1.1. Number of assessments of efficacy of the SLM/CSA restorative measures based on nature-based solutions over 10,000 ha of productive landscapes that serve as demonstrations, reviewed and accepted by scientific agencies and stakeholders (at mid-term and project end). Mid-Term Target: One (1)
Sources of Information /Evidence:	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project Team Certificates of Environmental Clearance Framework for Soil and Water Quality Monitoring to Support Regenerative Agriculture and Climate Resilience in The Bahamas Needs assessment for planting materials National Land Assessment Report – Bahamas Interviews with collaborating partners
Narrative Assessment:	The project has only made moderate progress in efforts to demonstrate the effectiveness of SLM and regenerative climate-smart agriculture practices. While a needs assessment for planting materials has been conducted, an outline of a structured and phased approach to establishing and monitoring demonstration models of nature-based solutions on selected farms and degraded landscapes has been prepared, MOUs to establish Plant Propagation Facilities were completed with the establishment of the first propagation sites in Andros and Abaco, the completion of Plant Propagation Certification Training Course, three (3) of seven composing sites assessments conducted to date, and a framework for soil and water sampling analysis has been drafted, there are still substantial drivers yet to be put in place to deliver this outcome.

	Efforts to establish demonstration of restorative nature-based solutions on selected farms and degraded sites is delayed and is the most essential part of this outcome along with the establishment of composting sites, which is also delayed; soil and water sampling is just starting, and the revision of AFOLU carbon methodologies and tools for all forest carbon is delayed. The assumption that technical expertise and political support would be available still holds as the project has recently replaced the technical expertise lost with the departure of IICA and there has been no change in the political context and support for the project.
Level of progress:	Moderate Progress

Outcome 2.2:	Farmers and community producer groups trained and supported to adopt SLM and regenerative climate smart agricultural practices.
Performance Indicator(s) and Target(s):	Indicator 2.2.1. Increase in adoption of SLM and climate smart measures by farmers and stakeholders (including at least 50% women) within land holdings based on field assessment surveys. Mid-Term Target: 50% of target farmer population
Sources of Information /Evidence:	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners
Narrative Assessment:	The project has only made limited progress in training and supporting farmers to adopt SLM and regenerative climate smart agriculture practices. While ten (10) training courses have been developed, the curriculum finalized and educational and human resources required identified, the actual trainings just started, which is a critical driver for the delivery of this outcome. Other drivers associated with the identification and upscaling of effective SLM-LDN regenerative CSA models, the implementation of Train-the-Trainer Workshops on upscaling SLM-LDN regenerative CSA models, online courses on climate-smart agricultural systems and SLM, and the preparation and distribution of SLM Training Manuals are all delayed. The assumption that technical expertise and political support would be available still holds as the project has recently replaced the technical expertise lost with the departure of IICA and there has been no change in the political context and support for the project.
Level of progress:	Limited Progress

Outcome 3.1:	Communities contribute to develop, operationalize and, replicate gender-sensitive business investment plans and market access mechanisms to support livelihood enhancement.
Performance Indicator(s) and Target(s):	Indicator 3.1.1. % Increase in number of agricultural-based investments that have access to markets that incorporate SLM and climate-smart approaches (assessed at inception). Mid-Term Target: 25% above baseline Indicator 3.1.2. % Increase in productivity/ yield of farms participating in the programme (assessed at inception). Mid-Term Target: 25% above baseline
Sources of Information /Evidence:	Haly Yearly Progress Reports

	Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners
Narrative Assessment:	The project has made substantial progress in building the capacity of farmers and community groups to access grants to implement gender-sensitive business plans to support livelihoods. Certificate-based gender sensitive training on SLM Methods, CSA, and Market Access have been developed and delivered by the Bahamas Development Bank in six (6) of the seven target islands of the project. A draft Business Investment Plan Template was also developed and under review by the PMU and the PSC. A grant training curriculum for prospective beneficiaries in grant access was developed with the actual training ongoing. Targeted efforts are being implemented by the project to ensure the ILM grant criteria, training content and market integration interventions respond to and address gender specific barriers, complementing the project's Gender Action Plan. Additionally, the BDB has developed an ILM grant facility and associated monitoring plan to stimulate agricultural productivity and market integration by providing targeted financial support to farmers, and has initiated the grant roll-out process. The assessment of delivery of this outcome is qualitative, as this MTR found no documentation to indicate that the baseline values for Indicators 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 have been determined, an issue to be addressed by the project immediately to allow for a quantitative and comparative assessment in the Terminal Evaluation.
Level of progress:	Substantial Progress

Outcome 4.1:	Enhanced evidence-based decision-making to support evaluation toward land degradation neutrality and agricultural production resilience and contribution to GEBs in productive agricultural landscapes.
Performance Indicator(s) and Target(s):	Indicator 4.1.1. Change (%) in availability and utilization of new data products in national level reporting, research efforts and decision-making (via user uptake survey) Mid-Term Target: 25% inc. in user uptake over baseline Indicator 4.1.2. LDN monitoring system operational Mid-Term Target: One (1) Indicator 4.1.3. Lessons learned on ILM and LDN mainstreamed in land use related decision making and policies (number of policy references) Mid-Term Target: Five (5)
Sources of Information /Evidence:	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners
Narrative Assessment:	The project has made only limited progress in the delivery of evidence-based decision-making to support evaluation toward land degradation neutrality and agricultural production resilience and contribution to GEBs in productive agricultural landscapes. While a Requirements Analysis for the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System (NEAPIS), a stakeholders' capacity building workshop for the NEAPIS, and UB is designing an end-to-end workflow for the NEAPIS, there are key drivers still pending for the delivery of this outcome. The installation and configuration of the NEAPIS is

	delayed, the Requirements Analysis for the Environmental-Agrometeorological System, the design and development of the Environmental Agrometeorological System, procurement of the field equipment, installation and capacity building, and the implementation, testing, and validation of Environmental-Agrometeorological System are all also behind schedule. Capacity building for stakeholders in the Environmental - Agrometeorological System by UB is only partially delivered, and while UB has developed a framework and plan for the citizen science initiative, its operationalization is still pending. While the mid-term target is “25% above baseline”, the assessment of Indicator 4.1.1 is qualitative, as this MTR found no documentation to indicate that the baseline value for this indicator has been determined via ‘user uptake survey’ as intended, an issue to be addressed by the project immediately to allow for a quantitative and comparative assessment in the Terminal Evaluation.
Level of progress:	Limited Progress

Outcome 4.2:	Increased understanding and awareness of relevant environmental issues among decision makers, farmers, the public, facilitate mainstreaming and scaling-up of project approaches and interventions.
Performance Indicator(s) and Target(s):	Indicator 4.2.1. % Increase in the level of awareness among target beneficiaries (by community survey) Mid-Term target: 20% over baseline Indicator 4.2.2. Extent of replication of tools and approaches (by practitioner survey) Mid-Term Target: 20% over baseline
Sources of Information /Evidence:	Haly Yearly Progress Reports Project Implementation Reviews Interviews with project team Interviews with collaborating partners
Narrative Assessment:	The project has made only limited progress in the delivery of increased understanding and awareness of relevant environmental issues among decision makers, farmers, the public, facilitate mainstreaming and scaling-up of ILM SLM and CSA approaches. A draft KM Strategy and Action Plan has been developed by UB, but its implementation is still pending. An ILM Communications Officer was just recently hired at the project’s mid-term since earlier efforts in this regard were unsuccessful, and an ILM communications plan is just being developed. Videos documenting the implementation of SLM technologies, poster series, knowledge documentation on the experiences of Bahamian farmers, and appearances on radio programs are all delayed. A total of three out of ten knowledge sharing events have been conducted by the project, including UB’s organization of World Soil Day, but the documentation of the information shared at knowledge events, the production of a synthesis video, and their use to produce information for the knowledge hub have not been implemented. The primary drivers required for the delivery of this outcome are all pending, and the assumption that farmers and community groups will embrace knowledge and capacity building in ILM, SLM and CSA still holds. While the mid-term targets are “20% above baseline” for Outcome Indicators 4.2.1(i) and 4.2(ii), respectively, the assessment of delivery of these outcomes is qualitative, as this MTR found no documentation

	to indicate that the baseline values for these indicators have been determined by 'community survey' and 'practitioner survey' as intended, an issue to be addressed by the project immediately to allow for a quantitative and comparative assessment in the Terminal Evaluation.
Level of progress:	Limited Progress

56. The project has made substantial progress in the strengthening of the enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality through improved policy and governance through the updated National Action Programme, acceptance of the Land Assessment Report and planned trainings and workshops with lead agencies with responsibility for land management. The project has developed four (4) policy papers inclusive of provisions for LDN target-setting and for the promotion of ILM and SLM, however official 'endorsement' of these policies must be formalized to complement the updated NAP. **Outcome 1.1** is well on track to be achieved before the end of the project, with necessary drivers in place and the assumptions of available political will demonstrated.
57. The project has only made moderate progress in delivering **Outcome 2.1** and in efforts to demonstrate the effectiveness of SLM and regenerative climate-smart agriculture practices. While several drivers for achieving the outcome have been delivered, there are still substantial drivers yet to be put in place to deliver this outcome. Efforts to establish demonstration of restorative nature-based solutions on selected farms and degraded sites is delayed and is the most essential part of this outcome along with the establishment of composting sites, which is also delayed. The assumption that technical expertise and political support would be available still holds. The project is significantly behind schedule in delivering training and supporting farmers to adopt SLM and regenerative climate smart agriculture practices, and thus, only limited progress has been achieved in the achievement of **Outcome 2.2**. While ten (10) training courses have been developed, the curriculum finalized and educational and human resources required identified, the actual trainings just started, which is a critical driver for the delivery of this outcome. Other drivers associated with the identification and upscaling of effective SLMLDN regenerative CSA models and capacity building are all delayed. The assumption that technical expertise and political support would be available still holds as the project has recently replaced the technical expertise lost with the departure of IICA and there has been no change in the political context and support for the project.
58. The project has made substantial progress in building the capacity of farmers and community groups to access grants to implement gender-sensitive business plans to support livelihoods. Certificate-based gender sensitive training on SLM Methods, CSA, and Market Access have been developed and delivered; a draft Business Investment Plan Template was also developed, a grant training curriculum in grant access was developed, and the ILM grant criteria, training content and market integration interventions are being designed to respond to and address gender specific barriers, complementing the project's Gender Action Plan. Additionally, the BDB has developed an ILM grant facility to provide targeted financial support to farmers, and has initiated the grant roll-out process. **Outcome 3.1** is on track to be delivered by project end. The project is behind schedule in the delivery of evidence-based decision-making to support evaluation toward land degradation neutrality and agricultural production resilience, and in the delivery of increased understanding and awareness of relevant environmental issues among decision makers, farmers, the public, facilitate mainstreaming

and scaling-up of ILM SLM and CSA approaches. In this regard, the project has only made limited progress in the delivery of **Outcomes 4.1 and 4.2**. The installation and configuration of the NEAPIS is delayed and all activities related to the Environmental-Agrometeorological System and associated capacity building are delayed. Similarly, a KM Strategy and Action Plan and an ILM Communications Plan are not being implemented and the documentation of the information shared at knowledge events and related knowledge products are not implemented. The primary drivers required for the delivery of these two latter outcomes are all pending, and the assumption that farmers and community groups will embrace knowledge and capacity building in ILM, SLM and CSA still holds.

