

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

Document Generated by: BDLD TM

At: 2026-09-08 10:51:10

Table of contents

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION	3
1.1 Project Details	3
1.2 Project Description	4
1.3 Project Contacts.....	8
2 Overview of Project Status	9
2.1 UNEP PoW & UN.....	9
2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators.....	9
2.3. Implementation Status and Risks	10
2.4 Co Finance.....	16
2.5. Stakeholder.....	17
2.6. Gender	20
2.7. ESSM	20
2.8. KM/Learning	21
Reflows	22
2.9. Stories	22
3 Performance	24
3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes	24
3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)	37
4 Risks	60
4.1 Table A. Project management Risk	60
4.2 Table B. Risk-log.....	60
4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks.....	64
5 Amendment - GeoSpatial	65
5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM).....	65
5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)	65

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 9671	Umoja WBS: GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-008233
SMA IPMR ID: 34727	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000618/ P1-33GFL-001162
Project Short Title: Egypt Wadi El Rayan project	
Project Title: Effective Management of Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun Protected Areas	
Duration months planned:	36
Duration months age:	90
Project Type:	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Africa
Countries:	Egypt
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
GEF financing amount:	\$ 1,319,864.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 8,500,000.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2018-12-13
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2019-06-12
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2019-06-20
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2020-09-27
Date of First Disbursement:	2019-09-26
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2026:	\$ 1,206,371.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 1,251,204.00

Midterm undertaken?:	Yes
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	2023-12-01
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	2023-12-01
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2022-12-31
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2026-12-31
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2026-03-31
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2026-06-30

1.2 Project Description

This project aims to strengthen the overall management of the Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun protected areas to safeguard biodiversity by addressing a range of threats. It seeks to enable community involvement, capacity building and gender equality as the principle means toward improving effectiveness.

Project Objective: To improve the management effectiveness of the Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun protected areas through community involvement and capacity building.

Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.

Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness (Strengthened PA management tools, processes and capacities) demonstrated at two targeted PAs (Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun).

Output 1.1.1: PA management frameworks of Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun PAs developed, including participatory approaches. Output 1.1.2: Field monitoring programs within Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun PAs to assess the conservation status of key ecosystems and threatened and important species developed and implemented.

Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.

Outcome 2.1: Participatory approaches to PA management have strengthened PA management and reduced unsustainable resource uses in areas within and adjacent to two targeted PAs (Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun).

Output 2.1.1: Programmes for community participatory planning and involvement in PA Management developed and implemented at targeted PA sites.

Output 2.1.2: Controls and monitoring programmes to conserve ecosystem services and reduce overharvesting by local communities within Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun PAs developed and implemented.

The executing agency is: The International Union for Conservation of Nature - Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN ROWA).

The project has several stakeholders and partners from the Governmental bodies, NGOs and academic organisations, along with the communities and businesses. These stakeholders were effectively engaged throughout the implementation of project activities through various means. Among the most impactful engagements was the official establishment of the Local Community Advisory Committee, which significantly enhanced trust and transparency by creating a direct and efficient channel for dialogue between government representatives and community stakeholders. In addition, the Technical and Scientific Committee was established, engaging university professors from well-known Egyptian institutions such as Mansoura University, Al-Azhar University, and Damietta University, alongside independent researchers. This structure ensures that Protected Areas can receive direct scientific guidance through the committee, with communication facilitated via the Chair, who represents the Ministry of Environment of Egypt.

The roles and responsibilities of these stakeholders in project implementation are described as follows:

Partners and their role in the project

Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA): EEAA is the host agency for the project and represents the legal management authority of protected areas in Egypt. Its primary body, the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS), is responsible for the coordination with the other line ministries, public administration bodies, agencies and relevant sub-authorities. EEAA was heading the steering committee of the project and was responsible for developing project activities in line with relevant policies and laws on biodiversity conservation and wildlife management. The EEAA was also the official body responsible for the establishment of the following main committees:

Project Steering Committee. Local Community Advisory Committee. Technical and Scientific committee. KBA National Coordination Group (NCG).
Nature Conservation Sector (NCS): NCS is a directorate under the EEAA and was responsible for designing and implementing project activities related to policy and regulations. NCS ensured compliance with habitat and species protection legislation and all issues related to biodiversity conservation within the broader landscape.

Centre for Environment & Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE): CEDARE is an international environmental organization that had a key role in supporting the capacity building programme for park management in Earth Observation (EO), modelling and data exploitation. CEDARE also contributed in local communities' awareness of environmental issues and supported rangeland management in areas adjacent to the PAs.

Italian Egyptian Development Cooperation: The Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Program, phase III (EIECP), is a project focusing on a strategy of Community-based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) supporting sustainable development, including ecotourism. This project implemented several activities that could be considered complementary and well-aligned with the activities of this project. This includes infrastructure development, training and developing biodiversity monitoring guidelines and protocols.

Stakeholders and their role in the project

Governmental bodies

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation: This ministry is responsible for the agricultural and fisheries sector in the project area. It ensures that activities are aligned with national priorities and investments. They offered their expertise on best management practices focusing on conservation practices and pollution prevention/reduction.

Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation: This ministry assists the project by ensuring activities are aligned with national priorities and investments. They offered their expertise in the best management practices on conservation and pollution prevention. The Water Research Institute was engaged to set baselines and targets for indicators related to the health of Qaroun and Rayan lakes.

Tourism Department: This ministry assisted the project by ensuring activities are aligned with national priorities and investments related to tourism.

Fayoum Governor and Governorate: The Governor and the Governorate in Fayoum are crucial considering their local mandate and relationships. The Governorate and its sub-authorities are associated with the ministries (above) and had a key role in the design and implementation of the project. They are a key member of the project steering committee.

Water and Environmental Police: The police have a key role in compliance monitoring and enforcement. They guide the development of protocols and regulations.

Security Department: The Security Department ensures that activities align with national security rules and regulations.

Local Community Advisory Committee (Officially established by the EEAA CEO): This committee was established by the project to enhance the participatory approach related to protected area (PA) management and the conservation of species and their habitats. It supported a coordinated approach to addressing management challenges and enhancing benefits for local communities, taking into account the diverse interests in resource use and the potential advantages of PAs for these communities.

The committee included several members representing local communities, resource users, and private businesses. These stakeholders were recognized as key users of natural resources and important partners in addressing issues such as irrigation, tourism, pollution, grazing, and others. The establishment of this committee significantly enhanced trust and transparency by creating a direct and efficient channel for dialogue between government representatives and community stakeholders. Technical and Scientific committee (Officially established by the EEAA CEO): This committee was established by the project to provide scientific and technical support to Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun PA and management programmes, including management planning, effectiveness, biological monitoring, compliance, and enforcement. It also provided the EEAA and the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) with recommendations and advice on the listing, delisting, and conservation status of species in the Fayoum area. Upon its establishment, the committee ensured the inclusion of university professors from well-known Egyptian institutions, such as Mansoura University, Al-Azhar University, and Damietta University, alongside independent researchers. This structure ensured that protected areas received direct scientific guidance through the committee, with communication facilitated via the Chair, who represented the Ministry.

KBA National Coordination Group (under final approval for establishment): The project initiated the establishment of this committee as part of its long-term sustainability plan for the key biodiversity areas KBAs assessments on both site and national levels. It will be supported by the Technical and Scientific Committee established through the project. The NCG will include experts from various taxonomic groups (e.g. plants, mammals, reptiles), as well as representatives from relevant stakeholders and research centres, to support assessments for both nature reserves and other protected areas across Egypt.

Academic & NGO's

Academic Institutions: Universities, like Mansoura University and AL Azhar University are members in the technical committee and offer technical support by providing data and supporting research and outreach activities.

Nature Conservation Egypt: The NCE is an environmental NGO (a BirdLife partner and an IUCN member), that provided advice on conservation approaches. One of its members worked locally in Fayoum as a volunteer with an informal group, the Egyptian Association for Bird Protection, to promote awareness of hunting regulations and no-hunting areas. The NCE also conducted the KBA assessment for the Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun protected areas in collaboration with the BirdLife International Africa office.

Fayoum Environmental Centre: This local Fayoum city-based NGO focuses on community development, women and youth training. They participated in conducting skill development training and environmental awareness through online and in-situ activities in schools and communities.

