



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report 2021 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021



1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	SNE																																																																	
Country (ies):	Mauritania																																																																	
Project Title:	Integrated ecosystem management project for the sustainable human development in Mauritania																																																																	
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/MAU/001/GFF																																																																	
GEF ID:	9294																																																																	
GEF Focal Area(s):	Land Degradation, Climate Change, Biodiversity																																																																	
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD);																																																																	
Project Duration:	5 years																																																																	
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">No</th><th rowspan="2">Name</th><th colspan="2">Coordinates en 28Q UTM</th></tr> <tr> <th>Latitude</th><th>Longitude</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="5">Triangle of Hope</td><td>Boukol</td><td>16.4137</td><td>-12.956</td></tr> <tr> <td>Melzem Teichout</td><td>16.6678</td><td>-12.8443</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ghabra</td><td>16.6513</td><td>-12.6702</td></tr> <tr> <td>Boulahrath</td><td>16.7708</td><td>-12.5766</td></tr> <tr> <td>R'Dheidihie</td><td>16.813</td><td>-12.7232</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="7">El Atf</td><td>Djéol</td><td>16.0608</td><td>-13.3749</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tokomadji</td><td>15.7285</td><td>-13.2414</td></tr> <tr> <td>Toufoundé Civet</td><td>15.6596</td><td>-13.249</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lexeib I</td><td>16.2165</td><td>-13.1443</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dollol Civé</td><td>15.5679</td><td>-13.0656</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dao</td><td>15.5301</td><td>-13.0134</td></tr> <tr> <td>Maghama</td><td>15.513</td><td>-12.8526</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="6">Great Green Wall</td><td>Aleg</td><td>17.0692</td><td>-13.9155</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aghchorguitt</td><td>17.2154</td><td>-14.1903</td></tr> <tr> <td>Choggar</td><td>17.3307</td><td>-13.6673</td></tr> <tr> <td>Magta-Lahjar</td><td>17.5086</td><td>-13.102</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sangrava</td><td>17.596</td><td>-12.8421</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ouad Amour</td><td>17.1808</td><td>-12.7582</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			No	Name	Coordinates en 28Q UTM		Latitude	Longitude	Triangle of Hope	Boukol	16.4137	-12.956	Melzem Teichout	16.6678	-12.8443	Ghabra	16.6513	-12.6702	Boulahrath	16.7708	-12.5766	R'Dheidihie	16.813	-12.7232	El Atf	Djéol	16.0608	-13.3749	Tokomadji	15.7285	-13.2414	Toufoundé Civet	15.6596	-13.249	Lexeib I	16.2165	-13.1443	Dollol Civé	15.5679	-13.0656	Dao	15.5301	-13.0134	Maghama	15.513	-12.8526	Great Green Wall	Aleg	17.0692	-13.9155	Aghchorguitt	17.2154	-14.1903	Choggar	17.3307	-13.6673	Magta-Lahjar	17.5086	-13.102	Sangrava	17.596	-12.8421	Ouad Amour	17.1808	-12.7582
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Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	06-Nov-2018
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Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	12 August 2019
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	11 August 2024
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	NA
Actual Implementation End Date³:	NA

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 8,222,505
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	USD 22,140,876
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	USD 647,566
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	USD 251,998

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	19/04/2021
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	February 2022
Actual Mid-term review date:	NA
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	Yes (might be postponed upon PSC request)
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	Dec 2023-Jan 2024
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	No

¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

³ Actual date at which project implementation ends - only for projects that have ended.