Likelihood of Impact

Table 12: Likelihood of impact

Factors influencing likelihood of impact	Evident or emerging?	Discussion
Drivers to support transition from Outputs to the Project Outcomes	Partially	Some activities have been completed, some are in process, and there is a substantial amount not started as yet, primarily in Components 2 and 4, and represent some very important drivers to transit from outputs to outcomes. These, however, are implementable, with a project extension.
Assumptions for the change process from Outputs to Project Outcomes	Yes	All assumptions outlined in the TOC are considered to still hold, with no major change in the project context or actors, and political will has been sustained as evidenced in the Cabinet adoption of the NAP, and the willingness of line ministries to pursue the development of four (4) policy papers that promote ILM, SLM, and CSA. Collaborating partners and stakeholders continue to show support for the implementation of the project. The departure of IICA as a collaborating partner has been remedied with the introduction of technical expertise in agronomy and composting.
Proportion of Project Outcomes fully or partially achieved	Some	Outcomes 1.1 and 3.1 are substantially delivered and Outcome 2.1 has been moderately delivered, representing an important input for the transition to intermediate states. Other outcomes have limited progress, but achievable by project end.
Drivers to support transition from Project Outcomes to Intermediate States	Partially	The adoption of the updated NAP and the policy papers developed to promote ILM, SLM, and CSA must be institutionalized by relevant agencies with mandates for land management, and their implementation must be internalized by these agencies through their institutional budgets.
Assumptions for the change process from the Project Outcomes to Intermediate States	Yes	All assumptions outlined in the TOC are considered to still hold, with no major change in the project context or actors, and political will has been sustained as evidenced in the Cabinet adoption of the NAP, and the

		willingness of line ministries to pursue the development of four (4) policy papers that promote ILM, SLM, and CSA. Collaborating partners and stakeholders continue to show support for the implementation of the project. The departure of IICA as a collaborating partner has been remedied with the introduction of technical expertise in agronomy and composting.
Proportion of Intermediate States achieved	Some	Achievements under Outcomes 1.1, 3.1, and 2.1 constitute important elements of the Intermediate States, especially Outcome 1.1. which is dedicated to strengthening the governance framework in support of LDN targets, ILM, SLIM, and CSA.
Drivers to support transition from Intermediate States to Impact	Partially	Certain sustainability elements required to achieving Intermediate States and the associated transition to impact need to be strengthened, for example an overarching National Agricultural Development Policy inclusive of rationalisation for land use, and that is based on the principles of ILM, SLM, and CSA. Also, the policy papers produced by the project need to be formally adopted and institutionalized.
Assumptions for the change process from Intermediate States to Impact	Yes	All assumptions outlined in the TOC seem to hold, with no major change in the project context or actors, and political will has been sustained as evidenced in the Cabinet adoption of the NAP, and the willingness of line ministries to pursue the development of four (4) policy papers that promote ILM, SLM, and CSA. Collaborating partners and stakeholders continue to show support for the implementation of the project. The departure of IICA as a collaborating partner has been remedied with the introduction of technical expertise in agronomy and composting.

59. The likelihood of the project achieving the intended impact is 'Likely'. Some important activities have been completed, some are in process, and some not started as yet, primarily in Components 2 and 4, and represent some very important drivers to transit from outputs to outcomes. These, however, are implementable, with a project extension. Outcomes 1.1 and 3.1 are substantially delivered and Outcome 2.1 has been moderately delivered, representing an important input for the transition to intermediate states, particularly in relation to the strengthening of the governance framework in support of LDN targets, ILM, SLIM, and CSA. Other outcomes have limited progress, but achievable by project end. Certain sustainability elements required to achieving Intermediate States and the associated transition to impact need to be strengthened, for example an overarching National Agricultural Development Policy inclusive of rationalisation for land use, and that is based on the principles of ILM, SLM, and CSA. Also, the policy papers produced by the project need to be formally adopted and institutionalized.

60. All assumptions outlined in the TOC seem to hold, with no major change in the project context or actors, and political will has been sustained as evidenced in the Cabinet adoption of the NAP, and the willingness of line ministries to pursue the development of four (4) policy papers

that promote ILM, SLM, and CSA. Collaborating partners and stakeholders continue to show support for the implementation of the project. The departure of IICA as a collaborating partner has been remedied with the introduction of technical expertise in agronomy and composting and enhanced institutional support from BAMSI, CARDI, BDB, and PISLM, and the project is taking steps to implement all activities originally assigned to IICA.

Summary Findings Relating to the Strategic Questions of the MTR

Findings Statements on Effectiveness

61. The project's rating for effectiveness is moderately satisfactory at the time of the MTR, with substantial progress made towards the delivery of Outcomes 1.1. and 3.1, and moderate progress towards the delivery of Outcome 2.1., while other project outcomes are delayed. The overall delivery of outputs is estimated at 54.5%, with substantial progress in the strengthening of the enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality through improved policy and governance, through key deliverables including the adoption of the updated National Action Programme (NAP), acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament, the development four (4) policy papers inclusive of provisions for LDN target-setting, the provision of three (3) training workshops to personnel of lead agencies with responsibility for land management, completion of the Plant Propagation Certification Training Course, three (3) composing sites assessments, and development of a framework for soil and water sampling analysis. The project has also been successful at developing ten (10) training curricula for farmers in SLM and CSA awareness, the provision of certificate-based gender sensitive training on SLM Methods, CSA, and Market Access in six (6) of the seven target islands, development of a draft Business Investment Plan Template, a grant training curriculum, an ILM grant criteria, an ILM grant facility and a Requirements Analysis for the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System and associated capacity building.
62. Notwithstanding the above, there are key drivers for delivering project outcomes and intermediate states that are either just starting or not started as yet. Project efforts to establish demonstration of restorative nature-based solutions on selected farms and degraded sites is delayed, as well as the construction of composting facilities. All activities related to SLMLDN regenerative CSA models and associated trainings are delayed, as well as all activities related to the installation and configuration of the NEAPIS. All activities related to establishment and operationalization of an Environmental-Agrometeorological System are delayed, a structured Knowledge Management for the project is not being implemented, and the project's Communications Plan is just being developed.
63. Because of the important progress made in the delivery thus far of Outcomes, 1.1, 2.1, and 3.1 towards the transition to Intermediate States, the project has established a good foundation to continue the transition towards Intermediate States and impact. Some pending drivers are achievable by project end, and others are implementable with a project extension. Certain sustainability elements required to achieving Intermediate States and the associated transition to impact need to be strengthened, and all assumptions outlined in the TOC seem to hold, with no major change in the project context or actors, and political will has been

sustained as evidenced to date, with collaborating partners and stakeholders continuing to show support for the implementation of the project.

Rating for Effectiveness: Moderately Satisfactory

Rating for Availability of Outputs: Moderately Satisfactory

Rating for Achievement of Project Outcomes: Moderately Satisfactory

Rating for Achievement of Likelihood of Impact: Likely

b. Financial Management

Adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures

64. Based on a review of Quarterly Expenditure Reports (QER) and Report of Independent Auditors (2022-2023 and 2023-2024), there were no material shortcomings in Audit Reports, thus there have been no audit recommendations nor the need for management response, suggesting adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures. Also, based on a review of documents in Anubis, time transpired between the submission of a QER and receiving the approval from UNEP for said report does not suggest a need for substantial clarifications and revisions to reports before approvals are granted.

Completeness of Financial Information

65. The project's financial information at the time of the MTR was complete, and included Quarterly Expenditure Reports, Half Yearly Reports, Annual Project Implementation Reports, and Annual Audit Reports. An exception to the completeness of reporting is project budget information and co-financing by component; while this is inherent in how the budget reporting in Anubis is captured, project management can however re-construct this using Excel. While the MTR is required to report budget and expenditure by project component, expenditures are recorded and reported according to cost centres of Anubis, not according to project components, thus an expenditure report by component is not available at this time for both GEF and co-financing resources. There is no standardized formula for estimating co-financing. Based on information available in Anubis, UNEP has made three (3) Cash Advances to DEPP on behalf of the project, totalling **US\$2,073,075.68** or **36.25%** of the total GEF Funding of **US\$5,717,580**. As per information provided by the Project Executing Agency, real budget execution at the time of the MTR is **US\$1,377,340.97** or **24.08%** of the total GEF Budget. This rate of budget execution at the MTR is low, and is consistent with the delayed delivery of outputs described above, and is a scenario that is not desirable by project principals at all levels. However, once the composting facilities are built and the Plant Propagation Facilities are all operational, a substantial amount of the undisbursed and unspent budget will be consumed, quickly improving the project's budget execution rate. Total co-financing disbursed to date is **US\$2,291,816** of the total committed amount of **US\$15,092,080** or 15.18%. The departure of IICA as a collaborating partner creates a challenge for the project, since there is US\$1,500,000 in committed co-financing that has to be sourced and secured from alternative sources.

Table 13: Financial management

Financial management components:		Rating	Evidence/ Comments
1. Adherence to UNEP's/GEF's policies and procedures:		HS	
Any evidence that indicates shortcomings in the project's adherence ²⁷ to UNEP or donor policies, procedures or rules		No	No material shortcomings in Audit Reports.
Was first disbursement carried out within 9 months of UNEP's project approval date.		Yes	As evidenced in Anubis.
Were the procurement policies of UNEP and the donor(s) followed? (<i>where applicable</i>)		Yes	No procurement shortcomings in Audit Reports
2. Completeness of project financial information²⁸:			
Provision of key documents to the evaluator (based on the responses to A-H below)		S	
A.	Co-financing and Project Cost's tables at design (by budget lines)	Yes	Co-financing have been estimated by source, but not by project component. It is not clear how co-finance is estimated or if there is a standardised formula.
B.	Revisions to the budget	Yes	Annual budget revisions serve for this purpose.
C.	All relevant project legal agreements (e.g. SSFA, PCA, ICA)	Yes	
D.	Proof of fund transfers	Yes	
E.	Proof of co-financing (cash and in-kind)	Yes	As communicated or reported by collaborating partners; no evidence of further verification.
F.	A summary report on the project's expenditures during the life of the project (by budget lines, project components and/or annual level)	Yes	Periodic project expenditure reports are available as per budget lines in Anubis, but not by project component.
G.	Copies of any completed audits and management responses (<i>where applicable</i>)	Yes	
H.	Procure documents ²⁹ , including the approved requisition document and Source Selection Plan (<i>where applicable</i>)	Yes	Project Procurement Plan aligns with Annual Work Plan and evidence of procurement procedures available.
I.	Any other financial information that was required for this project (list):	N/A	
Overall rating		S	

Findings Statements on Financial Management

66. To date, there have been no material shortcomings in Audit Reports, thus there have been no audit recommendations nor the need for management response, suggesting adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures. The project's financial information at the time of

²⁷ If the evaluation raises concerns over adherence with policies or standard procedures, a recommendation maybe given to cover the topic in an upcoming audit, or similar financial oversight exercise.

²⁸ See also document 'Criterion Rating Description' for reference.

²⁹ Relevant for procurement action over USD 10,000 in value.

the MTR was complete, and included Quarterly Expenditure Reports, Half Yearly Reports, Annual Project Implementation Reports, and Annual Audit Reports. An exception to the completeness of reporting is project budget information and co-financing by component. While the MTR is required to report budget and expenditure by project component, expenditures are recorded and reported according to cost centres of Anubis, not according to project components, thus an expenditure report by component is not available at this time for both GEF and co-financing resources. There is no standardized formula for estimating co-financing and this is thus taken at face value or as reported by collaborating partners. A total of 36.25% of the total GEF Funding has been disbursed to date, with an overall budget execution rate of 24.08% of the total GEF Budget. Total co-financing disbursed to date has been estimated at 45%. The departure of IICA as a collaborating partner has created a deficit in the co-financing in the amount of US\$1,500,000

Rating for Financial Management: Satisfactory

Rating for Adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures: Highly Satisfactory

Rating for Completeness of Financial Information: Satisfactory

c. Efficiency

67. The project experienced a 5 ½ months delay between GEF approval and actual start date. During the first year of implementation, the project experienced delays in the signing of inter-institutional agreements, thus there were lags in formalizing institutional arrangements with collaborating partners and subsequent delays in getting several key deliverables off the ground. For example, at the end of the first year of implementation, the contractual arrangements with the Bahamas Development Bank, the lead partner for Component 3, was still under negotiation. The project did achieve some cost efficiencies via inter-institutional collaboration among project partners, case in point being the joint development of curriculum and required resources for ten (10) training courses by BAMSI, CARDI and BDB. Unfortunately, the project's contract with IICA was cancelled after almost two years of challenges in quality and timeliness of delivery, resulting in delay of most Component 2 activities.

68. The late hiring of an ILM Communications Officer in November 2025, three (3) years after project start-up, has resulted in substantial delays in public awareness and Knowledge Management related outputs of the project. Even though the project's implementation pace has picked up over the past two years, it has been slow in delivering outputs critical to the project's success at the level required at the mid-term, even though considerable progress has been made in some areas, especially under Component 1. This assessment is consistent with the low level of budget execution reported above and with the substantial amount of procurement still pending, suggesting the need for a project extension is imminent, and is summarised in the table below. The project has had no extensions to date. The project is coherent and aligns with many national and regional policies. The project has active collaboration with the 'Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas' project and with the UNCCD PRAIS-4 Reporting System.

Type of project extension (cost/no-cost)	Duration (# months)	Reason for no-cost extension
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No-cost	24 months	Delays in project implementation resulting in low budget execution rate.
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Findings Statements on Efficiency

69. The project experienced lags in formalizing institutional arrangements with collaborating partners and subsequent delays in getting several key deliverables off the ground. The project did achieve some cost efficiencies via inter-institutional collaboration among project partners in the joint development of a training curriculum by BAMSI, CARDI and BDB. The project's contract with IICA was cancelled due to deficiencies in quality and timeliness of delivery. The late hiring of an ILM Communications Officer has resulted in substantial delays in public awareness and Knowledge Management related outputs of the project. The project has been slow in delivering outputs critical to the project's success, an assessment that is consistent with a low level of budget execution. The substantial amount of procurement still pending and low budget execution suggests the need for a project extension may be imminent.