Message (Resala) centre: This centre is responsible for youth engagement in environmental sustainability activities.

RAED NGO: RAED is an environmental NGO concerned with youth and community engagement. They had a key role in delivering awareness, communication and educational material for the project and supported developing the environmental educational centre.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	N/A
Executing Agency (ies)	International Union for Conservation of Nature – Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN ROWA).
names of Other Project Partners	The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) is the host agency for the project and its primary body, the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) is responsible for PA management and the conservation of biodiversity, and thus plays the lead governmental role in executing the project on the ground.
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Jane Nimpamya
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	George Saddimbah
UNEP Support Assistants	Ruth Igamba & Evelyn Machasio
Manager/Representative	Hany El Shaer
Project Manager	Natalia Boulad
Finance Manager	Omar Hamdan
Communications Lead, if relevant	Hui Ren

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	Ecosystems Sub programme
PoW Indicator(s):	Nature: (iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	UNDAF-Egypt (Pillar III: Environment and Sustainable Natural Resources) UNPDF 2018-2022 Egypt (Outcome Area 3.4: Environment Sustainability and Natural Resource Management).
Link to relevant SDG Goals	- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all - Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

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

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
1.2- Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	134,042	314,000	314,000	314,000	This is the area in hectares of both Wadi El Rayan and Lake

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value				Remarks
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	Materialized to date	
					Qaroun Protect Areas, as agreed during project design.

Implementation Status 2026: Final PIR

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2026	Final PIR	HS	S	L
FY 2025	6th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2024	5th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2023	4th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2022	3rd PIR	S	S	L
FY 2021	2nd PIR	MS	MS	M
FY 2020	1st PIR	MS	MS	M
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Progress: Information on progress outcomes of project implementation activities

The rating for the progress of project implementation at the outcome level during the reporting period (July 2025 – June 2026) has been assessed as highly satisfactory, given the project's ability to continue implementing several key activities that have resulted in tangible outcomes. Notably, the management effectiveness of Lake Qaroun and Wadi El Rayan Protected Areas (PAs) has improved, as reflected in the latest METT assessment covering implementation up to 2024. The overall scores have increased for both PAs: Wadi El Rayan PA (WRPA) from 72 to 75 points, and Lake Qaroun PA (LQPA) from 62 to 69 points. The project's comprehensive approach in enhancing operational capacity by providing management tools, capacity building, enhancing participatory approach and supporting science-based monitoring have resulted in the successful re-listing of Wadi El Hitan on the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. It should be noted that the initial listing of 2018 was a first iteration with many action plans, conditions and areas for enhancement. While the re-listing process included an extensive assessment that involved comprehensive revision of the management plan and all documentation relate to the Green List criteria, in addition to field assessment conducted by the evaluators from the Expert Assessment Group for The Green List. It should also be noted that only two sites from the Middle- East West Asia Region have managed to complete the re-listing requirements, among which was Wadi El Hitan. Below are the key activities that have led to strengthening the Green List dossier for the successful re-listing of Wadi El Hitan, and which are directly attributed to the project: The periodic update and alignment of the management plan with the IUCN Green List Criteria; with enhanced mainstreaming of gender and enhanced mainstreaming of the Green List logic in listing natural values, cultural values and ecosystem services. Enhancing the participatory approach and local community inclusion with the establishment and operation of the community advisory committee The establishment and operation of the environmental educational centre in Fayoum Strengthening the management capacity through trainings, management tools (patrol plan), patrolling capacity, restoration plan, monitoring equipment, etc. Strengthening science-based decision-making through the establishment and operation of the scientific technical committee and enhancing the decision support system and the use of GIS. Strengthening the visibility and awareness with post signs, previously provided uniforms, awareness brochures, which have together enhanced awareness and visibility

Rating towards outputs: The rating for the 2025 year's progress is satisfactory because the project was able to advance the work on different outputs and achieve considerable progress on the ground. Output 1.1.1: PA management frameworks of Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun PAs were developed, including participatory approaches and three management plans which were all delivered during the reporting period. Output 1.1.2: Field monitoring programs were developed and implemented within Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected Areas to assess the conservation status of key ecosystems, as well as Threatened and important species. In addition, a restoration plan for Lake Qaroun was developed. A partnership was established with BirdLife International to update the KBA's and fill the gaps in monitoring programmes (field surveys were conducted through the NCE and Birdlife International including a rapid survey on the Flora, Fauna and Avi-fauna (Birds), also a National Coordination Technical Group, NCG is being established by the EEAA). Output 2.1.1: Programmes for community participatory planning and involvement in PA Management developed, the three MP's and the community education and awareness plan were developed with active participatory approaches, additionally, a study tour to Jordan on integrated management of protected areas was conducted. Also, the Local Community Advisory Committee was established through an official endorsement letter by the EEAA CEO and several meetings were conducted (The official letter will be linked to this report and uploaded in a separate file). On the other hand, the Educational Awareness Centre was successfully established beside the management building of Qaroun Protected area at Shakshouk village. The centre has a training hall that can be used by the PA management to gather the local community and provide them with awareness sessions on the importance of the reserves. The Environmental Educational Centre is functioning as a hub for local community engagement and integration and environmental activities. Also, additional landscaping works were completed at the centre, enhancing the overall appearance and functionality of the surrounding area. Output 2.1.2: Controls and monitoring programmes to conserve ecosystem services and reduce overharvesting by local communities within Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun PAs developed and implemented. An enforcement plan and surveillance plan were developed. Also, the project provided full maintenance of the vehicles (cars, boats and motorcycles) that are used for patrolling and surveillance

and installed a 25KW off-grid solar power system to serve the visitor centre in Jabal Qatrani which is part of Lake Qaroun Natural Reserve. To support the control and monitoring efforts for both PA's, the project co-finance partner (the Italian Egyptian Cooperation Project) supported in developing an Environmental monitoring guide for Protected Areas in Egypt. The project also purchased three GPS devices to support the field survey work. Overall risk rating The overall risk rating for project implementation during the reporting period is assessed as Low, based on the following considerations: Delay in project field initiation due to local approval processes: The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) has issued the necessary clearance for project implementation, enabling progress at both the outcome and output levels. As a result, many previously identified risks have been significantly reduced. Extension to Compensate Delays: To compensate for the delays mentioned above and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in line with the decisions of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), the project received its first no-cost extension (NCE), extending the technical closure date to 31 December 2024. Addressing Implementation Gaps: To address a minor gap in implementation caused by the temporary absence of the EEAA project focal point, high-level support was provided by the CEO of EEAA, including the appointment of a new focal point and resolution of related challenges.

Second NCE and Implementation Timeline: Following the PSC meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, the committee members formally requested a further extension of the project technical implementation period till 31st of December 2025. This extension aims to ensure the completion of all remaining activities, including the full operationalisation of the Environmental and Educational Centre and the completion of landscaping works. The second NCE was agreed upon between the Implementing Agency (IA) and Executing Agency (EA), supported by an amended 2025 workplan and budget. Main Achievements: Output 1.1.1: PA management frameworks of Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun PAs developed, including participatory approaches. Revised Activity 1.1.1.1. Develop, update and implement Protected Area Management Plans and conduct a desk review for Nature Based Solutions (Achieved in the previous reporting period) NbS report developed and submitted for EEAA. The report included a national and site-specific review of initiatives that have NBS standard elements and could develop into a full NBS. The project developed and updated the following management plans: The management plans were developed and approved by the EEAA team, and the implementation will be on-going until the end of the management planning period. Lake Qaroun management plan. Jabal Qatrani management plan. Wadi Al Hitan management plan. Update the management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for the Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protect Areas to reflect the recent progress and activities of the project implementation covering the period till 2023 year. The overall score for both reserves increased as below. WRPA: Increased from 67 points to 72 points.

