



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2023– Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	NES
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 (years):	5 years
Project coordinates:	This section should be completed by: -Projects with 1st PIR -Projects could re-submit the coordinates if they have changed, or if the PMU now has more updated coordinates

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	06-Nov-2018
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD:	04-Apr-2019
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	03-Apr-2024
Revised project implementation end date (if approved)²	N / A

funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD8,222,505
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc³:	USD 22,140,876
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)⁴:	USD 5,794,811
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)⁵:	USD 5,304,205
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023⁶	USD 2,529,548

M&E Milestones

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	02/03/2023
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¹As per FPMIS

²If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF CU.

³This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

⁴For DEX projects, the GEF Coordination Unit will confirm the final amount with the Finance Division in HQ. For OPIM projects, the disbursement amount should be provided by Execution Partners.

⁵ The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

⁶Please refer to the section 12 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

Mid-term Review date⁷:	Dec 2022
Actual Mid-term review date (when it is done):	December 2022
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date⁸:	Dec June 2025
Tracking tools/Core indicators updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	Yes

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/outcomes (cumulative):	<i>S</i>
Overall implementation progress rating:	<i>S</i>
Overall risk rating:	<i>L</i>

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Low
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Status

Implementation Status (1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	3rd PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Mamadou Diop - CTA	Mamadou.diop@fao.org
Budget Holder	Alexandre Huynh FAOR	Alexandre.Huynh@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Mohamed Amrani- Senior Policy Officer- FAO/SNE	Mohamed.Amrani@fao.org
GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)	Ms. Lalya Kamara	lal_kam@hotmail.com lafdel@environnment.gov.mr
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Bergigui, Mohamed Fouad, GEF Portfolio Support and Project Development Specialist, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit	Mohamed.Bergigui@fao.org

⁷The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

⁸The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)
(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators ⁹	Baseline	Mid-term Target ¹⁰	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress ¹¹ since project start Level at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹²
	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 use plans in each of the project's three landscapes and based on a participatory and gender sensitive approaches	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 use plans are based on inadequate information and are not applied.	3 integrated, gender-sensitive land use plans, based on recent data on agro-biodiversity, biodiversity, soils, water, and and climate change, based on a consensus amongst land users, are adopted and utilized by mid-project	3 integrated, gender-sensitive land use plans, based on recent data on agro-biodiversity, biodiversity, soils, water, and and climate change, based on a consensus amongst land users, are adopted, utilized and updated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realization of land use plans for the three project intervention landscapes The platform for monitoring ecological and socio-economic indicators has been developed but not yet operational Adoption of the roadmap for the designation of the El Atf Biosphere Reserve during the national workshop of March 19, 2022 with the participation of the Minister, the FAOR 	S

⁹This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

¹⁰Some 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.

¹¹Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic Co-benefits as well.

¹²Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU).

					and local administrative and technical authorities as well as local elected officials.	
	<p>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</p>	# hectares under sustainable management			<p>160,355 hectares</p> <p>275,654 ha have been put under sustainable management through several types of restoration activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 618 km of manual firebreaks for the benefit of 50 villages in El Atf • Training of 50 village committees for the management of natural resources (500 village leaders). • A manual for the prevention of bushfires and the opening of firewalls has been drawn up • Three (3) sites are protected against silting for a total area of 120 ha in Brakna. • 50 complete bio-digesters have been installed in the three landscapes. 	HS