Rating for Efficiency: Moderately Satisfactory

d. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring of Project Implementation:

70. A Costed Monitoring & Evaluation Plan was developed for the project and is being followed accordingly and at the MTR the budget seems appropriate. The M&E plan is supported by the Reporting Requirements developed during project design which outlines planning and reporting requirements in support of M&E according to a predetermined timeline during project implementation. While most outcome indicators in the Project Results Framework are appropriate, these are not disaggregated by relevant stakeholder groups and minority/disadvantaged groups, however, gender sensitive indicators were included in the Project Results Framework and are being monitored. It must be noted that several baseline indicators in the Project Results Framework still have not been defined at the mid-term, thus not allowing for a comparative assessment of performance at the mid-term against the baseline. This MTR and the Terminal Evaluation also form part of the project's monitoring framework. Of note is the decision by DEPP to merge the PSCs of all GEF projects and have integrated PSC meetings. The result is an excessively large group of people deliberating on the needs and challenges of different projects. While this approach may seem to save time and money, it is likely very inefficient with no one project receiving the dedicated attention it deserves. Also, experience and practice have shown that large PSCs are rarely ever effective, and smaller executive groups tend to do much better and the governance needs of projects are better served. Some stakeholders consulted during this MTR complained that the PSC does not meet frequent enough to review and sign off on project deliverables, resulting in unnecessary delays.

71. Project monitoring is conducted on a continuous basis by a Project Manager based in the DEPP and by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) which meets to review project progress at least twice per year, and may also be convened to address urgent implementation related matters. UNEP conducts monitoring both remotely and on the ground by the GEF Task Manager and the Senior Programme Management Assistant.

Project Reporting

72. Quarterly Expenditure Reports, Half Yearly Reports, Project Implementation Reports, and independent Audit Reports are generally prepared and submitted to UNEP on a timely basis. Project Implementation Reports provide details of progress and challenges and serve as a powerful monitoring tool and for reporting back to the GEF. Half Yearly Reports help to identify or anticipate early challenges which may be corrected immediately and not wait until a PIR is prepared at the end of the project year.
73. Better quality control and agreement of level of completion of outputs and achievement of outcomes as reported in PIRs can benefit from closer scrutiny of those reports by the PSC before they are submitted to UNEP. There is no established guideline for what constitutes 10%, 20%, 30% progress, etc. As has already been indicated above, better reporting of co-financing and expenditure by project component and/or outcome will substantially improve reporting. This MTR did not find any significant deficiencies in reporting besides those already mentioned. Of note is that due to the delayed delivery of outputs to produce planned outcomes, the project is unable to effectively measure delivery of GEF Core Indicator targets defined for the project, all of which are dependent of the delivery of outcomes. Also associated with GEF Core Indicator target is the fact that the specific areas to be considered to meet the 17,300 hectares of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity has only been partially defined.

Findings Statements on Monitoring and Reporting

74. A Costed Monitoring & Evaluation Plan for the project is being followed as intended in project design. While most outcome indicators in the Project Results Framework are appropriate, these are not disaggregated by relevant stakeholder groups and minority/disadvantaged groups, however, gender sensitive indicators were included in the Project Results Framework and are being monitored. Baseline values for several indicators have not been defined, limiting comparative assessments. Project monitoring is conducted by a Project Manager and by the PSC. UNEP conducts monitoring by the GEF Task Manager and the Senior Programme Management Assistant. Quarterly Expenditure Reports, Half Yearly Reports, Project Implementation Reports, and independent Audit Reports are generally prepared and submitted to UNEP on a timely basis. This MTR and the Terminal Evaluation also form part of the project's monitoring framework. Of note is that some stakeholders consulted during this MTR complained that the PSC does not meet frequent enough to review and sign off on project deliverables, resulting in unnecessary delays. Better quality control and agreement of level of completion of outputs and achievement of outcomes as reported in PIRs can benefit from closer scrutiny of those reports by the PSC before they are submitted to UNEP. Better reporting of co-financing and expenditure by project component and/or outcome will substantially improve reporting.

Rating for Monitoring and Reporting: Satisfactory

Rating for Monitoring of Project Implementation: Moderately Satisfactory

Rating for Project Reporting: Satisfactory

e. Exit Strategy & Sustainability

Exit Strategy

75. The project's exit strategy relies on the extent to which socio-political, financial, and institutional sustainability of project outcomes may be achieved. While the Knowledge Management Strategy to be implemented by the project can support the application of lessons learned and results well beyond project closure, sustained political and stakeholder support will be essential, as well as robust institutionalisation of the policy and governance frameworks developed or strengthened by the project. There is no written or predetermined exit strategy for the project, other than those strategic interventions included in project design which contribute to creating the enabling conditions for the sustainability of project outcomes, consistent with the logical pathways in the project's Theory of Change.

Socio-political Sustainability

76. Currently, support for the project from collaborating partners and stakeholders is very strong as evidenced by the commitment witnessed through-out MTR consultations and in project reports. Political support seems optimum at the national level for project success, as evidenced by Cabinet approval and adoption of the updated National Action Programme and acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament. National support was also evidenced by the participation of multiple line ministries in the formulation of four (4) proposed land development policies inclusive of provisions for LDN target-setting to encourage investments in the agricultural sector towards LDN, and these being policies these same line ministries will be required to implement beyond the life of the project. The DEPP is fully committed to this project and to the linkages and mutual benefits to be gained among multiple GEF funded projects being implemented by the Government of The Bahamas.

Financial Sustainability

77. Sustainability of project outcomes will be influenced by the successful implementation of Business Investment Plans and the ILM Grant Facility for farmers. In this regard, these two key project outputs affecting financial sustainability need to be fully tested and demonstrated as success stories that will create a robust baseline upon which credit mechanisms for farmers may be designed and implemented by financial institutions such as the Bahamas Development Bank, currently developing the Business Investment Plans and the ILM Grant Facility for farmers with the project's support. The Bahamas cannot rely on new project grants being available for the continuation of project outcomes and lead agencies involved in land management in the country must be appropriately staffed and equipped to continue to support ILM and LDN target setting. An increase in budgets for lead agencies is not guaranteed.

Institutional Sustainability

78. Consistent with the causal pathways outline in the project's TOC, policy and governance arrangements established or strengthened with project support must be fully institutionalised

across multiple agencies involved in land management. Of primary importance is the institutionalisation of the National Action Programme, and the official adoption and implementation of the four (4) proposed land development policies inclusive of provisions for LDN target-setting to encourage investments in the agricultural sector towards LDN: 1. Integrated Coastal Forest Land Use Planning; 2. Mandatory Re vegetation and Native Species Restoration; 3. Incentives for Sustainable Agro Forestry and Community Based Management; 4. Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System. In addition to this, is the need to institutionalise the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System (NEAPIS), the Environmental-Agrometeorological System, while ensuring their compatibility with the Spatial Biodiversity Information System (SBIS) being developed under a separate GEF funded project. Of note is that the SBIS may require regulatory reform, which may have to be led by the DEPP as a multi-sectoral process to benefit the broader land and seascapes.

Findings Statements on Sustainability

79. While the Knowledge Management Strategy to be implemented by the project can support the application of lessons learned and results well beyond project closure, sustained political and stakeholder support will be essential, as well as robust institutionalisation of the policy and governance frameworks developed or strengthened by the project, and the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System (NEAPIS), the Environmental-Agrometeorological System, and the Spatial Biodiversity Information System (SBIS). There is no written or predetermined exit strategy for the project, other than those strategic interventions included in project design which contribute to creating the enabling conditions for the sustainability of project outcomes, consistent with the logical pathways in the project's Theory of Change. The Bahamas cannot rely on new project grants being available for the continuation of project outcomes and lead agencies involved in land management in the country must be appropriately staffed and equipped. An increase in budgets for lead agencies is not guaranteed.

Rating for Likelihood of Sustainability: Moderately Likely

Rating for Socio-political Sustainability: Likely

Rating for Financial Sustainability: Moderately Likely

Rating for Institutional Sustainability: Moderately Likely

f. Factors Affecting Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues

Quality of Project Management and Supervision

UNEP/Implementing Agency

80. UNEP's supervision has been appropriate as evidenced by the UNEP's participation in the PSC, field visits, and other evidence of feedback and support accessible in PIRs and on Anubis. The PSC, as a project supervision body should provide an opportunity to elevate supervision and buy-in at a higher level within government, that would be crucial for political and financial sustainability. In this regard, this MTR would like to point out the unusual scenario in which by design, this project has its primary collaborating partners/contractors as members of the PSC, which essentially places them in a situation of direct 'conflict of

interest'. Strictly speaking, institutions and persons on the project's payroll should not be making project governance and policy decisions. Under UNEP's leadership, the project can and should correct this situation for the remainder of the project.

Partners/Executing Agency:

81. The Project Management Unit in DEPP is leading implementation of project activities, fiduciary oversight and reporting of the project, including financial management and procurement consolidation according to the project's operational manual and procurement plan. The Project Management Unit also conducts monitoring of project activities, and produces and submits on a timely basis, all related reports as required by UNEP and the GEF (Quarterly Expenditure Reports, Half Yearly Reports, Project Implementation Reports, and independent Audit Reports). There have been no audit recommendations nor the need for management response, suggesting adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures by the Project Management Unit in DEPP. This MTR findings suggest more assertiveness from Project Management and institutional support from DEPP as the overall Executing Agency may be required to bring certain project outputs back on track.

Adaptive Management

82. The project continuously shows flexibility and adaptability in seeking to meet project needs in seven islands, which by design pose logistical challenges. The project had to display adaptive management in addressing shortfalls in implementation, triggered by the departure of IICA as a collaborating partner with responsibility for numerous activities under Component 2. Project efforts sought to fill technical gaps by sourcing and contracting of an Agronomist and a Composting Expert and by creating greater spaces for institutional participation of other partners including BAMSI, CARDI and BDB. The project also has to continuously adapt and adjust to institutional challenges that collaborating partners may experience from time to time, affecting scheduling of project activities.

Stakeholders Participation and Cooperation

83. The project has secured substantial stakeholder participation in updating the National Action Programme, trainings focusing on the NAP alignment with the UNCCD, and validation of the Land Assessment Report of The Bahamas. Similar stakeholder participation was secured in the process to formulate four (4) land development policies, in the development of MOUs for Plant Propagation Facilities, in consultations to establish composting sites, and in the development of the Business Investment Plans, ILM Grant Facility, and capacity building workshop for the NEAPIS. The project secured the participation of 23 males and 27 females in the training course on Introduction to SLM and CSA, and 56 males and 132 females in the plant propagation course. Additionally, participation by key stakeholders on the PSC has been constant. All collaborating partners show commitment and support to the project, with the exception of IICA that is no longer engaged with the project.

Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality

84. A gender analysis and Gender Action Plan was prepared during project design, and sex disaggregated indicators are included in the Project Results Framework and are being measured on a regular basis. Most stakeholders engaged with and benefitting from project activities at the time of the MTR are females. Additionally, the BDB has taken steps to ensure

the ILM Grant Facility is gender responsive. Women lead in multiple aspects of project implementation, including the Director of DEPP, the Project Manager, the lead from several collaborating partners, and two (2) project consultants are also females. The integrated approach to human/natural systems was not defined in the project document and is not explicitly addressed in project implementation.

Environmental and Social Safeguards

85. The project works to enhance climate-resilient food production across productive agricultural landscapes through sound Integrated Landscape Management and Land Degradation Neutrality approaches in The Bahamas. In this process, stakeholders are engaged and consulted repeatedly and consistently to ensure their interest and needs are tabled and considered in all project decisions. While an Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) screening was conducted at project design and an Environmental and Social Management Frame work were developed for the project, there is no evidence this is actively applied to monitor compliance with UNEP and GEF's environmental and social safeguards, even though safeguards statements are made in PIRs, including what steps the project needs to take to address safeguards possibly triggered, including land management and accessibility, quality, and quantity of water. Once the propagation facilities and composting sites are established, the project will need to take steps to address possible pollution concerns.

Country Ownership and Driven-ness

86. At the MTR there is certainly country ownership as evidenced by the leadership provided to this project by the DEPP and support from numerous national collaborating partners. The ability to secure the participation of all line ministries and adoption by the Cabinet for the updating of the National Action Programme, the receipt by Parliament of the Land Assessment Report of The Bahamas, and the formulation of four (4) land development policies is testament to country ownership of project processes and intended objectives. Extensive stakeholder participation in project capacity building activities is another manifestation of interest and ownership of project initiatives, with more participation by women than men. Participation by key national institutions on the PSC is evidence of a genuine interest to ensure project interventions are policy coherent and in alignment with national priorities.