⁴ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

⁵ Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

⁶ The MTR should take place about halfpoint between EOD and NTE – this is the expected date

⁷ Please note that the FAO GEF Coordination Unit should be contacted six months prior to the expected MTR date

Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes
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Ratings

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

Status

Implementation Status <i>(1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):</i>	1st PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Mamadou Diop - CTA	Mamadou.diop@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Mohamed Amrani- Senior Policy Officer- FAO/SNE	Mohamed.amrani@fao.org
Budget Holder	Philippe Ankers- SRC /SNE Irina Buttoud	Philippe.Ankers@fao.org Irina.Buttoud@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	Bergigui, Mohamed Fouad, GEF Portfolio Support and Project Development Specialist, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit Chris Dirkmaat, Executive Officer, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit	Mohamed.Bergigui@fao.org Chris.dirkmaat@fao.org

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO) (All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)						
Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s)⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating¹¹
Objective(s):¹² Increase sustainable human development through the restoration of ecosystem services and an integrated ecosystem management approach in three Southern Mauritania landscapes.						
Outcome 1. The use of land and natural resources is informed, and governed by an integrated, participatory and gender sensitive approach.	The extent to which dynamic agro-biodiversity, biodiversity, forest, soil, water conservation and climate change are integrated into community driven land	While land use plans already exist, they are not integrated, concentrate on economic development without taking into account environmental issues, and are not sensitive to gender. In addition, the majority of land	3 integrated, gender-sensitive land use plans, based on recent data on agro-biodiversity, biodiversity, soils, water, and climate change, based on a consensus amongst land users, are adopted and used by mid-project	3 integrated, gender-sensitive land use plans, based on recent data on agro-biodiversity, biodiversity, soils, water, and climate change, based on a consensus amongst land	• The baseline situation in the 3 sites was established through household surveys using the SHARP tool and focus groups. The ecological and socioeconomic indicators in the three project sites were identified in a participatory manner with, government, local communities and	MS

⁹ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

¹⁰ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

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

¹² The **Project objective** is the medium-term result we want to achieve by the end of the project. What change do we reasonably expect we can achieve by the end of the project, if the component outcomes are achieved? Note: the project objective is not a simple aggregation or reformulation of the Component Outcomes.

	use plans in each of the project's three landscapes and based on a participatory and gender sensitive approaches	use plans are based on inadequate information and are not applied.		users, are adopted, used and updated.	regional MEDD technical services through 3 local workshops held in each of the 3 sites.	
Outcome 2: Land degradation is reduced, habitats are rehabilitated, and vegetation cover and soil carbon sinks are restored through a participatory and integrated ecosystem approach	# hectares under sustainable management # tons of CO2 eq sequestered or avoided			160 355 hectares 4 751 979 tCO2eq sequestered or avoided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LOAs were established with CNRARA and ANG MV with field interventions to start in Q4 2021 for the fixation of 120 ha of sand dunes; and the supply of 300,000 seedlings for assisted natural generation interventions across 600ha of 2 semi-protected forests in El Atf area 	MS
Outcome 3. Sustainable use and management of water reserves for increased water availability during dry spells	Percentage of people who have access to water during dry periods,	27 % (31 % Men , 23 % Women)	20% increase (50% women)	50% increase (50% women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptive management responses are being established to accelerate the identification and development of water 	MS

	disaggregated by sex.				infrastructure across the target areas starting Q1 2022	
Outcome 4: Increased, diversified and stable sources of income for the local population through more sustainable exploitation of natural resources	Number of people benefiting from increased revenue sources (from improved productivity and diversified income sources), disaggregated by sex.	18 % (women 57 %)	2 000 people (50% women)	10 000 people (50% women)	- <i>LOAs were established with ANGMOV, CNRADA and a local NGO to provide agricultural assets, support sustainable production and commercialization, field interventions including through FFS to start in Q4 2021</i>	MS
Outcome 5: Local and national decision-makers and authorities have an improved knowledge on development and environmental issues on which they are able to base land use planning and natural resources management decisions					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The baseline situation in the three project sites has been established. - A reporting scheme has been put in place jointly with DPREM / MEDD. - The project MTR is planned for 2022 pending further guidance from the PSC with regards to a possible extension. 	MS

Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU rating

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 1. The use of land and natural resources is informed, and governed by an integrated, participatory and gender sensitive approach.	The project team will use adaptive management and double its efforts in coordination with national and local partners to ensure that the Mapping of ecosystems, land uses and users in the target landscapes is carried out, and the proposal for establishing a biosphere reserve in Et Atf are initiated in Q4 2021 with draft deliverables obtained starting from Q1 2022.	PMU + FAO + MEDD + Site coordinators + Mapping / platform consultants + protected areas and land restoration consultants in collaboration with MEDD regional delegations.	Q4 2021
Outcome 2: Land degradation is reduced, habitats are rehabilitated, and vegetation cover and soil carbon sinks are restored through a participatory and integrated ecosystem approach	The project team will strive to accelerate the processes of signing and implementing the LoAs underpinning the implementation of project interventions related to reducing land degradation, restoring vegetation cover, and promoting the use of sustainable energy sources	PMU + FAO + MEDD + DREED + ANGMV + Site coordinators	Q4 2021
Outcome 3. Sustainable use and management of water reserves for increased water availability during dry spells	Special efforts will be made by the PMU to accelerate the identification and development of water infrastructure across the target areas starting Q1 2022	PMU + FAO + MEDD	Q4 2021
Outcome 4: Increased, diversified and stable sources of income for the local population through more sustainable exploitation of natural resources	The project team will strive to accelerate the implementation of the activities planned in the LoAs with the ANGMV, CNRADA and the local NGO.	PMU + FAO + MEDD + DREED+ANGMV+CNRADA+ONG (JFP) and site coordinators.	Q4 2021
Outcome 5: Local and national decision-makers and authorities have an improved knowledge on development and environmental issues on which they are able to base land use planning and natural resources management decisions	Special efforts will be made by the PMU to monitor results, codify the knowledge generated through the project and disseminate KM products using relevant KM and decision-making platforms at national and global levels including through the use of FAO's open source digital land use mapping.	PMU + FAO + MEDD	Q4 2021

Outputs ¹³	Expected completion date ¹⁴	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁵	Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁶ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR		
Output 1.1 A platform to monitor ecological and socio-economic indicators is created and serves as a basis for the land use planning	Q4 Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The platform's indicators were defined in a participatory manner with all stakeholders in the three project sites. The national consultant in charge of setting up the monitoring platform has prepared a note which is being discussed with the MEDD for its integration into its global monitoring and data collection system. 	15%	The platform will be set up and integrated into the MEDD <i>global monitoring and data collecting</i> system starting from Q1 2022
Output 1.2 An integrated, participatory and gender-sensitive land use plan for each project landscape is established, on the basis of a consensus amongst diverse land users	Q4 Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mapping of ecosystems, land uses and users in the target landscapes is being initiated, field-work to be conducted in Q4 2021 from 	5%	Activities will begin in September 2021. Land use plans will be validated in Q1 2022.
Output 1.3. One new terrestrial protected area is formally established and integrated into the concerned landscape's land use plan	Q4Y3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations were carried out by the Minister of MEDD with the administrative and elected authorities of the EI Atf zone to set up a Biosphere Reserve. Awareness raising materials (Concept Note, Posters, and prospectus) were presented at the official launch workshop in the presence of the MEDD Minister and the Wali of Gorgol on August 13 and 14, 2021 in Kaédi. 	20%	National ownership was strengthened, consultations and technical studies will be launched in Q4 2021 with initial draft assessments expected in Q1 2022 for validation.
Output 2.1. Land degradation is reduced and vegetation cover is restored	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter of agreement was established with ANGMV for the stabilization of 120 ha of sand dunes and the installation and operationalization of 5 Integrated Community Agricultural Farms (FACI) starting from Q4 2021 	15%	Field intervention to start in Q4 2021