LQPA: Increased from 53 points to 62 points. Update the management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for the Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protect Areas to reflect the recent progress and activities of the project implementation covering the year 2024. The overall score for both reserves increased as below. WRPA: Increased from 72 points to 75 points. LQPA: Increased from 62 points to 69 points. Translation of

the following documents from English to Arabic language: A report on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for WRPA and LQPA and Egypt. A Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan to coordinate the CEPA objectives, target audiences, methods of delivery, costs, and means for assessing effectiveness of CEPA activities. Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop Key Biodiversity Area classifications for WRPA and LQPA (Achieved in the current reporting period) Identification and assessment of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) within Qaroun and Wadi El Rayan Protected Areas were conducted in collaboration with Birdlife International – Africa and their Egyptian partner, Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE). Through this activity, we conducted rapid flora, fauna, and avifauna field surveys to ascertain the current situation within both reserves and perform a gap assessment identifying data required for the KBA assessment. These surveys supported the development of species conservation plan for the two Protected Areas by providing up-to-date records of species presence/absence during the survey period. Additionally, a national training workshop was organised for biodiversity experts and Egyptian Protected Area managers. Participants were trained on the Global Guidelines for the KBA assessment and KBA proposal forms. The activity also involved preparing a tentative list for a National Coordination Group (NCG). The NCG will support the KBA assessment

for the two protected areas in addition to national scale assessments. Some workshop participants were nominated to the Technical and Scientific Committee established under Activity 1.1.1.8. Activity 1.1.1.3: Develop and implement habitat and species conservation plans (Achieved in the previous reporting period) A species conservation plan for the Fennec Fox and the Dorcas Gazelle in both Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected areas were successfully developed. Activity 1.1.1.4: Develop Lake Qaroun ecosystem restoration master plan (Achieved in the previous reporting period) An ecosystem restoration plan for Lake Qaroun was developed and submitted for the EEAA. The plan was approved by the EEAA, and it formed a basis for the development of a concept note aiming to restore the lake and ensure the project sustainability. Activity 1.1.1.5: Establish and implement best practice guidelines and manuals (Achieved in the previous reporting period) Achieved through the Italian Cooperation project.

A national training workshop on the Key Biodiversity Areas KBA's Global Standard was conducted. This work was coordinated with BirdLife International – Africa and their partner in Egypt, Nature Conservation Egypt, NCE. Activity 1.1.1.6: Conduct PA staff and community training to conserve biodiversity (Achieved in the previous reporting period) EEAA staff including Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun staff were given trainings and taken on a study tour on Integrated management of protected areas in Jordan. A comprehensive training for EEAA field staff, which included topics such as Microsoft Office, computer software/hardware maintenance, Photoshop cc2022, video editing, social media, and training on the English language, levels one, two, and three was organized, after which the participants' performance was tested and certified.

A specialised training on the use of ArcGIS was conducted using the equipment and licenses that were previously provided through this project. Two of the Protected Area managers attended a conference on the 24th till the 26th of January 2024 in Jordan. The workshop was organised by IUCN ROWA and the Arab Regional Center for World Heritage ARC-WH. The workshop was held under the title, "Natural and mixed World Heritage Sites in the Arab States: Listing implications and synergies with the IUCN's Green List." The PA managers presented a case study and a presentation of their site at the conference as well. The project focal point and representative participated in the Sixth steering committee meeting and first consultative workshop to update the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan NBSAP to represent the project and mainstream project results.

The project focal point (Dr. Shaimaa Taha) attended the CMS COP14 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan to present the country's progress towards this convention along with presenting the project work and achievements. This will support establishment of a synergies between the conservation action plan with the international priorities. A workshop to update the management plan for Wadi El-Hitan site based on the Green List requirements, along with the enhancing gender mainstreaming and alignment with the Green List Standard was held between the 20th till the 24th of October 2024. Training on the Green List gap assessment tool (IBEX Tool) was conducted for the two protected areas (Wadi El-Rayan & Qaroun) to measure their alignment with the Green List standard. The workshop was held from the 10th till the 13th of November 2024.

A training workshop to enhance the capacity of the rangers and PA's staff and the NCS team managing the Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected Areas (PAs) was held to support the implementation of the Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness (CEPA) plan effectively. (Held from the 3rd till the 4th of December 2024). (Achieved in the current reporting period) Conduct a cleanup campaign and awareness session in the two protected areas (Wadi ElRayan and Qaroun PA) over two days to enhance environmental awareness about the importance of protected areas while fostering community engagement by involving local communities, civil society organizations, tourism companies, and other stakeholders in conservation activities. On the other hand, introduce and promote a new environmental initiative and best practices, particularly in reducing harmful plastic use and promoting sustainable behaviour. 106 participants from local community and PAs were trained.

Conduct a workshop to celebrate the Initiative to Prepare the Nomination Dossier for Fayoum Protected Areas as a Geopark, 48 participants from experts, PA staff and representatives from the Local community Advisory committee, Technical and Scientific committee attended and provided their input during the working group session. (Dated 13th of July 2025) 56 local handicraft producers from local community and the socioeconomic projects owners were trained. The workshop explored the local socio-economic context and equipped participants with a practical, easy-to-use marketing strategy. (Dated: 11th of December 2025.) Activity 1.1.1.7: Develop Green List nomination dossiers (Achieved in the previous reporting period) The

project has initiated the process of the preparation of the IUCN's Green List nomination process, by preparing the documents and maps needed for the Green List application. Communication was initiated with the EEAA, and a workshop and training were done to prepare the EEAA staff (decision-makers and PA staff) for the Green List application process. Based on the previous SC meeting conducted, it was agreed that the project will support in renewing the certificate of Wadi al Hitan- Al Wadi El-Rayan protected area certificate as it expired by the end of 2023. Workshop to Update the management plan for Wadi El-Hitan site based on the Green List requirements, along with enhancing gender mainstreaming and alignment with the Green List Standard. The workshop took place between the 20th till the 24th of October 2024. Training on the Green List gap assessment tool (IBEX Tool) was conducted for the two protected areas (Wadi El-Rayan & Qaroun) to measure their alignments with the Green List standard. The workshop took place from the 10th till the 13th of November 2024.(Achieved in the current reporting period) Installation of signage across Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area (including Wadi El Hitan), and Lake Qaroun Protected Area (including Jabal Qatrani) was upgraded and installed. The project provided technical support for the EEAA/MoE and PA staff for preparing the full Green List dossier and facilitated the EAGL's site visit to assess and verify the Means of Verification. The site visit took place from 29th December 2025 to 1st January 2026.

Activity 1.1.1.8: Establish and operate a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Establishment of the Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) following the official endorsement letter by the EEAA CEO, this committee supports the project in aspects like; PA management planning and management effectiveness, biological monitoring, compliance monitoring, and enforcement, etc. The committee provides the EEAA with recommendations and advice on the listing/delisting and status of species in Al-Fayoum Area. The 1st Technical and Scientific Committee meeting was conducted after the official establishment of the committee by the EEAA CEO. The meeting was held to present project achievements and included a discussion of the Terms of Reference. (The meeting was held on the 23rd of October 2024)(Achieved in the current reporting period) Conducted the 3rd Technical and Scientific Committee meeting to present the Species Conservation plan for Fennec Fox and the Dorcas Gazelle in both Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun and the updated version for Wadi ElHitan management plan after its alignment with the Green List Standard. (The meeting was held on the 3rd of November 2025).

Output 1.1.2: Field monitoring programs within Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun PAs to assess the conservation status of key ecosystems and threatened and important species will be developed and implemented

Activity 1.1.2.1: Design and implement monitoring and reporting systems for threats and status of ecosystems and species.(Achieved in the previous reporting period) Implementing monitoring initiatives through the Italian cooperation. Also, based on the recent SC meeting, the EEAA Protected Area managers requested equipment for monitoring, and the procurement of priority equipment to support monitoring.(Achieved in the current reporting period) Purchasing three GPS devices to support monitoring activities in the two protected areas.

Activity 1.1.2.2: Develop and implement a compliance monitoring and enforcement system(Achieved in the previous reporting period) A patrolling and law enforcement plan was developed, comprehensive maintenance of vehicles, boats and cars used for patrolling was conducted, uniforms for patrolling staff to have a unified identity was provided

Activity 1.1.2.3: Establish and facilitate a PA biodiversity information management unit(Achieved in the previous reporting period) Hardware and GIS and remote sensing software were secured for the information management unit. High accuracy Satellite imagery was purchased to the dynamic parts of the protected area. A comprehensive development needs assessment for the information management unit was conducted, including hardware, software and training needs, in addition to developing an organisational structure for the unit. The project procured all needed software and hardware that were identified as a priority to establish the unit, and the staff are now being provided with extensive comprehensive GIS training. Hardware like High tech computers/ workstations, servers and internet infra structure was procured. Advanced ESRI GIS licenses and remote sensing software licenses were procured for the unit. Organising a specialised training on the use of the computer programs ArcGIS for EEAA field staff, which was done on location using the equipment and licensed programs that were previously provided through this project. Along with a Comprehensive GIS training.