Communication and Public Awareness

87. This MTR did not come across evidence of a structured communication strategy for the project via mainstream media or social media, and there is no dedicated project website or link to the DEPP or to collaborating partners' websites. During the MTR consultation process, stakeholders emphatically expressed the need for a structured project communication and awareness campaign, as most of them are unaware of the project's broader objectives and can only speak to the parts they are directly involved in. As has been mentioned elsewhere in this MTR report, the project's ILM Communications Officer was hired three years after project start-up and the project's Knowledge Management Strategy has not been developed yet.

Findings Statements on Factors Affecting Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues

88. UNEP's supervision has been appropriate as evidenced by the UNEP's participation in the PSC, field visits, and other evidence of feedback and support accessible in PIRs and on Anubis. One observation in this regard is that a bit more assertiveness from UNEP could have picked up on the unusually late hiring of the Communication Officer and the fact that the project's Knowledge Management Strategy is just being developed. The Project Management Unit in DEPP produces and submits on a timely basis, all related reports as required by UNEP and the GEF. There have been no audit recommendations nor the need for management response, suggesting adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures by the Project Management Unit in DEPP. This MTR findings suggest more assertiveness from Project Management and institutional support from DEPP as the overall Executing Agency may be required to bring certain project outputs back on track. The project continuously shows flexibility and adaptability in seeking to meet project needs in seven islands, which by design pose logistical challenges, as well as the ability to adapt and adjust to institutional challenges that collaborating partners may experience from time to time, affecting scheduling of project activities.
89. The project has secured substantial stakeholder participation in the development of numerous activities to date in support of outputs, especially under Components 1 and 3, and to a lesser extent under Components 2 and 4. Sex disaggregated indicators are included in the Project Results Framework and are being measured on a regular basis. The project secured the participation of 23 males and 27 females in the training course on Introduction to SLM and CSA, and 56 males and 132 females in the plant propagation course, while the BDB has taken steps to ensure the ILM Grant Facility is gender responsive. In general, women lead as participants and beneficiaries of project activities. All collaborating partners show commitment and support to the project, with the exception of IICA that is no longer engaged with the project.
90. It must be noted that the project has no systems in place to monitor compliance with UNEP and GEF's environmental and social safeguards, even though safeguards statements are made in PIRs, including what steps the project needs to take to address safeguards possibly triggered by project activities. This MTR did not come across evidence of a structured communication strategy for the project via mainstream media or social media, and there is no dedicated project website or link, and the project's Knowledge Management Strategy has not been developed yet.
91. Country ownership of the project is evidenced by the leadership provided by the Cabinet, The Parliament, the DEPP, and support from numerous national collaborating partners. Support for the land management governance framework, for the formulation of several land management policies, and extensive stakeholder participation in project capacity building activities are testament to country ownership of project processes and intended objectives.

Rating for Factors Affecting Performance and Cross-Cutting Issues: Moderately Satisfactory

Rating for Quality of Project Management and Supervision: Moderately Satisfactory

Rating for Stakeholders Participation and Cooperation: Satisfactory

Rating for Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equality: Satisfactory

Rating for Environmental and Social Safeguards: Moderately Satisfactory

Rating for Country Ownership and Driven-ness: Satisfactory

Rating for Communication and Public Awareness: Moderately Unsatisfactory

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

92. At the mid-term, the project has shown strong performance in the implementation of activities to support an ILM Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework to achieve LDN in the longer term, via the adoption of the updated National Action Programme (NAP) and acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament. Coupled to these were capacity building activities on the NAP alignment with the UNCCD to lead agencies with responsibility for land management, and the formulation of proposed land development policies inclusive of provisions for LDN target-setting, including: Integrated Coastal Forest Land Use Planning; Mandatory Revegetation and Native Species Restoration; Incentives for Sustainable Agro Forestry and Community Based Management; and Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System. The project's success in the above can be attributed to leadership exercised by DEPP in securing political support from Cabinet for the updated NAP, dedication and commitment from collaborating partners in capacity building activities to lead land management agencies, as well as support from line ministries for reforms to land development policies.
93. With the leadership and commitment of the BDB, the project showed strong performance in engaging communities in the development of gender-sensitive business investment plans, a gender-sensitive ILM Grant Criteria, a gender-responsive ILM Grant Facility, and a training curriculum to build capacity of beneficiaries to access grants. With support from the collaborating partner BAMSI, the project was also able to show strong performance in the delivery of certificate-based gender sensitive training on SLM Methods, CSA, and Market Access in six (6) of the seven (7) target islands of the project. The project showed moderate performance in SLM-LDN and restorative climate-smart agriculture, having designed ten (10) training courses through a collaborative effort of BAMSI, CARDI and the BDB, but which are yet to be implemented. Other moderate performance includes the completion of assessments for three (3) compositing facilities, the ongoing process of physically establishing three (3) plant propagation facilities, and development of a framework for soil and water sampling analysis. The project's continued success will amount to the establishment of a National ILM Baseline and would be pioneering for The Bahamas.
94. The project showed comparative weaknesses in the delivery of several key outputs required to support outcomes, including the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes; restorative climate-smart agriculture, integrated waste management tools, practices, approaches, technologies and capacity building to support expanded adoption of SLM and regenerative climate-smart agriculture practices; establishment of the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System to improve decision making by technical professionals, farmers, practitioners and other stakeholders; establishment of the environmental/ agrometeorological systems for land resource degradation and agro-climatic assessment; and the Knowledge Management Strategy and Plan and Communication Plan, both of which are critical for supporting the scaling up and mainstreaming of interventions by target beneficiaries including policy and technical support professionals, practitioners, and other beneficiaries.

95. Weaknesses in project performance are attributed to several issues. A major issue is the termination of the collaborative contract between IICA and the project, creating a huge deficit in technical capacity to deliver most activities under Component 2, requiring the project to seek alternatives to fill the technical gap. This has had a direct impact on the project's ability to contribute to GEF Core Indicator targets relating to rehabilitation of productive landscapes and improved management and restorative climate smart agricultural practices, based on the anticipated attainment by the mid-term. Coupled to this is the re-purposing of lands originally identified to be subject to improved management practices to benefit biodiversity, placing the end of project GEF Core Indicator target of 17,300 Ha at risk. The MTR revealed weaknesses in the procurement capacity for securing the agrometeorological stations, with the process having dragged on excessively long and the items still have not been procured. As outlined by UB, the design of the NEAPIS cannot be finalized until data collection methods have been harmonized and quality assurance of data addressed, both of which require substantial consultations with collaborating partners and is a slow process. UB also suggests that progress on the Citizen Science activities of the project could not be advanced until such activities were formally aligned with priorities of schools in the country, an alignment which is reported by UB to have been recently achieved, now allowing for Citizen Science activities to advance. There is no clear reason or excuse why UB has not fully developed the project's Knowledge Management Strategy and Plan, other than suggestions of internal challenges within the institution. In terms of the late hiring of the ILM Communications Officer, the PMU has advised that multiple efforts have been made to secure the services of a Communications Officer, however, persons with this expertise are limited in The Bahamas, and those available are already hired in the private sector or in government ministries.
96. The following key Strategic questions were posed for consideration in this MTR; (i) *To what extent have the project activities been integrated with the work programme and strategic planning of the Ministry of Agriculture?*, (ii) *How well has the project maintained policy support and visibility among key stakeholders at the national development planning level?*, (iii) *What is the perceived impact and relevance of the project among stakeholders in the target islands?*, (iv) *How cohesive and efficient has the project's technical partnership been during implementation?*, (v) *Is the overall governance mechanism of the project regarded as effective?* The MTR found that project activities have integrated well with the work programme and strategies of the Ministry of Agriculture in its mission to achieve national food security and reducing the country's reliance on foreign food imports. Project investments in ILM, SLM and CSA complement and strengthen efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture to sustainably manage agricultural lands. Similarly, the project's engagement with the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation and the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute to provide capacity building to farmers is a perfect fit with ongoing efforts by the Ministry of agriculture to improve extension services and capacity building to farmers in rural areas. The project has done well at maintaining policy support and visibility among key stakeholders at the national development planning level, as evidenced by high-level support by Cabinet and the Parliament to project activities and results, and the support of key line ministries for policies developed and proposed by the project to promote ILM, SLM and CSA.
97. Project stakeholders in target areas are supportive of the project, have been receptive to capacity building and consultation opportunities offered by the project thus far, and are optimistic that the project will deliver much more benefits once all planned outputs are

achieved. Most collaborating partners have shown assertive leadership in embracing project activities and delivering anticipated returns, and some have worked together to jointly deliver certain project outputs. Exceptions to this are IICA and the UB, in which the contract of the former with the project was terminated, while the latter is experiencing serious delays in delivering project commitments. While the overall governance mechanism of the project is working well, concerns regarding conflict of interests have been tabled, with some collaborating partners suggesting that the Project Steering Committee should meet more frequently to review and approve project deliverables.

98. While certain sustainability elements required to achieving Intermediate States and the associated transition to impact need to be strengthened, such as an overarching National Agricultural Development Policy inclusive of rationalisation for land use, and that is based on the principles of ILM, SLM, and CSA, all assumptions outlined in the TOC have been determined to still hold, with no major change in the project context or actors, and political will has been sustained as evidenced to date, with collaborating partners and stakeholders continuing to show support for the implementation of the project. Critical to the sustainability of the project outcomes will be the formal adoption of all land development policies supported by the project and their subsequent institutionalisation, as well as the successful demonstration of the restorative agricultural practices and the ILM Grant Facility, all of which are achievable by the project. A substantial part of the intended and desired impact of the project rests on the premise that farmers, community groups, and lead agencies with mandate for land management and associated roles will embrace the principles of ILM, SLM, CSA, and restorative agriculture. However, there is no baseline for what current knowledge, attitudes and practices are with respect to ILM, SLM, CSA, and restorative agriculture, an issue that should be addressed as part of the project's exit strategy. Consistent with the findings presented above, the project performance at the mid-term is assessed as **Moderately Satisfactory**, and the likelihood of the project achieving the intended impact is **'Likely'**. Project performance is summarized in Table 14.

Table 14: Project Performance Ratings³⁰

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating
Strategic Relevance		
1. Alignment to UNEP's, donors and country (global, regional, sub-regional and national) strategic priorities	The project aligns with UNEP MTS (2022-2025) and UNEP POW (2022-2025). It also aligns with GEF priority areas, with national and regional policy frameworks, and show coherence and complementarity with at least two national projects and one regional project.	HS
Effectiveness		MS

³⁰ Most criteria will be rated on a six-point scale as follows: Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Unsatisfactory (U); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability and Likelihood of Impact are rated, also on a six-point scale, from Highly Likely (HL) down to Highly Unlikely (HU) and Nature of External Context is rated from Highly Favourable (HF) to Highly Unfavourable (HU).