		# tons of CO2 eq sequestered or avoided			4,405,479 tCO2eq sequestered or avoided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5,600 improved stoves were distributed. <p>2, 756,540 tonnes of CO2 were sequestered through the activities carried out under the project.</p>	
	Outcome 3. Sustainable use and management of water reserves for increased water availability during dry spells	Number of people who have access to water during dry periods, disaggregated by sex.	0	20% increase (50% women)	50% increase (50% women)	<p>169,224 beneficiaries (62% of whom are women), 30% of the population of the project intervention areas, have access to water following the installation of solar pumping systems on 44 wells, dikes and water reservoirs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 Development and Soil Water Conservation/Soil Defense and Restoration Plans (CES/DRS) in 19 sites spread over the 3 project landscapes for the benefit of 4,000 households (of which more than 70% are women-headed households and young people). CES-DRS actions carried out in 19 	S

					reforestation sites covering an area of 700 ha in the three project intervention zones. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 50-meter dike has been rehabilitated • Plans for the installation of solar pumps in 44 community wells for the benefit of 2,500 households. • Installation and equipment of 44 wells with solar pumping systems in the project intervention areas 	
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 income sources (from improved productivity and diversified income sources), disaggregated by sex.	0	2,000 people (50% women)	10,000 people (50% women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 7,000 people have improved their income through income-generating activities (sale of straw, collection of dead wood and sale of NTFPs, poultry farming and market gardening) • Conservation of local species by collecting traditional pearl millet cultivars in 12 villages in the Wilayas of Brakna and Gorgol. In Guidimakha traditional rice cultivars have been collected for multiplication by the 	S

						<p>CRANADA research center for distribution for conservation purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiplication of ecotypes collected in the CNRADA experimental station. • A directory of 30 Socio-Professional Organizations (OSP) exploiting NWFPs in the three project sites was produced to strengthen their capacities in the management and performance of NWFP organizations and reduce poverty. • 30 women's cooperatives were formed on the exploitation of NWFPs at the rate of 10 cooperatives per landscape. • Four main NWFP sectors namely Gommier, Balanites, Jujube, Boscia and identified by the feasibility study for future support. 	
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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A curriculum comprising 3 training modules (M1: Clean picking technique, M2: Concept of NTFP traceability and M3: NTFP processing) has been produced. 	
	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					<p>All project documents including mission reports, studies, COPIL, PIR, quarterly and annual reports from site coordinators and annual reports are shared with the MEDD. There are also the studies carried out by the project in response to requests from the Minister (national forestry program, update of the GGW strategy and action plan, charcoal sector).</p>	MS

Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2

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. 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	Platform sharing and validation Training on the use of the platform of ecological and socio-economic indicators	PMU +MEDD	September 2023
	Restitution of PUTs to municipalities and DREDDs	PMU + MEDD	July 2023
	Recruitment of consultants (national and international) Protected areas. Raising awareness on RB	PMU + MEDD	July 2023
	Establishment of perimeters of anti-erosion plants, commercial plants and plants for shade and agroforestry activities	PMU + NGOs	July 2023
	Installation of 150 units of bio-digesters	PMU + NGOs	August 2023
	Fight against sand encroachment by fixing the dunes	PMU + NGOs	August 2023

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 3. Sustainable use and management of water reserves for increased water availability during dry spells	Construction of water reservoirs and various retention methods such as Zaï, half-moon trenches, dykes (CES/DRS) – Soil Water Conservation/ProtectSoil Restauration Works Equipment of 56 communal wells with solar pumps	PMU + NGOs	September 2023
Outcome 4: Increased, diversified and stable sources of income for the local population through more sustainable exploitation of natural resources 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	Recruitment of the Field/School consultant (FFS)	PMU	September 2023
	Training and sensitization of beneficiaries on the management and exploitation of NWFPs		
		PMU+ME	2024

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)