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supply of 300,000 seedlings was initiated for assisted natural generation interventions across 600ha of 2 semi-protected forests starting in Q4 2021 • An LOA was established with CNRARA for the development and equipment of a seed bank, the acquisition of 1300 kg of improved seeds and the training of 40 representatives of 20 cooperatives on the production of quality traditional seeds 		
Output 2.2. Alternative or sustainable sources of energy promoted to reduce pressures on forests and biomass	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising activities to promote the use of sustainable energy sources are being initiated with MEDD and partners with demonstration interventions starting in Q4 2021 	10%	National ownership was strengthened, demonstrative interventions to start in Q4 2021
Output 3.1. Water storage and mobilization infrastructure are built and managed in a participatory manner	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptive management responses are being established to accelerate the identification and development of water infrastructure across the target areas starting Q1 2022 	0%	Due to COVID-19 limitations, the intervention related to this output were postponed to Q1 2022
Output 4.1. Training, technical assistance and knowledge exchange catalyzed via farmer field school approaches for agro-pastoralists in pilot areas	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LOAs were established with ANGMV and CNRADA to provide agricultural assets and support sustainable production and commercialization, field interventions including through FFS to start in Q1 2021</i> 	15%	Field intervention to start in Q4 2021
Output 4.2 Producer groups established and supported, building	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LOA established with the NGO Jeunesse Face à la Pauvreté (partner of GIE Toogga) to train cooperatives and SPOs on the production, processing and marketing of NTFPs.</i> 	10%	Field intervention to start in Q4 2021

¹³ Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

¹⁴ As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

¹⁵ Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁶ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

biodiversity-friendly value chains and enhanced market access, for alternative income sources				
Output 5.1. The project's results and lessons are identified, documented, and reported upon in a timely manner	Q4Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A HH survey was conducted to establish the baseline in the three project sites, based on which project targets and indicators are being reviewed • The HH survey report and other knowledge products generated by the project will be disseminated using relevant KM platforms at national and global levels • 1 monitoring and follow-up dashboard established by the PMU • 1 project inception report • 4 project half-year reports • 2 annual work plans • 1 Baseline assessment of target sites • Regular bi-weekly meetings held with the National Project Director (DPREM) • Monthly meetings held with MEDD 	10%	

4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):

Despite extremely difficult circumstances faced by the PMU including difficulties in setting up the project team due to the scarcity of technical profiles sought, delays related to administrative processes, and a high government turnover. In line of these challenges and the COVID-19 related restrictions put in place from April 2020, the PMU has made great efforts and deployed adaptive management solutions, with technical support from LTO, FLO, FAO SNE and RNE, to unlock the situation.

Outcome 1 - The use of land and natural resources is informed, and governed by an integrated, participatory and gender sensitive approach.

The baseline situation in the 3 sites has been established. Three workshops organized at each project site for the identification of socioeconomic and ecological indicators in a participatory manner. The ecological and socioeconomic indicators in the three project sites were identified in a participatory manner with the local communities and MEDD technical services. An inception workshop is planned in August 2021 for the creation of a Biosphere Reserve in El Atf.

Outcome 2: Land degradation is reduced, habitats are rehabilitated, and vegetation cover and soil carbon sinks are restored through a participatory and integrated ecosystem approach

LOAs were established with CNRARA and ANGMV with field interventions to start in Q4 2021 for the fixation of 120 ha of sand dunes; and the supply of 300,000 seedlings for assisted natural generation interventions across 600ha of 2 semi-protected forests in El Atf area

Outcome 3 - Sustainable use and management of water reserves for increased water availability during dry spells

Adaptive management responses are being established to accelerate the identification and development of water infrastructure across the target areas starting Q1 2022

Outcome 4 - Increased, diversified and stable sources of income for the local population through more sustainable exploitation of natural resources

LOAs were established with ANGMV, CNRADA and a local NGO to provide agricultural assets, support sustainable production and commercialization, field interventions including through FFS to start in Q4 2021

Outcome 5 - Local and national decision-makers and authorities have an improved knowledge on development and environmental issues on which they are able to base land use planning and natural resources management decisions

The baseline situation in the three project sites has been established. A reporting scheme has been put in place jointly with DPREM / MEDD. The project MTR is planned for 2022 pending further guidance from the PSC with regards to a possible extension.