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating
1. Availability of outputs	Three (3) of eleven (11) outputs have been achieved more than 50% delivery at the MTR, with two (2) at 30% delivery and two (2) with a delivery as low as 10%. Substantial progress made in outputs 1.1.1, 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, but major work is required to deliver the others.	MS
2. Progress towards project outcomes	At the MTR, only Outcomes 1.1 and 3.1 are on track to be delivered in a timely manner; Outcomes 2.1 is moderately delivered, while Outcomes 2.2, 4.1, and 4.2 are substantially delayed. Progress towards project outcomes is reflective the delivery of key outputs required for the transition to outcomes.	MS
3. Likelihood of impact	Outcomes 1.1 and 3.1 are substantially delivered and Outcome 2.1 has been moderately delivered, representing an important input for the transition to intermediate states. All assumptions outlined in the TOC have been determined to still hold, political will has been sustained, and collaborating partners and stakeholders continue to show support for the implementation of the project.	L
Financial Management		S
1. Adherence to financial policies and procedures	There have been no material shortcomings in Audit Reports, thus there have been no audit recommendations nor the need for management response, suggesting adherence to UNEP's Financial Policies and Procedures.	HS
2. Completeness of financial information	The project's financial information is complete, and includes Quarterly Expenditure Reports, Half Yearly Reports, Annual Project Implementation Reports, and Annual Audit Reports. An exception to the completeness of reporting is project budget information and co-financing by component.	S
Efficiency	The project experienced lags in formalizing institutional arrangements with collaborating partners and delays in getting several key deliverables started. The late hiring of an ILM Communications Officer has resulted in substantial delays in public awareness and Knowledge Management related outputs of the project. The project has had a low level of budget execution.	MS
Monitoring and Reporting		MS
1. Monitoring of project implementation	A Costed Monitoring & Evaluation Plan inclusive of gender indicators was developed for the project and is being followed accordingly. Baseline values for several indicators have not been defined, limiting comparative assessments. The Project Manager, the PSC, the UNEP Task Manager, and the Senior Programme Management Assistant of UNEP participate in monitoring.	MS
2. Project reporting	Quarterly Expenditure Reports, Half Yearly Reports, Project Implementation Reports, and independent Audit Reports are generally prepared and submitted to UNEP on a timely basis. Better reporting of co-financing and expenditure by project component and/or outcome will substantially improve reporting.	S
Exit Strategy and Sustainability		ML
1. Socio-political sustainability	Support for the project from collaborating partners and stakeholders is very strong; political support seems optimum at the national level for project success; the DEPP is fully committed to the success of this project	L
2. Financial sustainability	Business Investment Plans and the ILM Grant Facility will affect financial sustainability need to be fully tested and demonstrated as success stories that will create a robust baseline upon which credit mechanisms for farmers may be designed and implemented by financial institutions. An increase in budgets for lead agencies to institutionalize project results is not guaranteed.	ML

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating
3. Institutional sustainability	Policy and governance arrangements established or strengthened with project support must be fully institutionalised across multiple agencies involved in land management, as well as the NEAPIS and Environmental-Agrometeorological System.	ML
Factors Affecting Performance		MS
1. Quality of project management and supervision		MS
1.1 UNEP/Implementing Agency:	UNEP's supervision has been appropriate as evidenced by the UNEP's participation in the PSC, field visits, and other evidence of feedback and support accessible in PIRs and on Anubis. However, a bit more assertiveness from UNEP in supervision could have picked up on the unusually late hiring of the Communication Officer and the fact that the project's Knowledge Management Strategy is just being developed, and procurement of the agro-meteorological system is going through major challenges.	MS
1.2 Partners/Executing Agency:	While the Project Management Unit in DEPP produces and submits on a timely basis, all related reports as required by UNEP and the GEF, the PMU could be more forthcoming with UNEP on issues that are causing substantial delays, beyond what is present in PIRs.	MS
2. Stakeholders' participation and cooperation	The project has secured substantial stakeholder participation in the development of numerous activities to date in support of outputs, with women leading as participants and beneficiaries of project activities. All collaborating partners show commitment and support to the project and participate in all project activities.	S
3. Responsiveness to human rights and gender equality	A Gender Action Plan with sex disaggregated indicators and is being measured. Most stakeholders engaged with and benefitting from project activities are females. The integrated approach to human/natural systems was not defined in the project document and is not explicitly addressed in project implementation.	S
4. Environmental and social safeguards	The project has no systems in place to monitor compliance with UNEP and GEF's environmental and social safeguards, even though safeguards statements are made in PIRs. Stakeholders are engaged and consulted repeatedly and consistently to ensure their interest and needs are tabled and considered in all project decisions.	MS
5. Country ownership and driven-ness	At the MTR there is certainly country ownership as evidenced by the leadership provided to this project by the DEPP and support from numerous national collaborating partners. Participation by key national institutions on the PSC is evidence of a genuine interest to ensure project interventions are policy coherent and in alignment with national priorities.	S
6. Communication and public awareness	This MTR did not come across evidence of a structured communication strategy for the project via mainstream media or social media, and there is no dedicated project website or link to the DEPP or to collaborating partners' websites. the project's ILM Communications Officer was hired three years after project start-up since earlier efforts in this regard were unsuccessful and the project's Knowledge Management Strategy has not been developed yet.	MU

Criterion	Summary assessment	Rating
Overall Project Performance Rating at Mid-Point	Overall, the project demonstrated great progress towards a framework to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality and showed strong performance in efforts to incentivize the uptake and replication of Sustainable Land Management and climate resilient agriculture. The project was also able to show strong performance in the delivery of certificate-based gender sensitive training on Sustainable Land Management methods, but only showed moderate performance in restorative climate-smart agriculture, composting facilities, and propagation facilities. The project showed comparative weaknesses in the establishment of the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System, establishment of the environmental/agrometeorological systems for land resource degradation and agro-climatic assessment, the Knowledge Management Strategy, and the Communications Plan. The commitment of collaborating partners has been instrumental, especially for the substantial progress achieved under Component 3 and the moderate progress under component 2. Much work is needed to improve project performance in Components 2 and 4.	MS

a. Lessons learned

Lesson Learned #1:	Misinterpretation of the relative progress of activities contributing to the delivery project outputs may lead to overestimation of progress in PIRs and at the mid-term.
Context/comment:	A close examination of the project's PIRs revealed estimated progress of delivery of outputs are sometimes based on delivery of supporting activities, as opposed to focusing on what elements of the output have been delivered that will actually lead to achievement of the outcome, and eventually the intermediate states.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Paragraph 66, Availability of Outputs Table

Lesson Learned #2:	Reliance on the implied capacity of collaborating partners for the delivery of key project outputs in support of GEF Core Indicators is a high-risk strategy.
Context/comment:	IICA as a key collaborating partner was tasked with delivery of strategic activities and outputs that are directly linked to at least three GEF Core Indicators covering rehabilitation of productive landscapes, restorative and climate smart agriculture, and training to hundreds of farmers. The departure of IICA has left the project struggling to fill the technical and institutional gap created, and placing the project's contribution to GEF Core Indicators at risk with substantial implementation delays. In this regard, the project has secured the services of an Agronomist and a Composting Specialist to fill the technical gap, while new opportunities for participation by other collaborating institutions have been created.

Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Paragraph 50, Availability of Outputs Table, Table 13
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Lesson Learned #3:	Internal capabilities and readiness of the project’s collaborating institutions must be assessed to determine if potential implementation risk exists and the degree of such risk, with required mitigation measures defined either in project design or at inception.
Context/comment:	The project has no control over internal challenges and changes which may occur from time to time with collaborating partners, but which can significant impact on project implementation; a key example to be cited being internal challenges at UB, resulting in delay of the NEAPIS, Agro-Meteorological Stations, Citizen Science Programme, and the Knowledge Management Strategy and Action Plan.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Availability of Outputs Table, Paragraph 92

b. Recommendations

99. The findings of this review have produced a total of nine (9) key recommendations to improve project performance and enhance impact, and have been designed to incorporate issues requiring senior management attention.

Recommendation #1:	Define missing baseline values for performance indicators in the Project Results Framework.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation³¹:	There are at least five (5) outcome indicators for which baseline values should have been determined early in project implementation as indicated in the Project Results Framework at CEO Endorsement, to allow for quantitative measurement at the mid-term. These have not been determined, and must be addressed to allow for proper monitoring of performance and to allow for quantitative measurement by project end. Outcome indicators for which baseline values are missing are: ▪ 2.2. Farmer population adopting SLM and climate smart measures ▪ 3.1(a). Number of agricultural-based investments that have access to markets that incorporate SLM and climate-smart approaches ▪ 3.1(b). Productivity/ yield of farms participating in the programme

³¹ The same challenge/problem can lead to a recommendation of more than one type, i.e. one or more of the following: Project Level, UNEP-wide or Partners recommendation.

	4.1. Availability and utilization of new data products in national level reporting, research efforts and decision-making. 4.2. Level of awareness among target beneficiaries (by community survey)
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Table 10 – Progress towards project outcomes
Priority Level³²:	Important
Type of Recommendation³³	Project Level
Responsibility:	Project Management Unit
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Within 3 months of the MTR Report.

Recommendation #2:	Complete the confirmation of landscape locations to constitute the 17,300 Ha to be subject to improved management to benefit biodiversity.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The MTR revealed that some of the lands originally considered to make up the 17,300 Ha target for GEF Core Indicator 4 have been re-purposed for other uses including for housing, while others have suffered from forest fires. This creates a deficit in the target and must be addressed immediately if the project is to demonstrate compliance with GEF Core Indicators promised at CEO Endorsement.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Availability of Outputs Table; Paragraph 90
Priority Level:	Critical
Type of Recommendation	Project Level
Responsibility:	Project Management Unit/Government of The Bahamas
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Immediately

Recommendation #3:	Advocate for and support the formulation of an overarching National Agriculture Development Policy inclusive of rationalisation for land use for The Bahamas.
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³² Critical, Important or Opportunity for Improvement.

³³ Project Level, UNEP-Wide or Partners recommendation.

Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	While the project is supporting multiple dimensions of agriculture development, there is no national overarching policy for the sector to ensure complementarity, policy coherence, and institutionalisation. Past efforts in this regard include a 1994 census and an FAO Agriculture Assessment in 2019. There is need for a National Agriculture Development Policy that embraces the principles of ILM, SLM, and CSA and structured to ensure policy coherence and the sustainable development and diversification of the sector. This is crucial for the sustainability of project outcomes.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Table 11 – Likelihood of impact; Paragraph 91
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation	Project Level
Responsibility:	Project Management Unit/Government of The Bahamas
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Within 6 months of the MTR Report.

Recommendation #4:	Make adjustments to the project's governance arrangements to eliminate conflict of interest and improve efficiency.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	This project has its primary contractors/partners as members of the PSC, which essentially places them in a situation of direct 'conflict of interest'. Strictly speaking, institutions and persons on the project's payroll should not be making project governance and policy decisions. It is recommended that the PSC be reconstituted with key policy makers from institutions of relevance to the project's objectives plus the UNEP Task Manager. Project partners, NGOs, and academia can be placed on a project Technical Advisory Committee. PSC best practice suggests a maximum of 6 members. The PSC should meet at least twice per year, to coincide with the review of draft HYPRs and PIRs. There is also a need to increase the frequency of PSC meetings.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Paragraph 75.
Priority Level:	Important
Type of Recommendation	Project Level/UNEP-Wide
Responsibility:	Project Management Unit/UNEP
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Within 2 months of this MTR

Recommendation #5:	Assess Attitude, Practices, and Behavioural Change to consolidate stakeholder support and as a proactive approach to ensure that stakeholders' perspectives and actions align with the project goals.
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Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	A substantial part of the intended and desired impact of the project rests on the premise that farmers, community groups, and lead agencies with mandate for land management and associated roles will embrace the principles of ILM, SLM, CSA, and restorative agriculture. However, there is no baseline for what current knowledge, attitudes and practices are with respect to ILM, SLM, CSA, and restorative agriculture. As part of the project's exit strategy, it may be useful to conduct a KAP Baseline Survey as soon as possible and an KAP Endline Survey at least one month before project's end. This recommendation assumes the project's implementation period will be extended.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Paragraph 91
Priority Level:	Opportunity for improvement
Type of Recommendation	Project Level
Responsibility:	Project Management Unit
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Within 3 months of this MTR

Recommendation #6:	Consider a 24-months project extension to facilitate the full completion of the project activities to realize delivery of outputs.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The project is currently implementing a multitude of processes towards delivery of outcomes, with an important number of activities just about to start; this scenario is consistent with the project's budget execution rate of 24.08% at the time of the MTR. The project cannot physically implement all pending activities in the time remaining in the current implementation period. Similarly, considering the amount of the budget still undisbursed (63.75%), in the time remaining the project cannot effectively conduct the required procurement processes that will lead to disbursements and payments to substantially improve the budget execution rate and support delivery of project outcomes. In this regard, a 24-month project extension is recommended.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Paragraph 56; Paragraph 64
Priority Level:	Critical
Type of Recommendation	Project Level/UNEP-Wide
Responsibility:	Project Management Unit/UNEP
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Within 3 months of this MTR.

Recommendation #7:	Strengthen project monitoring by introducing indicators for ESS and Human Rights.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The following two safeguard standards were triggered as part of the ESS screening: SS 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency and SS 8: Labor and Working Conditions. To facilitate monitoring of these two ESS standards, the following indicators are proposed. <u>SS 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</u> Indicator: Landfill Water Pollution Index (LWPI) Target: 1-2 (Moderately polluted water due to minor landfill impact) Metric: LWPI Scale: From 'Less than 1' to "Greater than 5" Frequency of Measure: Yearly Responsibility: PMU & Ministry of Health <u>SS 8: Labor and Working Conditions</u> Indicator: # of occupational safety and health (OHS) incidents Target: 0 Metric: Amount measured by number Frequency of Measure: Yearly Responsibility: PMU & Department of Labour <u>Human Rights Based Approach</u> Indicator (a): % of stakeholders allowed to participate in project activities Indicator (b): % of project reports with disaggregated data Indicator (c): % of project stakeholders with access to the project's accountability and grievance mechanism and/or to UNEP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism Target for all Indicators: 100% Metric for all Indicators: Percent Frequency of Measure for all Indicators: Half-Yearly Responsibility: PMU & UNEP
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Environmental and Social Safeguards; Paragraph 86.
Priority Level:	Opportunity for improvement.
Type of Recommendation	Project Level/UNEP-Wide
Responsibility:	Project Management Unit/UNEP
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Within 3 months of this MTR.