Outcomes and Outputs ¹³	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements ¹⁴ (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁵ in delivering outputs
<u>Outcome 1.1</u>	The use of land and natural resources is informed and governed by an integrated, participatory and gender sensitive approach.			
Output 1.1A platform to monitor ecological and socio-economic indicators is created and serves as a basis for the land use planning	Indicator monitoring platform	1	The platform has been set up but not yet operational.	No variance
Output 1.2An integrated, participatory and gender-sensitive land use plan for each project landscape is established, on the basis of a consensus among diverse land users	# of integrated, participatory and gender-sensitive plans developed per landscape targeted by the project	3	3 LUPs have been produced and validated by the MEDD. This product is 100% achieved	Completed
Output 1.3One new terrestrial protected area is formally established and integrated into the concerned landscape's land use plan	A biosphere reserve is officially established and integrated	1	Physical, biophysical and socio-economic information was collected for the characterization, mapping and zoning of the future reserve. The product is reached at 30%.	30%
<u>Outcome 2.1</u>	# hectares under sustainable management # tonnes of CO2 equivalent sequestered or avoided		<u>275,654 ha have been put under sustainable management</u> <u>2,756,540 tonnes of CO2 were sequestered</u>	

¹³Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹⁴Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁵Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

Output 2.1. Land degradation is reduced and vegetation cover is restored	# hectares restored in the project area	4200 hectares	Fourteen (14) reforestation sites protected by chain-link fencing and planting, i.e. an area of 1,400 ha restored/under restoration. Sixteen (16) Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) activity sites totaling an area of 2,800 ha. 618 km of manual firewalls	85%
Output 2.2. Alternative or sustainable sources of energy promoted to reduce pressures on forests and biomass	Number of new or sustainable energy sources promised	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5,600 improved stoves were distributed. - 30 bio-digesters installed. 	Completed
<u>Outcome 3.1</u>	Number of people with access to water during dry periods, disaggregated by sex.	<u>50%</u>	<u>169,224 (of which 62% are women) people, 30% of the population of the project intervention areas have access to water</u>	
Output 3.1. Water storage and mobilization infrastructure are built and managed in a participatory manner	# of storage and mobilization infrastructures of water built and managed in a participatory manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 dikes - 5 tanks - 6 books regulation - 44 wells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 44 community wells are equipped with solar pumps in addition to water storage infrastructure. - Realization of water storage and mobilization infrastructures in 19 sites distributed in the 3 landscapes 	The focus has been put on shares of CES-DRS instead of dykes for mobilize the waters rainfall and decrease erosion.
<u>Outcome 4.1</u>	# of people benefiting from increased sources of income (from increased productivity and diversified sources of income), disaggregated by sex.	<u>10000 people</u>	<u>7,000 people, 60% of whom are women, have improved their income through project activities</u>	
Output 4.1. Training, technical assistance and knowledge exchange catalyzed via farmer field school approaches for agro-pastoralists in pilot areas.	#training carried out within the framework of agro-pastoral field schools	50 training sessions were carried out	14 training courses on setting up a forest nursery 16 training sessions on ANR 10 trainings on seed multiplication. 5 training courses on the processing and marketing of NWFPs	

			5 training sessions on poultry farming and market gardening.	
Output 4.2 Producer groups established and supported, building biodiversity-friendly value chains and enhanced market access, for alternative income sources	# of value chains created that respect the environment	6	A market study has been carried out. Three workshops were carried out in the three landscapes to identify the different existing chains. 6 value chains have been identified	
<u>Outcome 5.1</u>				
Output 5.1. The project's results and lessons are identified, documented, and reported upon in a timely manner	# good practices disseminated through awareness sessions and the promotion of renewable energies (improved stoves and biogas) to reduce pressure on forest ecosystems. Empowerment of beneficiary communities for the management of their ecosystem and practical training on environmental protection.			No variance

4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

Outcome 1.1

- The platform is being finalized and installed on the MEDD website.
- Three sections of land use achieved.
- Physical, biophysical and socio-economic data collected for the characterization. Engagement of the Government and local partners obtained.

Outcome 2.1

- Fourteen (14) reforestation sites protected by chain-link fencing and planting, covering an area of 1,400 ha.
- Sixteen (16) sites totaling an area of 2,800 ha conducted through Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR).
- 618 km of manual firewalls realized.
- 5,600 improved cook stoves confectioned and distributed to beneficiaries.
- 30 bio-digesters household installed.