What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?

The key challenges faced by the project during this initial reporting period were mainly related to Covid-19 related restrictions (ban on travel between regions and limitation of meetings) and lengthy administrative processes in hiring and deploying the project's managerial and technical teams (difficulties sourcing the required technical profiles, high Government turnover, and lack of qualified partners for the implementation of certain field-based project activities).

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

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR.

For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁷	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating¹⁸	Comments/reasons¹⁹ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	MS	MU	<i>Despite the delays in setting up the project management unit (PMU) and the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project team is making significant efforts to allow the effective start of activities and put in place the partnerships necessary to accelerate the implementation of project's activities. The PMU was able to benefit from the support of the various members of the Task Force (LTO, FLO, HQ, FAO / SNE and FAO / RNE) to prepare and ensure the implementation of the Work Plan adopted by the Project Steering Committee for 2021.</i>

¹⁷ **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸ **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁹ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

Budget Holder	MS	MU	<i>The project became operational with some delay for various objective reasons, including changes in the government. Multiple actions were taken to accelerate the rhythm of implementation in synergies with the subregional office in Tunisia (SNE) and national partners, namely: regular meetings with the key Ministry, personal follow from the Minister herself and re-enforcement of the steering committee allowed to implement budget revision and elaborate work plan fully appropriated by the national partner; monitoring and regular evaluation procedures were set up with the recruitment of a monitoring/evaluation expert; the recruitment of project team was fully finalized and team was integrated into the ministry; office spaces were allocated by the national partner and fully equipped by the project. Activities in the field- project sites have also taken a more operational shape with the recruitment of coordinators, equipment of project offices and regular follow up from the project CTA and monitoring and evaluation expert. Regardless of COVID related restrictions the recent dynamics is rather positive</i>
GEF Operational Focal Point	MS	MU	<i>Like all projects in the GEF portfolio, this project suffered significant delays mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the restriction of travel. This situation, combined with the rainfall forecasts, justified adequate corrective measures that the project coordination took in consultation with all the stakeholders. It seems to me in view of these arrangements that the coming months before the end of this year 2021 will bring more results. Apart from the situation inherent in Covid-19, the project has made significant strides in achieving the expected results.</i>
Lead Technical Officer²⁰	MS	MU	<i>The project is called upon to strengthen the project management unit is the time allocated to the project. Thematic consultants should be recruited to ensure the development of specifications and terms of reference to advance in the preparation of LOAs and service contracts and therefore accelerate the implementation of interventions in the project areas. The Covid-19 pandemic has played a role in the results so far.</i>

²⁰ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	MS	MU	<p><i>The project faced a number of obstacles during this initial reporting period, including restrictions related to Covid-19 as well as procedural and administrative delays. This situation seriously slowed down the recruitment and deployment of key personnel within the project team.</i></p> <p><i>Exceptional efforts should be made during the period from July to December 2021 to implement an adaptive management response based on alternative and viable solutions in order to unlock the current situation, deliver solid and timely results and put the project on track to achieve the expected results.</i></p>
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5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

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

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²¹ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	Environmental and social risk classification is still valid

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

No Grievance was received

²¹ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

6. Risks

	Risk	Risk rating ²²	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²³	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	Weak capacity of government institutions to support the project	M	The project will mitigate this risk by emphasizing on a participative approach, making sure that there is a national ownership of the project objectives and activities. Furthermore, government officials will take part of the preparation stage of the project as well as being part the governance and implementation process, which should strengthen ownership of the project, thus ensuring its success. Finally, training and capacity building will also be provided under Components 1, 2, and 3 which will build capacity of government institutions.	The Project Steering Committee meets regularly. The last meeting took place on April 19, 2021 Regular meetings with MEDD are held and minutes shared	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular project monitoring meetings are held every 2 weeks with the National Project Director with the project team; - Monthly meetings are held by CTA with the Minister and the SG to ensure their involvement and ownership of the project;

²² GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

²³ If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period".