Recommendation #8:	Take steps to hasten communications and visibility that is needed to facilitate stakeholder buy-in.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	During the MTR consultation process, stakeholders emphatically expressed the need for a structured project communication and awareness campaign, as most of them are unaware of the project's broader objectives and can only speak to the parts they are directly involved in. Communications and visibility ensure project success by

	aligning stakeholders, showing accountability, allowing for adaptive management, and securing long-term buy-in and future funding.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Paragraph 88; Communications and Public Awareness
Priority Level:	Opportunity for improvement.
Type of Recommendation	Project Level
Responsibility:	Project Management Unit
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Within 3 months of this MTR.

Recommendation #9:	Develop and implement an Exit Strategy for the Project to. Outline how the project will transition, or terminate while minimizing risks, protecting investment, and sustaining benefits.
Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation:	The project's exit strategy relies on the extent to which socio-political, financial, and institutional sustainability of project outcomes may be achieved. While the Knowledge Management Strategy to be implemented by the project can support the application of lessons learned and results well beyond project closure, sustained political and stakeholder support will be essential, as well as robust institutionalisation of the policy and governance frameworks developed or strengthened by the project. There is no written or predetermined exit strategy for the project, other than those strategic interventions included in project design which contribute to creating the enabling conditions for the sustainability of project outcomes, consistent with the logical pathways in the project's Theory of Change. A fit-for-purpose exit strategy is necessary to ensure institutionalisation of the policy and governance frameworks developed or strengthened by the project.
Cross-reference(s) to relevant paragraphs	Findings Statement on Sustainability; Paragraph 80.
Priority Level:	Critical
Type of Recommendation	Project Level/UNEP-Wide
Responsibility:	Project Management Unit
Proposed implementation time-frame:	Within 3 months of this MTR.

ANNEX I. RESPONSE TO STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Table 15. Response to stakeholder comments received but not (fully) accepted by the reviewer, where appropriate. If all stakeholder comments were accepted, delete this annex.

Page Ref	Stakeholder comment	Reviewer Response
	N/A	N/A

ANNEX II. PEOPLE CONSULTED DURING THE REVIEW

Table 16: People consulted during the review

Organisation	Position	Role in the project	Gender
UNEP	Task Manager	GEF Implementing Agency	Male
UNEP	Senior Programme Manager Assistant	GEF Implementing Agency	Female
UNEP	Fund Management Officer	GEF Implementing Agency	Male
DEPP	Director	Project Executing Agency	Female
DEPP	Accounts Officer	Project Executing Agency	Female
ILM Project	Senior Project Manager	Project Management	Female
Department of Agriculture	Director	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Male
Department of Agriculture	Agronomist	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Female
ILM Project	Land Management Specialist	Project Staff/Consultant	Female
ILM Project	Agronomist	Project Staff/Consultant	Male
Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management	Chief Technical Officer	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Male
University of The Bahamas	Associate Professor, Physics and Dean, Pure & Applied Sciences	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Male
ILM Project	Composting Expert	Project Staff /Consultant	Male
ILM Project	Education and Awareness Specialist	Project Staff /Consultant	Female
Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute	CARDI Representative in the Bahamas	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Female
Bahamas Development Bank	Head of Department - Strategic Development and Initiatives	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Female
Bahamas Development Bank	Project Officer	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Female
Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute	Agricultural Officer	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Female
Department of Agriculture	Agricultural Officer, Grand Bahama	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Male
Department of Agriculture	Officer in Charge, Abaco	Collaborating Partner/Beneficiary	Female
Independent	Farmer	Beneficiary	Female
Sanitation Services, Freeport	General Manager	Beneficiary & Partner	Male
Sanitation Services, Freeport	Landfill Manager	Beneficiary & Partner	Male

ANNEX III. KEY DOCUMENTS CONSULTED

Project planning and reporting documents

- GEF Project Information Form
- UNEP Project Review Committee comments and checklist
- GEF Secretariat Review Sheet and Agency Response
- UNEP Environmental and Social Safeguards Screening report
- GEF CEO Endorsement Request Document
- UNEP Project Document
- UNEP Project Budget
- Project Co-financing Budget
- Project Gender Marker Results
- Project Gender action Plan
- Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Project Cooperation Agreement between UNEP and Government of The Bahamas
- Project Implementation Review, June 2024
- Project Implementation Review, June 2025
- Project Half-Yearly Report, December 2025
- Audit Reconciliation September 2024
- Audit Reconciliation February 2025
- Auditor's Report 2024
- Project Work Plan 2024
- Project Work Plan 2025
- Financial Expenditure Reports (Q4 2022 to present that reflect GEF expenditure and co-financing)

Project outputs – Overall

- Updated National Action Programme (NAP)
- Four trainings focusing on the NAP alignment with the UNCCD
- Complemented efforts to develop the Land Registration Bill and the Land Adjudication Bill
- Developed four (4) policies: **1.** Integrated Coastal Forest Land Use Planning; **2.** Mandatory Re vegetation and Native Species Restoration; **3.** Incentives for Sustainable Agro Forestry and Community Based Management; **4.** Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System
- Land Assessment Report of The Bahamas
- Secured services of an Agronomist and a Composting Expert
- Needs assessment for planting materials
- Outline of a structured and phased approach to establishing and monitoring demonstration models of nature-based solutions
- MOUs for target areas to establish Plant Propagation Facilities
- Establishment of propagation sites on-going in the islands of Andros and Abaco

- Plant Propagation Certification Training Course
- Three composting sites assessments
- Framework for soil and water sampling analysis
- Ten training courses have been designed
- Certificate-based gender sensitive training on SLM Methods, CSA, and Market Access in six of the seven target islands
- Draft Business Investment Plan Template
- Grant training curriculum
- ILM grant criteria
- ILM grant facility
- Initiated the grant roll-out process
- Monitoring Plan for the grants program
- Requirements Analysis for the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System (NEAPIS)
- Two-day key stakeholders' capacity building workshop for the NEAPIS
- End-to-end workflow for NEAPIS
- Framework and plan for the citizen science initiative

Project outputs work package 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for achievement of land degradation neutrality through improved policy and governance

- Updated National Action Programme (NAP)
- Four trainings focusing on the NAP alignment with the UNCCD
- Complemented efforts to develop the Land Registration Bill and the Land Adjudication Bill
- Developed four (4) policies: **1.** Integrated Coastal Forest Land Use Planning; **2.** Mandatory Re vegetation and Native Species Restoration; **3.** Incentives for Sustainable Agro Forestry and Community Based Management; **4.** Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) System

Project outputs work package 2: Demonstrating of regenerative agriculture and resilient food production systems, practices and technologies

- Land Assessment Report of The Bahamas
- Secured services of an Agronomist and a Composting Expert
- Needs assessment for planting materials
- Outline of a structured and phased approach to establishing and monitoring demonstration models of nature-based solutions
- MOUs for target areas to establish Plant Propagation Facilities
- Establishment of propagation sites on-going in the islands of Andros and Abaco
- Plant Propagation Certification Training Course
- Three composting sites assessments

- Framework for soil and water sampling analysis
- Ten training courses have been designed

Project outputs work package 3: Incentivizing uptake and replication of SLM and climate resilient agriculture

- Certificate-based gender sensitive training on SLM Methods, CSA, and Market Access in six of the seven target islands
- Draft Business Investment Plan Template
- Grant training curriculum
- ILM grant criteria
- ILM grant facility
- Initiated the grant roll-out process
- Monitoring Plan for the grants program

Project outputs work package 4: Enhancing monitoring and knowledge management systems for land degradation neutrality assessment and agricultural production system resilience assessment and tracking related GEB Indicators

- Requirements Analysis for the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System (NEAPIS)
- Two-day key stakeholders' capacity building workshop for the NEAPIS
- End-to-end workflow for NEAPIS
- Framework and plan for the citizen science initiative

Previous reviews/evaluations

- Mid-Term Review Report: Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas (GEF Project ID 9791), 2025
- Mid-Term Review Report: Creation of Additional Biosafety Capacities that Lead to a Full Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Cuba (GEF Project ID 9860), 2024
- Mid-Term Review Report: Advancing Conservation in the Eastern Caribbean (GEF Project ID: 9860), 2023
- Mid-Term Review Report: The Path to 2020 – Antigua and Barbuda, (GEF Project ID: 9402/UNEP Project ID: 01405), 2022
- Mid-Term Review Report: Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in The Bahamas, (GEF Project ID: 5744/UNEP Project ID: 01262), 2021
- Mid-Term Review Report: Effective Implementation of the Access and Benefit sharing and Traditional Knowledge Regime in Peru in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol, (GEF Project ID: 8025/UNEP Project ID: 01345), 2021
- Mid-Term Review Report: Sustainable Pathways – Protected Areas and Renewable Energy in Antigua and Barbuda (GFL/5060-2711-4E04), UNEP/GEF, 2018

- Mid-Term Review Report: Management and Protection of Key Biodiversity Areas -KBA (GEF Project ID 4605), 2018
- Mid-Term Review Report: Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region, (GFL/5060-2711-4E67), UNEP/GEF, 2017

Reference documents

- UNEP Evaluation Office MTR Tools Package including Guidance on the preparation of the MTR Inception Report and Guidance on the preparation of the MTR Main Report
- UNEP Evaluation Policy
- UNEP Evaluation Manual
- UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025
- UNEP POW 2022-2025
- Bali Strategic Plan for Technology and Capacity Building
- GEF-7 Biodiversity Strategy
- Theory of Change Primer – GEF STAP
- Guidelines on the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy (2025 Update)
- GEF ROTI Handbook, August 2005, OPS4 – Progress Towards Impact

ANNEX IV. REVIEW ITINERARY

ITINERARY - ILM Mid-Term Review MTR Consultant's Travel Mission to The Bahamas March 14-20, 2026

DATE / PLACE	DETAILS
March 14, 2026 - Saturday	Departure from UK (overnight in Miami)
March 15, 2026 – Sunday	Arrival to Nassau, Bahamas
March 16, 2026, Monday –	AM: 9:30 – 10:30 – Courtesy Meeting with the PMU- DEPP, DEPP Director, Project Manager, Project Agronomist 10:30 – 12:00 – Meeting with the DEPP Accounts Officer for ILM (Mrs. Shenik Thompson) PM: 1:00 – 2:30- Meeting with the Department of Agriculture – Shacara, Ces, Dr. Jason Sands, Dr. Carlton Watson, Dr. Shelley Bridgewater, Gina Pierre, Zakita Bethel, Summayyah Cargill and Tamika Mcfall. 2:30 – 4:30- Visit to GRAC for the propagation site, regenerative plots and the composting site
March 17, 2026 – 8:00 AM Tuesday Travel to Grand Bahama	Noel Jacobs, Shacara Lightbourne, Freddy Gamboa Quiros, Jeri Kelly, Zakita Bethel, Shelley Bridgewater, Ces
	Interview with ILM Stakeholders Visit composting site Visit demo area for the propagation facility and regenerative farming Meeting and interview with farmer beneficiaries
March 18, 2026 – Wednesday – 8:00 AM Travel from Grand Bahama to Abaco	Noel Jacobs, Shacara Lightbourne, Ces, Freddy Gamboa Quiros, Jeri Kelly, Zakita Bethel, Shelley Bridgewater

	Department of Agriculture (Superintendent) – Ms. Josefina Adderly Farm Visitation – interaction with farmers Visit at the proposed composting site Stakeholder’s / partners interview
March 19, 2026 – Thursday – 12:00 PM Travel from Abaco back to Nassau	PM: Meeting with BDB – Mrs. Sumayyah Cargill Meeting with UB – Dr. Carlton Watson Debriefing with PMU - Ces
March 20, 2026 – Friday Travel from Nassau back to UK	END of MISSION

ANNEX V. SAFEGUARDS ASSESSMENT TOOL

Assessment of the Management of Environmental and Social Safeguards¹ by the Project²

Objectives:

- [i] To assess sufficiency in planning for Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) during project design
- [ii] To assess monitoring of potential and/or emerging ESS risks during project implementation
- [iii] To assess management responsiveness to ESS events that are triggered during project implementation

ESS PLANNING AT PROJECT DESIGN	
List any ESS issues identified at project design (e.g. SS 1.7, SS 2.3, etc.) ³	SS 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency SS 8: Labor and Working Conditions
For any ESS issues identified at project design, were <u>mitigation strategies</u> developed (Y/N)? (If yes, briefly describe)	Safeguard risk identification and management should be clearly communicated to the grant awardees. Grievance Redress Mechanism and UNEP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism to be included in Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
Were any <u>gaps</u> in ESS issues identified at the review inception phase (Y/N)? (If yes, briefly describe)	No

ESS MONITORING AT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	
Is there evidence that the potential emergence of ESS issues was actively <u>monitored</u> during project implementation (Y/N)? ⁴ (If yes, briefly describe)	No
Is there a <u>justification for the absence of ESS monitoring</u> (Y/N)? (If yes, briefly describe ⁵)	Yes; project activities not advanced enough to trigger safeguards and the need for monitoring.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIVENESS DURING PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	
Identify the ESS issues/events <u>triggered</u> ⁶ by the project. ⁷	Project Management recognises that project activities not advanced enough to trigger safeguards and the need for monitoring.
Describe <u>consequences</u> of ESS issues/events during project implementation.	No consequences to date.
Describe the management response and identify supporting documentation. ^{8, 9}	No responses required thus far.
Were negative ESS effects offset by management response (Y/N)? (If yes, briefly describe)	No responses required thus far.