Outcome 3.1

- 44 community wells have been equipped with solar pumps and water storage infrastructure.
- Construction of water storage and mobilization infrastructure in 19 sites

Outcome 4.1

- A market study on NWFP has been carried out.
- Identification of the equipment to be distributed for strengthening cooperatives working with NWFP.
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Outcome 5.1

- Collections of good practices and lessons is ongoing. Reports and studies are shared with MEDD and partners. The main activities are taken up by the communication officer in the FAO brochure and in social networks.

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.

	FY2023 Development Objective rating¹⁶	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating¹⁷	Comments/reasons¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	HS	HS	Many efforts have been undertaken by the project team for the implementation on the ground of the activities entrusted to the forty NGOs and public institutions (ISET, CNRADA, ANGMV). The supervision and monitoring of the LoAs required special efforts not only because of the number of NGOs but also because it is a first experience. These efforts have made it possible to obtain very good results towards the targets to be achieved.
Budget Holder	S	S	The team maintained strong efforts to accelerate the implementation of activities, while ensuring adequate internal and external coordination. Arrangements are in place for this momentum to continue.
GEF Operational Focal Point¹⁹	HS	HS	During this cycle, we were given the opportunity to participate in different field visits with top officials and managers from the ministry and we have been guided through a number of achievements under the project implementation. Our opinion that we have is the level of involvement at both local and national levels is satisfactory and the progress made since the pandemics is over represents a driver for an overall progress in the project implementation. One more important point in my point of view is the adhesion of the local communities to the project achievements and their shown ownership and commitment to sustain the project activities. We still very engaged to accompany this project and strengthen is positive impact as the leading multifocal project under the GEF in Mauritania.
Lead Technical Officer²⁰	S	S	The coordination and implementation team have achieved many indicators millstones. The improvement is satisfactory, the efforts need to be maintained and even enhanced to achieve the remaining interventions in the next 18 months.

¹⁶**Development Objectives Rating**—A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.

¹⁷**Implementation Progress Rating**— A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

¹⁹In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

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

GEF Technical Officer, GTO (formerly Technical FLO)	S	S	<p>The perseverance of the project team together with the valuable support from project partners and stakeholders enabled the project to be back on track to meet most of its targets despite the shortcomings and challenges faced during the start-up phase. Building on the findings of the MTR and in line with the managerial response in place, the project team should closely monitor output-level delivery to bridge any potential implementation gaps for the delivery of GEBs, including with regards to land-use planning, water-use-efficiency, nature-positive value chains, KM&L and gender equality. The project team should capitalize on its techno-institutional savviness to proactively mitigate potential risks and spearhead the current momentum to deliver the remaining results before the TE kicks-in.</p>
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5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **mild** 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 indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

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				
SSE 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:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification 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.

Two grievances on technical use of bio digester and trees plantation were solved by actions made by the NGOs in charge of these LOAs

²¹**Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (Esm-unit@fao.org) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>)

6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and also reflects any new risks identified during the project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk-rating ²²	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Lack of interest from the local communities to take up cultivation of endemic, resilient and threatened crops	L	Y	The crops to be promoted by the project will be selected in consultation with local populations to ensure their ownership	All reforestation activities, RNA support to NWFP value chains, choice of alternative energy sources and implementation of water conservation works are carried out after consultation and approval by the Communities either to improve / diversify their sources of income either for their traditional values	Real involvement of beneficiary communities and local technical authorities in the choice of species and intervention sites.

²²Risk ratings means a rating of accesses the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of project should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	Type of risk	Risk-rating ²²	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
2	Sub-contractors fail to deliver on terms of their contracts	L	Y	Service providers will be selected following thorough due diligence and detailed contracts will be drawn, making payments conditional on deliverables	The choice of state partners and NGOs was made on a rigorous basis of their specialization. Local NGOs were preferred	The project partners (NGOs and public institutions) were fully involved. Some difficulties noted at the end of the implementation often due to a lack of experience. With the support of the FAO (administrative and technical services) very good results have been obtained.
3						

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

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Low	Low	The mobilization of the PMU, the PTF and the involvement of the MEDD made it possible to achieve significant results. All partners are strongly committed.