Output 2.1.1: Programmes for community participatory planning and involvement in PA management developed and implemented at the targeted PA sites.

Activity 2.1.1.1: Develop and implement a Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

plan(Achieved in the previous reporting period) A Communication, education and public awareness plan CEPA was developed by the project in coordination with CEDARE and with a wide public participation of local communities in AlFayoum area. Now the CEPA Plan was developed and approved. Prepared several visibility materials for the project to be distributed in the events and official opening for the Educational and Environmental Centre. This includes: 3D models for both protected areas. 3D pop-up brochures highlighting the important information about the protected areas and their location. Desert scarf, water bottle, notebook and pin, tote bags.

(Achieved in the current reporting period) IUCN and the EEAA celebrated the World Environmental Day in one of the protected areas and launched the initiative of EEAA to start preparing the GeoPark dossier for AlFayoum protected areas. Conducted a cleanup campaign in the two protected areas (Wadi ElRayan and Qaroun PA) over two days to enhance environmental awareness about the importance of protected areas while fostering community engagement by involving local communities, civil society organizations, tourism companies, and other stakeholders in conservation activities. On the other hand, introduce and promote new environmental initiatives and best practices, particularly in reducing harmful plastic use and promoting sustainable behaviour.

Activity 2.1.1.2: Establish and operate a community environmental education centre(Achieved in the previous reporting period) An expert assessment of the land adjacent to the management building on Lake Qaroun Protected Area, to solve the soil salinity problem and prepare the land for planting and landscaping work for the space. Report was finalised, and recommendations were provided which led to the successful implementation of the land solution to be ready for the establishment of the educational centre. The Establishment and furnishing of an environmental educational centre in the land adjacent to the management building in the Lake Qaroun Protected Area in Shakshouk. This centre will be used by the Protected Area (PA) authorities and the local communities to showcase their environmental work and activities. (Related to activities under Activity 2.1.1.3). The renovation work and furnishing of the management building for Lake Qaroun Protected Area was completed successfully and handed to the PA Management. Now, the management building fully operational and renovated.(Achieved in the current reporting period) The additional landscaping works were completed at the Environmental Education Centre site in Shakshouk, Al Fayoum, enhancing the overall appearance and functionality of the area surrounding the centre.

A ceremony was organized on 21st of December 2025 to celebrate the project's achievements and mark the official opening of the Environmental Education Centre.

Activity 2.1.1.3: Establish and facilitate a Community Advisory Committee(Achieved in the previous reporting period) Successful establishment of a local community advisory committee – Wadi El Rayan & Qaroun protected area through an official endorsement letter from the EEAA CEO. The committee will provide guidance on a wide range of issues affecting PA management and the protection of species and their habitats. Conducted the 1st local community advisory committee meeting – Wadi El Rayan & Qaroun protected area following the official endorsement letter from the EEAA CEO. The committee will guide on a wide range of issues affecting PA management and the protection of species and their habitats. Date of the meeting was the 7th of July 2024. Conducted the 2nd local community advisory committee meeting – Wadi El Rayan & Qaroun protected area, in which the NGO's in Fayoum presented their work to the committee members and what they have done in these two reserves so far. Date of the meeting was the 8th of August 2024. Conducted the 3rd Local Community Advisory Committee meeting to present the recent work on the establishment of the Educational and Awareness Centre and its anticipated role.

Activity 2.1.1.4: Support community-based eco-tourism infrastructure developments, services, product development and product sales(Achieved in the previous reporting period) The project identified the scope of eco-tourism infrastructure development in Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun. A subcontract was awarded to a national NGO to implement the planned activities. The project has already installed a 25-kW solar power system to serve the Jabal Qatrani site within Lake Qaroun. Protected Areas (PAs) and Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) field staff at Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun were provided with uniforms to enhance their professional image, visibility, and effectiveness in law enforcement, surveillance, and eco-guiding activities.(Achieved in the current reporting period) The upgrade of the post signs in Wadi ElRayan, Wadi ElHitan site and Qaroun protected areas.

Output 2.1.2: Controls and monitoring programmes to conserve ecosystem services and reduce overharvesting by local communities within Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun PAs developed and

implemented. Activity 2.1.2.1: Develop and implement resource-use protocols and agreements. (Achieved in the previous reporting period) A desk revision and discussion of the needed best practice guidelines, and manuals was conducted to identify priority guidelines and manuals to be developed. Under the Italian Cooperation project, these manuals are already prepared and could be considered as a deliverable (co-financing). This guideline is called “Environmental monitoring guide for Protected Areas in Egypt with an application to both wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun”. Establishment of a local community advisory committee for Wadi El Rayan & Qaroun protected area through an official endorsement letter from the EEAA CEO. (Achieved in the current reporting period) IUCN prepared a report documenting all the processes within the EEAA regarding the dispute Resolution and Sustainable Resource Use in Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun Protected Areas. Activity 2.1.2.2: Establish a resource user permit system (Achieved in the previous reporting period) The development of the patrolling plan has significantly improved the efficiency and sustainability of resource management within the protected area. It has also strengthened the surveillance capacity of field teams, increased public awareness, contributed to a rise in visitor numbers, and supported the monitoring of water quality in Lake Qaroun. An information management unit for the protected areas was established through a needs assessment and the procurement of GIS software and datasets to support remote sensing and GIS analyses. (Achieved in the current reporting period) IUCN prepared a report documenting all the processes within the EEAA regarding the dispute Resolution and Sustainable Resource Use in Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun Protected Areas. Additional Activity 2.1.2.3: Developing best practice demonstration sites. Extended activity: Develop and implement site Management Plan for Qatrani (Achieved in the previous reporting period) A management plan for Jabal Qatrani were developed and approved by the EEAA. Solar panels were installed to support operation at the site. EEAA has endorsed and are implementing the plans. Activity 2.1.2.4: Undertake conflict resolution processes with resource users. (Achieved in the previous reporting period) Developing an enforcement plan Enhancing patrolling by maintaining vehicles used in patrolling. Establishment of the Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) following the official endorsement letter by the EEAA CEO. Conducting a cleanup campaign in the two protected areas (Wadi El Rayan and Qaroun PA) over two days to enhance environmental awareness about the importance of protected areas while fostering community engagement by involving local communities, civil society organizations, tourism companies, and other stakeholders in conservation activities. On the other hand, introduce and promote new environmental initiatives and best practices, particularly in reducing harmful plastic use and promoting sustainable behaviour.

Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Challenges: Local Vendor allocation, and high cost because of the remoteness of the PAs. Fluctuation of the currency exchange rate between Egyptian pound and USD which resulted in a higher price for everything purchased in Egypt. Communication; internet and phone coverage in Fayoum area. The simplicity of the rural areas surrounding/containing protected areas resulting in absence of taken-as-default technology. Following the Steering Committee meeting, the committee requested an official project extension to extend the project duration for one year (till the end of December 2025, technical implementation), the process for extension took up to three months and during this time, the majority of these planned activities were shifted.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 8,500,000
----------------------------	--------------

Actual to date:	7,456,112
Progress	Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: Justify progress in terms of materialisation of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: By the 31st of December 2025, we secured USD 7,456,112 of the planned co-finance from IUCN and project partners, with formal co-financing reports duly submitted by IUCN, the Italian Cooperation, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), and Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE). Overall, the Executing Agency (IUCN) has met and exceeded the co-financing commitments originally envisaged in the Project Document, with total co-financing reported as of 30th of June 2025 amounting to USD 363,465, exceeding the originally planned contribution by USD 63,465, thereby demonstrating strong partner engagement and effective resource mobilisation. On the other hand, the project team—working closely with EEAA—has proactively engaged additional partners contributing to project implementation to identify, validate, and formalise further co-financing contributions. Some delays in consolidating these additional co-financing reports are attributable to financial closure timelines and internal reporting procedures of contributing institutions, rather than gaps in actual contributions. The actual co-financing by project partners is estimated to exceed the reported amounts; however, logistical and procedural constraints prevented the submission of additional signed co-financing reports. Notably, members of the Local Community Advisory Committee (Including government entities and NGOs), as well as Technical and Scientific Committee members—such as Environment Without Borders Foundation (Contributed with a budget of USD 50K as co-finance) Al Mansoura University and Al Azhar University—have already provided additional in-kind and financial support to project activities.