ANNEX VI. BRIEF CV OF THE REVIEWER

Name	Noel Devany Jacobs Sr
Profession	Project Development and M&E Specialist Institutional Development & Management Consultants Limited
Nationality	Belizean
Country experience	Africa: Kenya, Madagascar Americas: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay Caribbean: Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, The Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago Asia: Indonesia, Georgia
Education	Master's degree in marine biology (1996), National Polytechnic Institute (CINVESTAV), Merida, Yucatan, Mexico Bachelor's Degree in Aquaculture Engineering (1992), Technical Institute of the Sea, Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico March 2017 – The Strategy Consultant; Chartered Management Institute (CMI)/Institute of Consulting (IC)/Advanced Management Skills (AMS); London, England, United Kingdom. March 2017 – The Lean Operations Consultant; Chartered Management Institute (CMI)/Institute of Consulting (IC)/Advanced Management Skills (AMS); London, England, United Kingdom. March 2017 – The Professional Consultant; Chartered Management Institute (CMI)/Institute of Consulting (IC)/Advanced Management Skills (AMS), London, England, United Kingdom. May 2012 – Advanced Level Organizational Development Certified Consultant Program (ODCC); Institute of Organization Development (IOD), Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A. March 2009 - Practitioner's Program in the Critical Components of Effective Governance; Board Source, Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A. June 2007 – Certified Fund-Raising Manager (CFRM); Centre on Philanthropy, Indiana University, Indianapolis, U.S.A. November 2003 – Certificate in Negotiation and Decision-Making Strategies; Columbia University Graduate School of Business, New York, U.S.A June 2002 - Leaders in Development: Managing Political & Economic Reform; John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Short biography

Mr. Jacobs has 20 years of experience working as an International Development Consultant in project design, management, and evaluation primarily in biodiversity, climate change, marine resources and Blue Economy, protected areas, land degradation, sustainable tourism, and policy development. He has successfully designed many GEF projects and has conducted numerous Mid-Term Evaluations of GEF and non-GEF projects. He also has extensive experience as an Institutional Development Consultant, focusing on Institutional Assessments, Organizational Re-structuring, Development of Organizational Policies, Strategic Plans, and Operational Guidelines and Manuals for Organizations and Projects. Mr. Jacobs has worked extensively as a consultant in more than 30 countries in a multitude of sectors including Tourism, Marine Fisheries, Coastal Zone Management, Environment, Climate Change, Aviation, Cultural Heritage, Health, among others. His analytical skills and ability to effectively apply the multi-sector approach in planning and policy development has proven to be a tremendous asset in the delivery of services to a wide diversity of clients primarily in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Key specialties and capabilities cover:

- Design of International Development Projects
- Evaluations and reviews of International Development Projects
- Institutional Assessments
- Organizational Governance
- Strategic Planning
- Policy Development

Selected assignments and experiences

- GEF-8 Project Document: Strengthening the System of Protected Areas and Improvement of its Financial Sustainability
- GEF-8 Project Document: Conserving the Paraguayan Chaco for the benefit of jaguars and for people
- GEF-8 Project Document: Valuing Nature and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Blue and Green Pathways for the Tourism, Food, and Urban Sectors in Saint Lucia
- GEF-7 Project Document: Energy Efficiency for the Transition to Carbon Neutral Cities in Colombia (ongoing)
- GEF-7 Project Document: Enhancing Political Will for Sustainable Protected Areas Financing
- GEF-7 Project Document: Promoting sustainability in the agave-mezcal value chain through restoration and integrated management of biocultural landscapes in Oaxaca, Mexico
- GEF-7 Project Document: Implementing Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) Site Conservation and Preventing Global Extinctions
- GEF-7 Project Document: Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the tourism sector of the protected areas and strategic ecosystems of San Andres, Old Providence, and Santa Catalina islands.
- GEF-7 Project Document: Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
- GEF-7 Project Document: UAVs/Drones for Equitable Climate Change Adaptation: Participatory Risk Management through Landslide and Debris Flow Monitoring in Mocoa, Colombia
- GEF-7 Project Document: Conservation of wildcats and prey species through public-private partnerships and human-jaguar conflict management in Panama.
- GEF-6 Project Document: Improving Environmental Management through Sustainable Land Management in St. Kitts and Nevis
- GEF-6 Project Document: Ecosystem-based biodiversity friendly cattle production framework for the Darien Region of Panama
- GEF-6 Project Document: 'Transformation of the Panela (sugar cane) Sub-Sector in Colombia Through Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) to the Impacts of Climate Change'
- GEF-5 Project Document: Andes Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources (AICCA)'
- M&E Specialist: Development of an Institutional Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) with Alignment to the National Protected Areas System (NPAS)
- M&E Specialist: Design of a Monitoring & Evaluation System for the Portfolio of GEF Projects in the Development Bank of Latin America

Independent reviews/evaluations:

- Mid-Term Review of the Project "Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas" (UNEP/GEF)
- Mid-Term Review of the Project "Creation of Additional Biosafety Capacities that Lead to a Full Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Cuba" (UNEP/GEF)
- Mid-Term Review of the Project "Advancing Conservation in the Eastern Caribbean" (UNEP/GEF)
- Mid-Term Review of the Project "Path to 2020 – Antigua & Barbuda" (UNEP/GEF)
- Mid-Term Review of the Project "Strengthening access and benefit sharing (ABS) in the Bahamas" (UNEP/GEF)
- Mid-Term Review of the Project "Effective Implementation of the Access and Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge Regime in Peru in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol" (UNEP/GEF)
- Mid-Term Evaluation of the Project "Sustainable Pathways – Protected Areas and Renewable Energy" (UNEP/GEF).
- Mid-Term Evaluation of the project "Management and Protection of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)" (World Bank/GEF)
- Mid-Term Evaluation of the Project "Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Project (MCCAP)" (World Bank/Adaptation Fund)
- Mid-Term Evaluation of Project "Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region" (UNEP/GEF)

- Final Evaluation of Project “Making Tourism Benefit Communities Adjacent to Archaeological Sites” (MTBCAAS)” (European Union)
- Mid-Term Evaluation of Project “Making Tourism Benefit Communities Adjacent to Archaeological Sites” (MTBCAAS)” (European Union)

ANNEX VII. GEF PORTAL INPUTS (FOR GEF FUNDED PROJECTS)

The following table contains text to be uploaded to the GEF Portal. **It will be drawn from the Review Report, either as copied or summarised text.** In each case, references should be provided for the paragraphs and pages of the report from which the responses have been copied or summarised.

Table 15: GEF portal inputs

Portal Entry: What is the performance at the project's mid-point against Core Indicator Targets? (For projects approved prior to GEF-7, these indicators will be identified retrospectively and comments on performance provided ³⁴)		
Response: The project's performance against Core Indicator Targets is below target, with most planned outcomes contributing to Core Indicator Targets delayed and not delivered enough at the mid-term to allow for quantitative measurement. Only Core Indicator 11 can be estimated from training and other events sponsored by the project.		
 GEF Core Indicator Reporting Template		
Core Indicators at CEO Endorsement	Targets	Actual / Achievement
Core Indicator 3.1	10,000 Ha	60.70Ha
Core Indicator 4.1	17,300 Ha	230.35 Ha
Core Indicator 6.1	3,927,880 MtCO2e	0 MtCO2e
Core Indicator 11	Females: 393 Males: 392	Females: 129 Males: 56
Portal Entry: What has been the progress, challenges and outcomes regarding engagement of stakeholders in the project/programme?		
Response: The project has secured substantial stakeholder participation in updating the National Action Programme, trainings focusing on the NAP alignment with the UNCCD, and validation of the Land Assessment Report of The Bahamas. Similar stakeholder participation was secured in the process to formulate four (4) land development policies, in the development of MOUs for Plant Propagation Facilities, in consultations to establish composting sites, and in the development of the Business Investment Plans, ILM Grant Facility, and capacity building workshop for the NEAPIS. The project secured the participation of 23 males and 27 females in the training course on Introduction to SLM and CSA, and 56 males and 132 females in the plant propagation course. Additionally, participation by key stakeholders on the PSC has been constant. All collaborating partners show commitment and support to the project.		
Portal Entry: What has been the progress, challenges and outcomes regarding gender-responsive measures and any intermediate gender result areas?		
Response: A gender analysis and Gender Action Plan was prepared during project design, and sex disaggregated indicators are included in the Project Results Framework and are being measured on a regular basis. Most stakeholders engaged with and benefitting from project activities at the time of the MTR are females. Additionally, the BDB has taken steps to ensure the ILM Grant Facility is gender responsive. Women lead in		

³⁴ This does not apply to Enabling Activities

multiple aspects of project implementation, including the Director of DEPP, the Project Manager, the lead from several collaborating partners, and two (2) project consultants are also females. The integrated approach to human/natural systems was not defined in the project document and is not explicitly addressed in project implementation.

Portal Entry:

- 1- Provide an overall ESS risk classification to be entered into the portal as either Low, Medium/Moderate, or High/Substantial). [Please reach out to UNEP Safeguards Advisor.](#)
- 2- Provide updates on any revisions to identified types of risk classifications/ratings and describe progress made in the implementation of the management measures as outlined in the CEO Endorsement/Approval. Please make reference to any PIR-reported ESS risks.
- 3- Provide supporting documents

Response: The project works to enhance climate-resilient food production across productive agricultural landscapes through sound Integrated Landscape Management and Land Degradation Neutrality approaches in The Bahamas. In this process, stakeholders are engaged and consulted repeatedly and consistently to ensure their interest and needs are tabled and considered in all project decisions. While an Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) screening and an Environmental and Social Management Framework was developed for the project, there is no evidence this is actively applied to monitor compliance with UNEP and GEF's environmental and social safeguards, even though safeguards statements are made in PIRs, including what steps the project needs to take to address safeguards possibly triggered, including SS3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency and SS 8: Labour and Working Conditions, both of which were flagged in the ESS Screening at CEO Endorsement. Once the propagation facilities and composting sites are established, the project will need to take steps to address possible pollution concerns.

Portal Entry: What has been the progress, challenges and outcomes regarding the implementation of the project's **Knowledge Management** Approach, including: Knowledge and Learning Deliverables (e.g. website/platform development); Knowledge Products/Events; Communication Strategy; Lessons Learned and Good Practice; Adaptive Management Actions.

Response: This MTR did not come across evidence of a structured communication strategy for the project via mainstream media or social media, and there is no dedicated project website or link to the DEPP or to collaborating partners' websites. During the MTR consultation process, stakeholders emphatically expressed the need for a structured project communication and awareness campaign, as most of them are unaware of the project's broader objectives and can only speak to the parts they are directly involved in. As has been mentioned elsewhere in this MTR report, the project's ILM Communications Officer was hired three years after project start-up and the project's Knowledge Management Strategy has not been developed yet.

Portal Entry: What are the main findings of the review?

Response: At the mid-term, the project has shown strong performance in the implementation of activities to support an ILM Strategy and Inter-Sectoral Operational Framework to achieve LDN in the longer term, via the adoption of the updated National Action Programme (NAP) and acceptance of the Land Assessment Report by members of The Parliament, and the formulation of proposed land development policies inclusive of provisions for LDN target-setting. The project has showed strong performance in engaging communities in the development of gender-sensitive business investment plans, a gender-sensitive ILM Grant Criteria, a gender-responsive ILM Grant Facility, and a training curriculum to build capacity of beneficiaries to access grants. The project was also able to show strong performance in the delivery of certificate-based gender sensitive training on SLM Methods, CSA, and Market Access, the design of ten training courses, assessments for three composting facilities, the ongoing process of establishing three plant propagation facilities, and development of a framework for soil and water sampling analysis.