7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented during this Fiscal Year
Recommendation 1: (COPIL, FAO, GEF): Grant the GEF-6 project an extension of the project at no cost for the duration of 12 to 20 months. The ExMP team would favor a 20-month extension (until December 2025) so that the project can cover the entire 2025 rainy season.	A cost-free extension to December 31, 2025 will be submitted to the PSC for approval.
Recommendation 2: (UGP, LTO, BH): Establish genuine letters of agreement or agreements on a broader program of collaboration, over several years, in order to ensure the spirit of partnership, the commitment, the financing and the full availability of these structures which are necessary for the proper conduct of activities, and for the achievement of the expected results and impacts	LoAs signed in 2023 will be longer.
Recommendation 3 (UGP, BH, FLO): Prioritize the inventory, documentation and reporting to the GEF donor regarding the realization of co-financing “in cash”, “in kind” and “in parallel”. Seek more collaboration and exchanges with other relevant programs and projects. Ask structures that have subscribed to the co-financing of the GEF-6 project for a letter of completion by December 31, 2022, and an end-of-project estimate	Substantial efforts will be undertaken to confirm the co-financing promised by the structures that still exist.
Recommendation 5 (UGP, ANGGW, MEDD): Ensure, in collaboration with the MEDD and the ANGGW, that the commitments made in 2022 are honored and the activities carried out in 2023, before considering new forms of collaboration such as large incubators.	The conclusions of the evaluation and this recommendation were shared with the management of the ANGGW and forwarded to the MEDD. It was agreed not to plan other activities before those subject to the current LoA are completed.
Recommendation 7 (UGP, MEDD, DREDD): Develop Action Plans in a participatory manner by zone to translate Land Use Plans into concrete activities. Ensure textual elaboration regarding the implications and expected impacts of the management of the different areas. Ensure their wide dissemination among the populations concerned	All the activities listed in the PTA 2023 are based on the results of the Land Use Plans carried out by the Sarah consulting design office
Recommendation 11 (UGP, supporting NGO, Management Committees): Organize the communities around social and cultural animation activities, in order to strengthen	This recommendation will be taken into account when setting up the APFS included in the PTA 2023

the cohesion of the group and the communities. For example, they could equip themselves with common songs or organize themselves into a type of "field-school" for the recognition and study of the flora and fauna of the monitored sites.	
Recommendation 12 (PMU, CTA, BH, LTO, FLO, FAO/GEF CU): Organize a frank exchange between the PMU, CTA, BH, LTO, FLO and FEM/FAO CU on ways to avoid delays in preparations and approvals of concrete activities; aimed at shortening approval times and facilitating the implementation of the GEF-6 project. Better anticipate the needs of agents and partners responsible for the implementation of project activities (upwards and downwards). 44 Increase the availability of financial and administrative managers in order to facilitate communication and exchanges with the CTA and with the PMU FEM-6	The importance of better planning/scheduling activities well in advance was noted. The involvement of the Task Force PMU, CTA, BH, LTO, FLO, FAO/GEF CU would enable the planned activities to be carried out on time.
Recommendation 13 (UGP, DREDD, Town halls, support NGOs, Management Committees): Double social organization efforts around protected areas and promote IGA activities in order to contribute to community responsibility for surveillance and guarding sites.	The involvement and sustainability of local management committees are one of the objectives of the PTA 2023. They will be ensured by the establishment of IGAs for the benefit of local communities.
Recommendation 14 (UGP, BH, LTO, supporting NGOs): Develop a clear gender strategy, especially in the context of Income Generating Activities (IGA), for the Management Committees, and around the management and community surveillance of intervention sites. Ensure that women are targeted, that they participate in activities, and that they benefit from them; and work to improve their position in the community	<p>Even though women and young people represent a very significant part of the beneficiary communities, this is not the result of a well-established gender strategy.</p> <p>The direct involvement of the Gender expert from the FAO Representation, planned for this year, will greatly improve the consideration of this recommendation.</p>
Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize	The exit strategy of the project is based on the systematic establishment of local management committees, their organizational and material capacity building on the one hand and on the other hand all the activities are included in the regular program of the DPREM/MEDD and DREDDs/MEDDs.