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2025-12-15
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	Stakeholder participation includes government, NGOs and academic organizations, and communities and businesses. The roles and responsibilities of these stakeholders in project implementation are described as follows: Government, this includes: • Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA): responsible for coordination with other line ministries and in developing project activities. • Nature Conservation Sector (NCS): responsible for designing project activities related to policy and regulatory changes. • Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation, Tourism Department: responsible for ensuring

	activities align with national priorities and investments and to offer best management practices for conservation and pollution prevention. • Fayoum Governor and Governorate: responsible for approving the protocols and instruments developed under the project and to provide guidance on the development of best management practices, protocols and regulations. • Water and Environmental Police and Security Department: responsible for providing technical information and experience in compliance enforcement and monitoring. • NGOs and Academic Organizations, these include: ○ Academic institutions: to assist in project design and implementation through research. ○ IUCN ROWA: to implement activities and coordinate with project partners. ○ UN Environment Programme: to ensure synergies between biodiversity related MEAs and SDGs at both national and PA's levels and to enhance capacity building. ○ Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE): to support the two PAs in building the capacities of park management in Earth Observation (EO), modelling and in data exploitation. ○ Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE): to provide advice on approaches to conservation. ○ Fayoum Environmental Centre: to develop skills of community (women & youth) through training and environmental awareness. ○ Message (Resala): to engage youth. ○ RAED NGO: To support delivering awareness and educational material, and support developing the environmental educational centre ○ Local communities and resource users, private businesses and secondary stakeholders: These stakeholders are considered important users of natural resources and are considered key partners in finding solutions to issues such as irrigation, runoff, pollution, grazing and others. However, for the year 2025 till end of June 2026 the project management team was able to engage stakeholders in many important activities, including the following: • The Technical and Scientific Committee was officially established following the CEO's endorsement. The Committee comprises experts and researchers from a range of institutions, including universities, to provide scientific and technical support for protected area management. • The Local Community Advisory Committee for Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected Areas was officially established following the CEO's endorsement. The Committee provides guidance on a wide range of issues related to protected area management and the conservation of species and their habitats. • A Steering Committee meeting was held in Egypt on 15 December 2024 to review project progress, endorse the workplan, agree on future priorities, and discuss complementary funding opportunities. Particular attention was given to the project's exit strategy, including opportunities to sustain outcomes through Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and ecosystem restoration initiatives. All Steering Committee members representing the participating organisations attended the meeting.
--	---

	• Progress was made towards the official establishment of the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) National Coordination Group (NCG), which will comprise experts from government institutions, research centres, and other stakeholder organisations to support KBA assessments for Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun, as well as other protected areas across Egypt. • One of the key lessons highlighted by protected area managers was that the establishment of the Local Community Advisory Committee significantly strengthened communication and coordination between government authorities and local communities. • A two-day clean-up campaign was conducted in Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected Areas to raise environmental awareness about the importance of protected areas while promoting community engagement through the participation of local communities, civil society organisations, tourism companies, and other stakeholders. The campaign also promoted environmental best practices, particularly reducing plastic pollution and encouraging more sustainable behaviours. • World Environment Day was celebrated in one of the protected areas through the launch of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) initiative to begin preparing the UNESCO Global Geopark nomination dossier for the Fayoum Protected Areas. • Signage was upgraded and installed throughout Wadi El Rayan Protected Area (including Wadi El Hitan) and Lake Qaroun Protected Area (including Jabal Qatrani) to improve visitor guidance and site management. • The project supported the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), the Ministry of Environment (MoE), and protected area staff in preparing for the field evaluation by the Expert Assessment Group for the IUCN Green List (EAGL) to verify the Means of Verification (MoVs). The field visit took place from 29 December 2025 to 1 January 2026.
--	---

2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	No
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	The project ensured that gender considerations were systematically integrated across all activities, moving beyond quantitative participation toward meaningful inclusion and influence in decision-making processes. Women held key leadership and decision-making roles throughout project implementation. These included the Project Manager, the Project Assistant (during the first two years), the EEAA GEF Deputy Focal Point, and the EEAA Project Focal Point—both members of the Project Steering Committee—as well as the Chair of the EEAA Engineering Committee overseeing major renovation works. Representation data from project governance structures also reflects strong female participation, including the Local Community Advisory Committee (8 Women, 20 Men) and the Technical and Scientific Committee (6 Women, 17 Men). Through the Green List application process for Wadi El-Hitan GL site, we conducted a session for both the PA managers and the local community advisory committee on how to mainstream gender aspects in the PA management. Currently, the management plan for Wadi ElHitan Green List is more gender sensitive and aligned with the GL Standard (Gender criteria).

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? No If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?
New social and/or environmental risks	Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? No If yes, describe the new risks or changes?
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period? No If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions

	were taken?
Environmental and social safeguards management	The project contributes to enhancing the effective management of Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected Areas. This is being achieved through the development of adaptive management frameworks, strengthened operational capacities, and mechanisms that promote the meaningful participation of local communities. During the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, potential environmental and social impacts were assessed in accordance with UN Environment's Environmental, Social and Economic Review (ESER) procedure. No significant environmental or social risks or concerns were identified. Social safeguards: The project promotes local community participation and enhances the economic inclusion of local populations. During project preparation, gender equality and youth engagement were identified as areas requiring additional attention. Accordingly, the second component of the project focuses on strengthening effective community participation in protected area management and biodiversity conservation through, among others, the following indicators: Increasing the number of community members living around the targeted protected areas who attend protected area management meetings and participate in decision-making processes. This has been facilitated through the establishment of the Local Community Advisory Committee, in which local community representatives and tourism operators working within the protected areas are represented. Increasing the number of community outreach and public engagement events, as well as the number of participants involved in these activities. Progress and challenges: The project has not encountered any environmental or social safeguard issues. On the contrary, it has strengthened the management effectiveness of Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected Areas by introducing participatory management mechanisms and enhancing the engagement of local communities in protected area planning, management, and conservation.

2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	Capturing and sharing knowledge and lessons learned will constitute an important element of the project and an essential way to ensure sustainability and replicability of project achievements. The following reports and knowledge products were developed during the reporting period: • A report on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for WRPA and LQPA and Egypt (translated to Arabic language as well). • A Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan to coordinate the CEPA objectives, target audiences, methods of delivery, costs, and means for assessing effectiveness of CEPA activities. (translated to Arabic language as well). • Lake Qaroun PA management plan. • Jabal Qatrani site management plan. • Wadi Al-Hitan management plan.
--	--

	• Lake Qaroun restoration plan. • Visitor guide for Wadi El Rayan Protected area in both English and Arabic. • Rapid field surveys report for Fauna, Flora and Avi-Fauna • Species conservation action plan for the Dorcas gazelle and Fennec fox. • Assessment was conducted for the two protected areas (Wadi El-Rayan & Qaroun) on the Green List gap assessment tool (IBEX Tool) to measure their alignments with the Green List standard. • The species conservation planning for the Fennec Fox and the Dorcas Gazelle in both Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qaroun Protected areas. • Declaring Wadi Al-Hitan as a Green List on the 24th of April 2026 and the certificate was renewed till 2031. • Finalisation of the KBA package (proposals) for the assessment of the Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun KBA
Main learning during the period	Message 1: The official establishment of the Local Community Advisory Committee significantly enhanced trust and transparency by creating a direct, efficient channel for dialogue between government representatives and community stakeholders. Protected area managers say: <i>"The committee enhances communication and coordination between the protected area, governmental bodies, and the local community through a direct channel available anytime – something that was not efficient in the past"</i>. Message 2: The success of the National Key Biodiversity Area training led the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) to adopt the establishment of a National Coordination Group (NCG). This group will identify and assess new sites across Egypt, extending impact beyond the project scope. The EEAA is now formally establishing the NCG, with preparatory meetings underway. The Project Focal Point highlighted: <i>"This training was successful. Participants were highly active and eager to support"</i>.