	Risk	Risk rating ²²	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²³	Notes from the Project Task Force
2	Lack of interest from the local communities to explore alternative supply chains	L	Training and support will be provided to targeted communities so that they can fully grasp the extent of benefits associated with a reduced natural resources degradation and the enabling of an ecosystem-based approach (Component 1). In addition, under Component 3, local communities will be actively engaged in selection of alternative supply chains.	The targeted communities were involved in the selection of alternative value chains.	Local communities have expressed their interest in the project strengthening their capacities in the management of NTFPs and the diversification of their sources of income by exploring alternative value chains.
3	Lack of interest from the local communities to take up cultivation of endemic, resilient and threatened crops	L	The crops to be promoted by the project will be selected in consultation with local populations to ensure their ownership of this activity (4.1).	The main seed-producing cooperatives have been identified according to their technical capacities and water availability.	Many cooperatives have expressed their interest in using traditional seeds to preserve them and diversify their production.
4	Tools and methodologies (components 1 and 3) developed fail to reach intended users	L	Training will be provided to the appropriate end-users for the use of the tools and methods to be developed – i.e. monitoring platform under Component 1, restoration techniques under Component 2 and agropastoral techniques under Component 3.	The tools have been adapted to the local context for better ownership	The choice of targets will be made on the basis of relevant criteria established with the MEDD.

	Risk	Risk rating ²²	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²³	Notes from the Project Task Force
5	Sub-contractors fail to deliver on terms of their contracts	L	Service providers will be selected following thorough due diligence and detailed contracts will be drawn, making payments conditional on deliverables.	The most suitable partners on the basis of their capacities and expertise have been selected	The selection of partners is based on rigorous criteria.

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

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
L	L	Necessary actions were taken by the PMU and a close monitoring and follow-up matrix is regularly updated to assess the evolving risk environment.

7. Adjustments to Project Strategy – Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation 4:	

Adjustments to the project strategy.

Please note that changes to outputs, baselines, indicators or targets cannot be made without official approval from PSC and PTF members, including the FLO. These changes will follow the recommendations of the MTR or the supervision mission.

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outputs	NO	
Project Indicators/Targets	NO	

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	Original NTE: Revised NTE: Justification:

8. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))

The commitment of stakeholders, which was the subject of an overall and regular management and monitoring plan throughout the project cycle, was ensured. The steering committee meets regularly.

Stakeholders	How they were engaged during this reporting period
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	The MEDD chairs the PSC and participates in all the missions and meetings for the planning of activities. The coordinators of the project sites are based in the regional delegations of MEDD. MEDD regional delegates participate in local activities.
Great Green Wall Agency (GGWA)	Partner through an LOA for the fixing of the dunes and the installation of the FACI. (GGWA) is also a member of the PSC
Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC)	MIDEC, through the Walis, Hakems, district heads, is involved in field activities, in particular the institution of the Atf biosphere reserve.
Ministry of Agriculture (MA)	The MA through CNRADA and its regional delegations is involved in the agricultural activities of the project.
Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS)	The forest inventory will be carried out in collaboration with MESRS through ISET.
NGO JFP	This NGO partner of Toogga will be in charge of strengthening the organizational and technical capacities of PSOs in the exploitation and management of NTFPs.
Ministry of Hydraulic and Sanitation (MHS)	This ministry will be involved next year. No activity was planned with this partner for the current WP
Ministry of Livestock	This ministry will be heavily involved in the process of establishing the biosphere reserve at El Atf which is a large pasture and refuge area for the livestock. This will also be the case for the National Group of Pastoral Associations (GNAP)

Ministry of Fisheries	This ministry will be involved next year for inland fisheries activities in some project sites
National Agency for the Development of Renewable Energies (ANADER)	This Agency no longer exists. Its activities have been directly integrated into the Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Mines (MPEM)
Private sector	The private sector is involved in the supply of plants, equipment and the installation of certain structures through calls for tenders.