8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²³. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
financial management			
Implementation schedule			
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

²³Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

9. Stakeholders' Commitment

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval dduring this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Role in project execution	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government Institutions			
National Center for Agronomic Research and Agricultural Development (CNRADA)	Production and marketing of endemic varieties seeds (Activity 4.1.)	Committed partner Result achieved at 50%	Administrative slowness (public sector)
Higher Institute of Technological Education (ISET)	Improve natural resources governance and finance their sustainable use (Activity 5.1.3.)	Very committed partner Result achieved at 100%	None
National Agency of the Great Green Wall (ANGMV)	Fight against sedimentation by fixing sand dunes (Activity 2.1.2)	Committed partner Institutional instability	Involvement and continuation of activity by the new management of the Agency
Non-Government organizations (NGOs)			
Voice of hope	Establish 500 ha exclusion zones with high regeneration potential (Activity 2.1.3.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
AMEDD	Establish 500 ha exclusion zones with high regeneration potential (Activity 2.1.3.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
APDGE	Establish 500 ha exclusion zones with high regeneration potential (Activity 2.1.3.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
SOS SAHEL	Establish 500 ha exclusion zones with high regeneration potential (Activity 2.1.3.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
EGEPDEM	Establish 500 ha exclusion zones with high regeneration potential (Activity 2.1.3.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
JFP	Professionalization of producers'	Result achieved at 100%	None

	cooperatives through training and targeted technical support (Activity 4.1.1.)		
APE	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
ENVIRONMENT SAFEGUARD	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
EL ASSALA	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
SCOUT	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
KISSAL	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
GREEN SAHEL	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
AMDPEP	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
DRD	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
ADIP	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
NAHDA	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
AFPD	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
A2SD	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
WORLD	Promote afforestation and reforestation in	Committed and motivated partner	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports

	3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Continuation of work in good conditions	
APIF	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
ADPDH	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
AFE	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
ODPCL	Restore 2 semi-protected forests in the intervention zone, through assisted natural regeneration (Activity 2.1.1.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
EMPA	Implementation	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
ADESU	Restore 2 semi-protected forests in the intervention zone, through assisted natural regeneration (Activity 2.1.1.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
IDASPAK	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
INTAJ	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
SDPE	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	
AMAD	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 90%	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
SDD	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None
GACEF	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Result achieved at 100%	None

TREE	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
ARDM	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good condition	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
FMEA	Promote afforestation and reforestation in 3,000 hectares (Activity 2.1.4.)	Committed and motivated partner Continuation of work in good conditions	Maintain commitment until delivery of reports
Private sector entities			
SARAH	Elaborate the land use plans in a participatory manner (Activity 1.2.2.)	Motivated partner Experience with DPREM/MEDD Result achieved at 100%	None
Others[1]			
YOUTH, WOMEN, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT	Awareness campaign to promote improved cook stoves and biogas digesters (Activity 2.2.1.)	Committed partner Very long experience with the MEDD for the production of fireplaces. Result achieved at 100%	None
New stakeholders identified/engaged			
VITA company producing improved stoves	Develop and demonstrate the use of locally appropriate improved cook stoves (Activity 2.2.3.)	Very long experience in the manufacture of improved stoves	

[1] They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women's groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then.