Reflows

Reflows (for NGIs only)	
--------------------------------	--

2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	For all our training workshops and meetings, whether online or in-person, we publish briefs on our social media platforms to reach diverse audiences and enhance the project's visibility. Below are examples of these workshops, links to the corresponding social media posts, and mentions of the project's achievements and progress in the IUCN Regional Office for West Asia annual reports.
-----------------------------	--

	IUCN Regional Office for West Asia annual reports: International Union for Conservation of Nature: West Asia Regional Office annual report 2025, page 24 (Link) International Union for Conservation of Nature: West Asia Regional Office annual report 2024, page 25 (Link) International Union for Conservation of Nature: West Asia Regional Office annual report 2023, page 28 (Link) International Union for Conservation of Nature: West Asia Regional Office annual report 2022, page 23 (Link) International Union for Conservation of Nature: West Asia Regional Office annual report 2021, page 34 (Link) Social media posts for Workshops and events: Inception workshop and the IUCN Green List Training: Facebook Announcement of the instalment of the Solar Panels in Jabal Qatrani: Facebook General project overview post: Facebook Fundamentals of Remote Sensing: Facebook Exchange visit and study tour for PA managers and staff in Jordan protected areas: Facebook 1st Steering Committee Meeting in Fayoum: Facebook Management Effectiveness for the Protected areas – training workshop in Fayoum. Facebook Regional Workshop on Natural and Mixed World Heritage Sites in the Arab States: Listing Implications and Synergies with IUCN’s Green List. Facebook, LinkedIn 1st Local Community Advisory Committee social media post: Facebook: Click here. LinkedIn: Click here. KBA national Training social media links Facebook: Click here. LinkedIn: Click here. From partners social media: Nature Conservation Egypt: Facebook: Click here. LinkedIn: Click here. Birdlife International: Facebook: Click here. Training and conducting an assessment for the two protected areas (Wadi El-Rayan & Qaroun) on the Green List gap assessment tool (IBEX Tool) to measure their alignments with the Green List standard. Facebook: Click here. LinkedIn: Click here. Project Steering Committee meeting back in 15th of December 2024: Facebook: Click here. LinkedIn: Click here. Celebrate the World Environmental day and the GeoPark initiative for AlFayoum: Facebook, LinkedIn. IUCN World Conservation Congress October 2025 report: Click here. Online success story about returning the Flamingo to Lake Qaroun and its indicator: Click here. Closing ceremony for the project and official opening for the Environmental and Educational Centre in AlFayoum: Facebook, LinkedIn. Declaring Wadi ElHitan as a Green List site on the IUCN social media platforms. LinkedIn.
--	--