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))

For the assigned period of the report, the following was achieved:

Stakeholder involvement in meetings, workshops and specific implementation activities. On another level, there was the mobilization of co-financing in kind and in cash from MEDD.

The following was not achieved:

The mobilization of cash co financing promised by certain government partners

9. Gender Mainstreaming

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

Was a gender analysis undertaken or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages? Please briefly indicate the gender differences here.

Gender mainstreaming into project interventions was carefully considered. A questionnaire disaggregated by sex was developed for to conduct the HH survey to inform the baseline study. The identification of indicators for the monitoring platform has been chosen so that the data is disaggregated by sex, which will certainly make it possible to establish local planning based on the needs of women, men and young people.

The gender focal point of FAO Mauritania is involved. All the activities that will be implemented directly or through partners have been designed to take into account the specific needs of women.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval

The results and good practices of the project will be documented and shared either in the platform which will be directly installed at MEDD or through the reports shared with all the partners. The communication consultant at the FAO office in Mauritania is involved in the preparation of a communication plan in connection with the MEDD management in charge of these aspects.

Link to the project launch workshop

<https://fr.ami.mr/Depeche-48846.html>

Regional workshops for the identification of ecological and socio-economic indicators of the platform

<https://twitter.com/MoussaMMaouloud/status/1374292044672290817/photo/1>

Work meeting Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and FAOR

<https://twitter.com/wahba61094415/status/1311081609777557505/photo/1>

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.

NA

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative²⁴ approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.

The use of Collect Earth App to conduct the HH survey for the baseline was a key innovation that streamlined data collection processes, saving time and resources while allowing for almost a real time monitoring of the progress achieved in the ground by the enumerators to trigger corrective measures and keep track of the situation.

The innovative approach of the project lies also in the adoption of specific activities according to each project site. Thus, the Action Plan for this year provides for the planting and protection activities in the El Atf site, while in the Triangle of Hope site, the emphasis will be on land restoration. Soil Conservation and Restoration or Soil Defense and Restoration (CRS / DRS).

Among the innovative approaches that will be developed under this project is the identification and development of alternative value chains in order to diversify and increase the income of the targeted rural communities. The establishment of a Biosphere Reserve in the El Atf area will be a great innovation in the country.

13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptative measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions impacted the implementation of project activities. However, it is expected that the results and products of the project will be delivered on time. Outside of travel and meeting restrictions, the COVID 19 pandemic has not had an impact on beneficiaries. Due to meeting restrictions the project team used the Zoom application for their monitoring and management meetings. In addition, teleworking has been used as part of the Business Continuity Plan (BCP).

²⁴ Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁵	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
National Government	MoA	Grant	\$3,000,000			\$3,000,000
National Government	MoA	In-Kind	\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000
National Government	MHWS	Grant	\$5,000,000			\$5,000,000
National Government	MoL	Grant	\$4,000,000			\$4,000,000
National Government	MoE	Grant	\$2,600,000			\$2,600,000
National Government	MoE	In-Kind	\$800,000	\$100,000		\$800,000
National Government	Tadamoun		\$3,300,000			\$3,300,000
UN	FAO	Grant and In-Kind	\$1,050,000			\$1,050,000
National Government	GoM Cash		\$1,390,876	\$151,998		\$1,390,876
TOTAL			\$22,140,876	\$251,998		\$22,140,876

The COVID-19 context has led to a new prioritization of government and partner resources. Note that no change in co-financing has been notified to us.

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

Both Covid-19 restrictions and the lengthy administrative processes experienced during this reporting period affected the pace of materialization of cofinancing.

²⁵ Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

Implementation Progress Rating – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action. **Moderately Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action. **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.