10. Gender Mainstreaming

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

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	yes	
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of the project team by the gender consultant is scheduled • Involvement of the FAO Gender Focal Point when establishing LOAs with NGOs for beneficiary targeting • During the execution of field activities, strong involvement of women, women's cooperatives and young people was privileged.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Involvement of women in natural resource management committees set up.
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Women are involved in management committees and decisions concerning the implementation of activities.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Certain activities such as vegetable cultivation, collection and marketing of NWFPs, improved stoves are specifically for the benefit of women.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	A value chain expert is recruited.
Any other good practices on gender		

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, during this reporting period.	
Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.	Yes the project has a knowledge management strategy. All activities are reported and recorded in reports or audio-visual materials.
	Yes the project has a communication strategy in relation to the FAO Representation. Project activities are shared through reports and in public and private media as well as social networks (Tweeter LinkedIn etc.). Audio and video materials are also available.
Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	<p>For the protection of natural resources, the project has built 500 km of manual firewalls in connection with the national network of mechanical firewalls made by the Ministry. Said firewalls were made with the local communities of many villages in the area of El Atf (pastoral refuge area) using local labor. This achievement made it possible to fight against bush fires, protect pasture and inject money locally.</p> <p>On the other hand, the project has created 19 sites of 100 ha each which have made it possible to preserve several tons of straw used by the villagers as sources of income. The beneficiaries of these sites, in addition to the added value linked to the sale of straw, have benefited from firebreak activities over 168 km.</p>
Please provide links to related website, social media account	https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1687295274939324&id=174916406177226 https://cridem.org/C_Info.php?article=754919 https://twitter.com/FAOMauritania/status/1505558884831928326?s=20&t=T0ptZxY9qZ9hOGQvlnm4Pw https://fr.ami.mr/Depeche-63306.html#

Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline assessment report • Identification report of the battery of ecological and socio-economic indicators of the platform • Mapping report of the 3 landscapes • DREDD training report on data collection tools • Workshop report Day of reflection on El Atf • Concept note on the El Atf Biosphere Reserve • Roll up on the project and on the El Atf area (French and Arabic) • Project activities in the FAO Representation Brochure • Report for the 2021 financial year • Minutes of the Steering Committee • Videos and audio from TV and radio news covering the training workshops and the day of El Atf. • Inventory and development plans of the CFs of Ngouye and Walaldé. • Participatory and gender-responsive land use plans of the three project landscapes. • CES-DRS Action Manual • Bushfire prevention manual and how to open manual firewalls. • Activity report 2022
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's Name and contact details	Wahba Malloum Wahba.Malloum@fao.org

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

If applicable, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities.

Do indigenous peoples and or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.

This indigenous notion is not applicable for the project

13.Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁴	Name of Co-finance	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disruption by the end of the project
National Government	MoA	In kind	\$3,000,000	\$500,000	\$300,000	\$3,000,000
National Government	MoA	In Kind	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$350,000	\$1,000,000
National Government	MHWS	In kind	\$5,000,000	\$50,000	\$22,000	\$5,000,000
National Government	MoL	Grant and Kind	\$4,000,000	\$240,000	\$160,000	\$4,000,000
National Government	MoE	In kind	\$2,600,000	\$260,000	\$200,000	\$2,600,000
National Government	MoE	In Kind	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$100,000	\$800,000
National Government	Tadamoun	In kind	\$3,300,000	\$170,000	\$70,000	\$3,300,000
A	CAM	Grant and In-Kind	\$1,050,000	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$1,050,000
National Government	GoM Cash		\$1,390,876	\$109,548	\$20,000	\$1,390,876
TOTAL			\$22,140,876	\$2,529,548	\$1,322,000	\$22,140,876

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

The main reason is the institutional instability of the Government. Some ministries disappeared or were changed by modifying their attributions.

Efforts are underway with the Minister to find solutions with her colleagues

²⁴Sources 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 Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
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 environmental benefits
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve 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. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the project's approved implementation plan.	
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.

Risk-rating will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks

Annex 2.**GEO LOCATION INFORMATION**

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such

as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) and [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description

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