3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Objective: To improve the management effectiveness of the Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun protected areas through community involvement and capacity building	Objective Indicator 1: Management effectiveness scores are improved for WRPA and LQPA (as a % increase from the baseline score).	21 points (0%) METT scores were estimated at PPG stage, as follows: Baseline: 21 points; Mid-term target: 62 points (195% over baseline); End of project target: 87 points (314%). Lower, achievable targets were estimated for mid-term and end of project, based on these estimated scores.	Mid-term target: • 52 points (150%) increase in score over baseline.	End of project target: • 63 points (200%) increase in score over baseline.	100%	The management effectiveness of WRPA and LQPA has significantly improved over the course of the project as evidenced by periodic Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessment results. For WRPA, METT scores increased from 21 (baseline) to 67 in 2020, 72 in 2024, and 75 in 2025—exceeding the end-of-project target. Similarly, LQPA's METT scores improved from 21 (the baseline) to 53 in 2020, 62 in 2024, and 69 in 2025. Key aspects of strengthened management effectiveness directly attributable to the project include the development and implementation of essential management tools and processes (such as management plans, conservation plans, and restoration plans), the promotion of participatory approaches (e.g. through the establishment of a local community advisory committee), and the enhancement	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						of operational capacities.The ongoing implementation of the management plans, along with supporting sub-plans and enhanced staff capacities, is expected to contribute to maintaining strong management performance	
Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness (Strengthened PA management tools, processes and capacities) Demonstrated at two targeted PAs: Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun.	Indicator 1 of Outcome 1.1: Number of PA management tools, processes and PA management capacities to conserve biodiversity are strengthened.	There are no PA management tools, processes and capacities for improved management effectiveness that have been applied in LQPA and WRPA.	Mid-term target: Sound management direction is in place and being implemented, as measured by: 2 management plans for the 2 PAs developed. 4 field monitoring programs developed.	End of project target: 30 staff are trained in all key topic areas.	100%	Outcome 1.1 has been fully achieved. Management tools, processes, and capacities have been systematically strengthened. Key achievements include: development of three management plans (Lake Qaroun, Jabal Qatrani, Wadi El Hitan); creation of a restoration master plan for Lake Qaroun; establishment of a fully equipped biodiversity information management unit with GIS capabilities; comprehensive staff training programs (GIS, Integrated management of Protected areas, KBA Standard, English language, soft skills, community engagement); and progress towards IUCN Green List alignment, including training on the IBEX Gap Assessment tool and updating the Wadi ElHitan management plan to include gender	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						perspectives according to the Green List standards. Multiple management tools and capacities have been developed and approved by the EEAA and are now operational. 3 Management Plans were developed and updated. These are (i) Wadi ElHitan site management plan; (ii) LQPA management plan; (iii) a management plan for Jabal Qatrani (Part of QPA) was developed because the site has specific management needs to align with the EEAA plans to nomination as a World Heritage site, (vi) in addition to a restoration plan for Lake Qaroun. Four Field monitoring programmes and tools were developed and conducted as follows: Three field monitoring programmes integrated within the management plans mentioned above (and within the Green List dossier): an assessment of key biodiversity areas (KBA) covering 3 key topics: 1. fauna, 2. flora and 3. Avi-fauna. In addition to a field monitoring protocol supported by the Italian-Egyptian cooperation	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						project.Trainings:Also, the project has managed to conduct a training needs assessment and to train about 72 staff from the PAs and Nature Conservation sector (NCS) from the EEAA staff to contribute to PA effective management.The comprehensive capacity building programme included technical aspects of protected area management, Green List Standard, GIS, remote sensing, gender mainstreaming, environmental awareness and soft skills (Microsoft Office, Photoshop, video editing, social media, and English language levels 1-3 with certification), among others. Also, the two PA managers attended an IUCN Regional conference on World Heritage and Green List synergies to further enhance their capacity.	
Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness (Strengthened PA management tools, processes and capacities) Demonstrated at two targeted PAs: Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun.	Indicator 2 of Outcome 1.1:Decision support systems to conserve biodiversity with the targeted PAs are established. Increase in % of management effectiveness scores (as	No systematic PA biodiversity monitoring is being carried out in LQPA and WRPA.	Mid-term target: Biodiversity monitoring systems are in place and being implemented on a regular schedule.	End of project target:Reliable technical information is being used to support decision making.	100%	Decision support system, along with supporting processes and structures were established to enhance decision-making within LQPA and WRPA.The decision support system included establishing the biodiversity information management unit (software, hardware, data, structure and	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	measured in the GEF BD1 METT) for Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun protected areas, covering a total of 314,400 hectares.					training), along with a biodiversity monitoring protocol (co-financed), and biodiversity field assessments, species conservation action plans for key species, restoration plan associated with enhanced patrolling and surveillance capacity that minimizes threats to biodiversity. The establishment of the STAC was a significant step to support and advise the PA with scientific and technical advice and enhance the overall decision-making process within the PAs as neededThis intervention, along with others contributed to enhancing management effectiveness METT scores by 257% for WRPA and by 229% for LQPA compared to the base line identified at PIF stage.	
Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness (Strengthened PA management tools, processes and capacities) Demonstrated at two targeted PAs: Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun.	Indicator 3 of Outcome 1.1: Tools/ interventions to stabilize or increase in populations of threatened species and/or size of habitat of Important Birds Areas (IBA) trigger species in the	No systematic tools/ intervention exist specific for the two PAs.WRPA: a population of 8-14 animals was estimated by rangers (Paleczny et al., 2007a); evidence of 3 Dorcas gazelle was found in Springs Area survey of	WRPA: tools/ interventions to stabilize Dorcas gazelle (Gazella dorcas) developed and functioning. LQPA: tools/ interventions to	WRPA:tools/ interventions to stabilize Dorcas gazelle (Gazella dorcas) developed and functioning.LQPA:tools/ interventions to stabilize the size of Habitat of Slender-	100%	Tools, processes and interventions that aim to stabilize and support monitoring the populations and habitat size were established as follows:WRPA: a. A rapid assessment to identify the status of KBA/IBA trigger species; Two Species conservation action plans (Dorcas Gazelle and Fennec fox) b. The Dorcas Gazelle species action plan provided a base for	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	PAs:WRPA:Population of Dorcas gazelle (<i>Gazella dorcas</i>), IUCN Red List Category Vulnerable LQPA:Slender billed Gull:Area of breeding habitat for Slender-billed Gull (<i>Larus genei</i>) in Qarun PA Number of breeding pairs of Slender-billed Gull in Qarun PA.	2008 (Attum, 2008). The population in the Springs and other areas is presently unconfirmed due to recent development activities and the revolution (Attum, in IUCN 2008).The Springs and Rowayan habitats are 74 sq. km.LQPA: Slender-billed Gull breeding habitat on Golden Horn Island is 55 feddan or 0.231 sq km. 1,000 breeding pairs.All baselines to be confirmed or established during year 1 of project implementation.	stabilize the size of Habitat of Slender- billed Gull (<i>Larus genei</i>) developed and functioning.	billed Gull (<i>Larus genei</i>) developed and functioning.		developing a project concept to ensure additional resources for the long-term implementation of the plan.LQPA: a. A comprehensive Restoration plan for Lake Qaroun was developed and shared with key authorities and stakeholders. b. The restoration plan provided a base for developing a project concept that will ensure the implementation of the recommended actions beyond the lifetime of the project and support the increase in habitat size and quality parameters of the lake.Additionally, the following interventions constitute significant milestones for stabilizing species populations and stabilizing or maintaining habitat size; these include (i) Enhanced surveillance and patrolling capacities, (ii) strengthened staff management capacities, (iii) Conducting benchmarking assessment against the IUCN Green List Standard and addressing gaps and developing action plans for achieving conservation outcomes.To date, the following values were obtained: Dorcas gazelle presence but	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						population estimates were not obtained.Slender-billed Gull (# of breeding pairs increased from 500 to at least 1000 breeding pairs). Slender-billed Gull breeding habitat on Golden Horn Island increased from 0.231 Km2 to 2.12 Km2.	
Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness (Strengthened PA management tools, processes and capacities) Demonstrated at two targeted PAs: Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun.	Indicator 4 of outcome 1.1: Increase in condition of Qarun and Rayan lakes as measured by:a. water quality parameters such as BOD, COD and other parameters.b. fish production on Lake Qarun.	Baseline for water quality parameters to be established in year 1Water quality parameters were updated for year 1 (2019), as follows:WRPA:Salinity equal 14.39g/l, Oxygen equal 7.24 mg/l and the PH equal 8.43LQPA:Salinity equal 36.2g/l, Oxygen equal 8.52 mg/l and the PH equal 8.47Baseline fish production:1980-1990-Lake Qarun produced an average of 956 tonnes of fish and shrimps annually, of which 40% was Tilapia sp. and 36% shrimps.2014-Maximum fish production was 4,500 t.2015-Fish production declined to 1,000	Mid-term target: Fish production is stable.	End of project target:A variety of suitable measures are defined and being monitored for Qarun and Rayan Lakes	100%	The project has addressed lake conditions through strategic planning and partnership. At the beginning of the project, Baseline records for water quality parameters (to be established in year 1) were updated for year 1 (2019), as follows:WRPA: Salinity equal 14.39g/l, Oxygen equal 7.24 mg/l and the PH equal 8.43.LQPA: Salinity equals 36.2g/l, Oxygen equals 8.52 mg/l and the PH equals 8.47 BaselineFish production:1980-1990- Lake Qaroun produced an average of 956 tons of fish and shrimps annually, of which 40% was Tilapia sp. and 36% shrimps.2014: Maximum fish production was 4,500 tons.2015: Fish production declined to 1,000 tons.2016: Fish production declined to 800 tones.2017: Fish production increased to 1,100 tons. due to intervention in water	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		t.2016-Fish production declined to 800 t.2017-Fish production increased to 1,100 t. due to intervention in water quality conditions.				quality conditions.A dedicated Lake Qaroun Ecosystem Restoration Master Plan was developed, which identifies key threats and provides a roadmap for water quality improvement. Additionally, through the Italian Egyptian Cooperation project (co-finance partner), an "Environmental monitoring guide for Protected Areas in Egypt" was developed with direct application to both PAs. This guide establishes protocols for monitoring water quality parameters (BOD, COD, etc.) and other environmental indicators. The patrolling and enforcement plan has also enhanced the surveillance capacity of the team, enabling better monitoring of activities affecting lake conditions, local community awareness, communication and partnerships with local authorities contributed to reduce threats and aimed to stabilize or enhance the quality of water in lake Qaroun. The project also contributed to enhancing the institutional capacity by trainings, awareness events and maintenance of vehicles used for surveillance and	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						patrolling, including (cars, boats, and motorcycles) to reduce violations and illegal practices. However, due to the long-time frame of the project, the vehicle maintenance should be periodic and continuous and supported by the EEAA.Despite the size of the lake, complexity of proposed restoration interventions, climate change and water level drop - water parameters remained in acceptable range for fish farming. Also, the slight increase in salinity for WRPA and decrease in salinity for LQPA. Dissolved oxygen levels remained acceptable. Please find below are the key figures collected.WRPA: 2022. Salinity equal 16.85g/l, Oxygen equal 5.87 mg/l and the PH equal 8.47.LQPA: 2022. Salinity equal 35.57g/l, Oxygen equal 4.5 mg/l and the PH equal 8.42.WRPA: 2025. Salinity equal 14.87g/l, Dissolved Oxygen equal 8.81 mg/l and the PH equal 8.45.LQPA: 2025. Salinity equal 38.47g/l, Dissolved Oxygen equal 3.01 mg/l and the PH equal 8.38.As for the fish	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						stock, the total estimated stock in key lakes in LQPA and WRPA (in Tons) steadily increased as follows:5,615 (in year 2021), 6,061 (in year 2022),6,917 (in year 2023), 7,805 (in year 2024).Critically, the notable increase in flamingo populations at Lake Qaroun—a species renowned as a precise bio-indicator—provides compelling evidence of the lake's ecological recovery. As Minister Manal Awad stated, "Flamingos do not return to any habitat unless precise environmental conditions are met." Their return, forming vast colonies along the shores of the world's oldest natural lake, marks a "Real turning point" following extensive rehabilitation efforts. These measures, including wastewater treatment expansions and ecosystem interventions, have reduced pollution and revived food sources, creating a stable habitat. Thus, the flamingo's presence is not merely a visual spectacle, but a definitive sign of restored health in Lake Qaroun's ecosystem.	
Outcome 2.1: Participatory approaches to PA management have	Indicator 1 of outcome 2.1: Local community participation is	A local community advisory committee for the PAs does not exist.	Mid-term target: • Commi	End of project target: Committee is functioning and	100%	The project has officially established a structure to systemise the participatory approach to WRPA and LQPA	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
strengthened PA management and reduced unsustainable resource uses in areas within and adjacent to two targeted PAs (Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun	entrenched and effective as measured by: a. the number of individuals from local communities that participate in developing PAs management tools and protocols; and b. The number of women participating in the operation of the targeted PAs or directly benefiting from the existence of PAs.		tee is established (50% women) and operating with at least two meetings per year. • A Communications, Education and Public Awareness Plan (CEPA) is being implemented. • Resource users have been actively involved in developing new protocols, regulations and operational programmes	effective (50% women) with at least two meetings per year.Resource users are involved in priority setting, developing approaches and providing advice to the PAMU.		management through the establishment of the Local Community Advisory Committee (LCAC). The committee, which has a clear TOR, was officially endorsed by the CEO of the EEAA which gives it clear governance and mandate to support with the planning.The project was able to ensure and advocate the active participation of women.Local Community Advisory Committee: (8Female /20Male).Technical and Scientific Committee: (6Female /17Male).The participatory approach was systemised and integrated within the PA management programmes as evident from the following: development of the communication, awareness and educational plan CEPA plan in a participatory manner with the engagement of local communities, rehabilitation of the management building in Shakshouk and establishing the environmental educational Centre. The Environmental Educational Centre is functioning as a hub for local community engagement and integration and	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						environmental activities. Up to date, more than 300 local community members participated in CEPA activities carried out by the PA. Key resource users from local community are represented in the Local community advisory committee, while a wider range of stakeholders is represented in the project steering committee. These two structures are the main platforms and mechanisms for engaging resource users and stakeholder in the decision making. Examples of engagement of resources users include participatory CEPA planning, participatory management and zoning planning. In addition to the above, integration of the gender aspects in the most recent update for the Wadi ElHitan site management plan dated 2025 following the IUCN Green List Global standard. A training on the socio-economic activities was conducted in AlFayoum, and the local handicraft makers were trained on simple marketing strategies. 56 participants from Local community participated in the training, dated on the	