The project showed comparative weaknesses in the delivery of several key outputs required to support outcomes, including the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes; restorative climate-smart agriculture, integrated waste management tools, practices, approaches, technologies and capacity building to support expanded adoption of SLM and regenerative climate-smart agriculture practices; establishment of the National Environmental and Agricultural Production and Information System; establishment of the environmental/ agrometeorological systems for land resource degradation and agro-climatic assessment; and the Knowledge Management Strategy and Plan and Communication Plan.

While certain sustainability elements required to achieving Intermediate States and the associated transition to impact need to be strengthened, such as an overarching National Agricultural Development Policy that is based on the principles of ILM, SLM, and CSA, all assumptions outlined in the TOC seem to hold, with no major change in the project context or actors, and political will has been sustained as evidenced to date, with collaborating partners and stakeholders continuing to show support for the implementation of the project. Consistent with the findings presented above, the project performance at the mid-term is assessed as **Moderately Satisfactory**, and the likelihood of the project achieving the intended impact is **'Likely'**.

Portal Entry: Actual Sources of Co-financing

Response:

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
Recipient Country Government	Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP)	Cash	Recurrent Expenditures	134,000
Recipient Country Government	Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	351,000
Other	Inter- American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	Cash	Recurrent expenditures	240,344.13
Other	Inter- American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	271,310.70
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Cash	Recurrent expenditures	101,000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	17,000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	160,000
Recipient Country Government	Bahamas Agriculture and Marina Science Institute (BAMSI)	Cash	Recurrent expenditures	6,585
Recipient Country Government	Bahamas Agriculture and Marina Science Institute (BAMSI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	124,685
Other	Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI)	Cash	Recurrent expenditures	4,822.16
Other	Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	78,869.43
Other	Bahamas Development Bank (BDB)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	154,000
Other	University of The Bahamas (UB)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	237,200
Recipient Country Government	Department of Agriculture	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	161,000

Recipient Country Government	Forestry Unit / Bahamas National Geographical Information System (BNGIS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	120,000
Other	Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	90,000
Private Sector	Compost Council of Canada (CCC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	40,000
Total Co-financing				\$2,291,816.42
Portal Entry: Key Risks (please refer to ANNEX XI)				

ANNEX VIII. GEF RISKS TO ACHIEVING PROJECT OUTCOMES (FOR GEF FUNDED PROJECTS)

RISK CATEGORIES	RATINGS	ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Assessment : Climate change and climate variability and natural disaster occurrence associated with major hurricane, drought and extreme weather events, with disruption of institutional and project delivery processes, loss or compromise of field investments Mitigation: To ensure the sustainability of agricultural systems promoted by the project in the Bahamas, more climate change resilient plant material will be used to rehabilitate landscapes by integrating agroforestry and intercropping systems into cultivation suitable for the anticipated (projected) impacts of climate change. Examples of plant species to be promoted by the project that are more resilient to climate change impacts such as droughts, increased salinity, and higher temperatures are root crops that develop horizontally (e.g., coconuts and mangoes). In addition, some heat-resistant varieties of lettuce and other crops will be introduced to resist adverse conditions associated with climate change
Environment and Social	Moderate	Assessment: Two safeguards were triggered in the UNEP ESS Screening: SS3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency and SS 8: Labor and Working Conditions. The project will involve many grant awardees in their regenerative agricultural practices. Their activities may involve chemical fertilizers and may violate labour and working conditions if related standards are not fully understood and/or complied with by them. Mitigation: Safeguard risk identification and management should be clearly communicated to the grant awardees. Develop and apply an Environmental and Social Safeguards Management Framework for the project, and include a Grievance and Redress Mechanism and UNEP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism in the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
Political and Governance	Low	Assessment : A possible reduction in political support and apathy from line ministries to develop numerous land management policies to be supported by the project. Mitigation: At the MTR political support and collaboration from lead agencies tasked with land governance issues is optimum, as evidenced by substantial progress made by the project to date in the update and establishment of several instruments to strengthen land governance in The Bahamas.
INNOVATION		

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Assessment: Policy incoherence and lack of an overarching agriculture development policy can frustrate progress towards achieving project objectives linked to ILM, SLM, and CSA. Mitigation: The project is supporting the development of five (5) policy papers that promote ILM, SLAM and LDN target setting for consideration of the Cabinet.
Technological	NA	DOES NOT APPLY.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Assessment: Financial assumptions and projections that form the basis of the ILM Grant Facility developed by the BDB could be incorrect, reducing expectations for replication and upscale of the facility to continue support to farmers for climate smart and restorative agriculture. Mitigation: To mitigate the project's financial model risks, the BDB is capitalising on its experience developing grant and credit facilities based on the entire value chain for agricultural products, risk management, and capitalisation of the facilities.
EXECUTION		
Capacity for Implementation	Moderate	Assessment : Even though DEPP has successfully implemented multiple GEF-funded projects and has demonstrated project implementation capacity, personnel may be distracted from project activities to focus on other institutional priorities, thus compromising project implementation. Mitigation: To address potential project implementation risk, the project established a dedicated Project Management Unit, equipped with staff professionals contracted based on robust Terms of Reference developed to guide selection, and was included in the GEF CEO Request for Endorsement.
Fiduciary	Low	Assessment: Failure to conduct adequate financial management and procurement presents several risks to the project, including misuse or misallocation of funds, and could result in suspended disbursements, delays in implementation, and possible project cancellation. Mitigation: To mitigate fiduciary risk, the Project Management Unit and all project operations are being governed by UNEP and DEPP policies and procedures for all aspects of project financial management, including procurement, oversight, monitoring, and reporting. Regular reporting to GEF will include detailed financial reports in line with UNEP reporting requirements, thereby allowing for any discrepancies to be identified and remedied. Annual External Audits are conducted as part of all UNEP-GEF funded projects.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Assessment: Key stakeholders such as farmers and community groups show apathy to project activities and

		events and become critics as opposed to champions of the project. Mitigation: The project conducted exhaustive stakeholder mapping, consultations, and analysis during the PPG, and has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan, consistent with the requirements of the GEF and UNEP’s policy on Stakeholder Engagement and Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS). Stakeholder apathy and consultation fatigue is a residual risk, that is being mitigated through careful monitoring by the PMU and the Project Steering Committee with adjustment of engagement strategy and frequency as necessary
Other	NA	
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The project’s overall risk rating as ‘moderate’ is supported by the fact that the potential impacts of climate change are mitigated with the use of more climate change resilient plant material and intercropping systems; Environmental and Social Safeguards systems are in place; political support and collaboration from lead agencies is optimum; the project is strengthening the policy framework that promote ILM, SLAM and LDN target setting; the development of grant and credit facilities is benefitting from the BDB extensive experience; a dedicated PMU oversee project implementation with UNEP support and all project operations are being governed by UNEP and DEPP policies; and compliance with the project’s Stakeholder Engagement Plan is carefully monitored by the PMU and the Project Steering Committee with adjustment of engagement strategy and frequency as necessary.

ANNEX IX. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Project Title and Reference No.: Integrated Landscape Management for Addressing Land Degradation, Food Security and Climate Change Resilience Challenges in The Bahamas GEF ID: 10694/SMA ID: 129377

Contact Person (TM/PM): Christopher Cox

PLANS				
RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/ PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
Recommendation #1: Define missing baseline values for performance indicators in the Project Results Framework.	Yes	The status/baseline values of the following five (5) outcome indicators will be determined: 2.2 Farmer population adopting SLM and climate smart measures 3.1(a) Number of agricultural-based investments that have access to markets that incorporate SLM and climate-smart approaches 3.1(b) Productivity/ yield of farms participating in the programme 4.1 Availability and utilization of new data products in national level reporting, research efforts and decision-making 4.2 Level of awareness among target beneficiaries (by community survey) This data will be incorporated into an updated project results framework	Within 3 months of this MTR	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP
Recommendation #2: Complete the confirmation of landscape locations to constitute the 17,300 Ha to be subject to improved management to benefit biodiversity.	Yes	Continue working with the relevant team within the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources to confirm the spatial extent of the target acreage. It is recognized that ground surveys may not be feasible for establishing the full area. Therefore, head-up digitizing guided by expert knowledge is recommended to identify waypoints and define polygons representing existing agricultural lands already in use, as well as lands strategically reserved for future agricultural use and related	Immediately	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP

		complementary investment. The Bahamas National Geographic Information Systems Centre will be engaged to support this process.		
Recommendation #3: Advocate for and support the formulation of an overarching National Agriculture Development Policy inclusive of rationalisation for land use for The Bahamas.	Partially	The proposal to support the formulation of a national agricultural development policy is welcome. However, implementing this recommendation falls beyond the scope and capacity of the project, despite its clear relevance. A more appropriate recommendation may be to formulate an agricultural land policy that addresses the sustainable use of lands designated for agriculture and other related/complementary development. The policy papers being developed under Component 1 of the project should include specific references to agricultural land use policy development. If feasible within the project budget, a separate standalone policy on agricultural land use may also be considered. This process should be guided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources for eventual adoption by Cabinet. Current policy instruments that guided the formulation of the Land Adjudication Bill 2025, and the Land Registration Bill 2025 should be used as core references.	Within 6 months of this MTR	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP
Recommendation #4: Make adjustments to the project's governance arrangements to eliminate conflict of interest and improve efficiency.	Partially	The composition of the PSC was agreed during project development and inception and has therefore been endorsed by the Government and stakeholders. As such, the designated agencies should remain. This is particularly important because these agencies play significant governance roles in the national agricultural development and environmental management sectors, notwithstanding that they are also resourced to undertake work under the project. To mitigate potential conflicts of interest, the PSC membership will be reconstituted to include the following representatives: • Bureau of Statistics • Department of Lands and Surveys (OPM) • Bahamas National Trust • Bahamas National Geographical Information System (BNGIS) • Bureau of Meteorology	Within 2 months of this MTR	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP

		The Technical Advisory Committee is already an agreed mechanism of the project governance framework and will be reformulated. The following are the agencies to serve on the TAC: • Department of Environmental Planning & Protection (DEPP) • Forestry Unit • Land Unit, Ministry of Agriculture • Department of Agriculture (DoA), Ministry of Agriculture • Department of Gender and Family Affairs • Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation (BAIC) • Bahamas Development Bank (BDB) • Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) • University of the Bahamas (UB) • Department of Lands and Surveys • Department of Physical Planning The frequency of PSC meetings will be increased to at least two per annum, to be convened in May and November. However, special meetings will also be convened to address and or hasten implementation plans as well as addressing pressing implementation issues.		
Recommendation #5: Assess Attitude, Practices, and Behavioural Change to consolidate stakeholder support and as a proactive approach to ensure that stakeholders' perspectives and actions align with the project goals.	Yes	A KAPB survey will be carried out at this time that will contribute to the baseline. The project will formulate the terms of reference and engage a consultant to undertake the survey. The project will undertake an end-line KAP survey within one month of the project closure.	Within 3 months of this MTR	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP
Recommendation #6: Consider a 24-months project extension to facilitate the full completion	Yes	An extension request will be prepared for UNEP's consideration. The findings and recommendations of this MTR will inform the rationale for extension of the project.		Project Manager, Project Management Unit; Task Manager, UNEP

of the project activities to realize delivery of outputs.				
Recommendation #7: Strengthen project monitoring by introducing indicators for ESS and Human Rights.	Yes	The project team to revisit the Environmental and Social Safeguards (Appendix 15) and consider specific indicators for the safeguards triggered, specifically Safeguard Standards (SS) 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency and SS 8: Labor and working conditions. To be endorsed by the PSC. The indicators should be defined and reported from the 2026 PIR (and onward) in the Section 2.7. ESSM	Within 3 months of this MTR.	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP; Task Manager, UNEP
Recommendation #8: Take steps to hasten communications and visibility that is needed to facilitate stakeholder buy-in.	Yes	The communications consultant that has been recruited must present the Knowledge Management Strategy and Plan and Communication Plan immediately for endorsement by the PSC and operationalized thereafter.	Within 3 months of this MTR.	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP
Recommendation #9: Develop and implement an Exit Strategy for the Project to. Outline how the project will transition, or terminate while minimizing risks, protecting investment, and sustaining benefits.	Yes	This is to be drafted in consultation with the core project partners and the PSC to focus on the likely end-of-project capabilities of the lead agencies with responsibility for land and agriculture to carry on mainstreaming of the project outputs both at the policy and technical level. This should be done within the final 6 months of implementation.	Within 3 months of this MTR.	Project Manager, Project Management Unit, DEPP

ANNEX X. QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF THE REVIEW REPORT
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UNEP Evaluation Office to insert