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						11th of December 2025.	
Outcome 2.1: Participatory approaches to PA management have strengthened PA management and reduced unsustainable resource uses in areas within and adjacent to two targeted PAs (Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun	Indicator 2 of outcome 2.1: Sustainable use of biological resources is increased.As measured by the number of permits delivered according to the newly developed permit system annually.A conflict resolution processes with resource users.	0 permits (new resource user permit system is non-existent but will be developed in the project) The number of unapproved uses varies and is not precisely known due to a lack of existing systems, complete staff turnover and impacts associated with the revolution).No conflict resolution processes with resource users exist.	Mid-term target: 50% of known resource users are registered through a new permit system. A developed conflict resolution processes with resource users.	End of project target:90% of known resource users are registered through a permit.	100%	Sustainable resource use has been enhanced through multiple interventions.(1) Review and update the two zoning plans for WRPA and LQPA. These plans guide and regulate acceptable/ permitted activities and resource use/ access in each zone of the PA and were developed considering the sensitivity and ecological importance of each zone. The zoning plans specific to each PA add another layer of regulation to the existing national licensing and approval system.(2) The EEAA did not approve developing a separate new system for permitting as they already have a national licensing and permitting system, that includes conducting Environmental Impact Assessments EIA and considers protected area zoning for the approval of development activities and resource use within protected areas. As a result: No violations were recorded in Wadi El Hitan World Heritage site (the critical part of WRPA) since 2019 while the number of authorised resource use	HS

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						activities increased from 7 to 24 (camps, small handicrafts, cafeterias, etc).(3) IUCN, along with the EEAA Team, prepared a report documenting and clarifying all resource use and licensing processes within the EEAA regarding the dispute (Conflicts) Resolution and Sustainable Resource Use in Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun Protected Areas. The report shows a positive impact of the project on the two protected areas and how the different activities supported them in documents their process and efforts within the EEAA.(4) A patrolling and law enforcement plan was developed and implemented, significantly enhancing surveillance capacity and enabling more effective monitoring of resource use. Patrol vehicles (cars, boats, and motorcycles) received complete maintenance to support enforcement operations.	

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

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Output 1.1.1: PA management frameworks of Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun PAs developed, including participatory approaches.	2025-12-31	95%	100%	Below Activities have been fully achieved with all deliverables submitted: activity 1.1.1.1;1.1.1.2;1.1.1.3;1.1.1.4;1.1.1.5;1.1.6, 1.1.1.7 and 1.1.1.8.During the project implementation of year 2024, a second No Cost Extension NCE has been triggered and an updated workplan been approved by PSC on 15th December 2024. The project continued working on updating the management plan for Wadi El Hitan site, which is a mandatory part of the Green List/ Re-listing process. The Key Biodiversity Areas KBA proposals package for the two sites has been developed after conducting the rapid assessments for plants, avi-fauna and fauna.	HS
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop and implement protected area management plans and conduct a desk review for Nature Based Solutions.	2025-09-30	100%	100%	Deliverable 1.1.1.1.a: In total three Management Plans for Lake Qaroun, Jabal Qatrani, and Wadi El Hitan were developed and updated in 2025 following the IUCN Green List requirements and standard. These plans were approved by the EEAA, and their implementation is ongoing.Deliverable 1.1.1.1.b: An NbS report was developed (with an Arabic translation available) and submitted to the EEAA. The report included both a national and site-specific review of initiatives incorporating NbS standard elements, with potential to be developed into full NbS projects.Deliverable	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					1.1.1.1.c: The renovation and furnishing of the management building for Lake Qaroun Protected Area were successfully completed and the building is now fully operational.	
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop Key Biodiversity Area classifications for WRPA and LQPA.	2025-12-30	100%	100%	The KBA proposal for two PAs which includes the results of Key Biodiversity Area classifications is complete. The interventions below contributed to the reassessment and identification process: i. Flora, fauna, and avifauna field surveys to ascertain the current situation within both reserves were developed. A gap assessment to identify data required for the KBA assessment has been finalised. These surveys supported the development of species conservation plans for the two Protected Areas by providing up-to-date records of species presence/absence during the survey period. (Deliverable 1.1.1.2.a)ii. From 22nd till the 24th of July 2024, a national training workshop was organised to train 27 participants from the protected areas in Egypt, experts from different taxonomic groups, and NGOs on the Global Guidelines for the KBA assessment. These experts provided technical inputs on biodiversity values in both PAs (Deliverable 1.1.1.2.b)The process of establishing the	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					National Coordination Group, NCG was initiated with the support of EEAA. The NCG will ensure sustainability and the continuous update of KBA information and will allow extending the efforts to other sites in Egypt. (Deliverable 1.1.1.2.c).	
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.1.3: Develop and implement habitat and species conservation plans	2025-06-30	100%	100%	(Deliverable 1.1.1.3) Species conservation plans for the Fennec Fox and the Dorcas Gazelle in both Wadi El Rayan and Lake Quarun Protected areas were successfully developed and approved by EEAA. This plan includes the following for the above-mentioned species: • A full description of the species and its habitat along with historic/current distribution. • Assessment of the availability of the specie's critical habitat in WRPA. • Analysis of the current threats to survival of the species, including activities. • The goals and objectives for conservation of the species. Also, developing a monitoring and evaluation plan to track the progress.	HS
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.1.4: Develop Lake Qarun ecosystem restoration master plan	2022-06-30	100%	100%	An ecosystem restoration plan for Lake Qaroun was developed and submitted for the EEAA. The plan was approved by the EEAA, and it formed a basis for the development of new project concept note aiming to restore the lake to ensure sustainability of the project and full implementation of the restoration plan.	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.1.5: Establish and implement best practice guidelines and manuals.	2025-12-31	100%	100%	Deliverable 1.1.1.5: The best practice guidelines, and manuals are developed with co-financing from the Italian Cooperation project. The project developed a Panorama Solutions case study demonstrating best practices to support and strengthen the Wadi El Hitan Green List Dossier.	HS
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.1.6: Conduct PA staff and community training to conserve biodiversity.	2025-12-30	100%	100%	72 staff (10 female & 62 male) from the PAs and EEAA received trainings under activity 1.1.1.6, the following activities have taken place:- Training needs assessment.- Training on IUCN's Green List.- Training on Protected Areas Management effectiveness. METT-4 with the participation of the local community and related stakeholders (31 participants).- Training on CEPA plan implementation.- Training on computer and soft skills (Total 84 trainees for these trainings).- Two of the Protected Areas managers attended the workshop on the 24th till the 26th of January 2024 in Jordan organised by the IUCN ROWA and the Arab Region. Center for World Heritage ARC-WH on the "Natural and mixed World Heritage Sites in the Arab States: Listing implications and synergies with the IUCN's Green List.". The PA managers presented a case study and presentation of their site at the conference as well. • 34 trainees get	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					a training on IUCN's Green List for the Protected and Conserved Areas and its processes that took place in AlFayoum – Egypt between 27th till 28th of December 2020. • Attendance of the project focal point and project representative in the Sixth steering committee meeting and first consultative workshop to update the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, NBSAP to represent the project and networking on the national scale for future opportunities (1 Female). Dated between 12th till 17th of February 2024 in Samarqand – Uzbekistan. • 23 trainees attend the National training workshop on identifying and assess the Key Biodiversity Areas KBA's according to the Global Standard with the participation of the national experts from different expertise related to the biodiversity along with the managers of the protected areas in Egypt. Dated 22nd till 24th of July 2024. • 15 trainees (11 males & 4 female) participated in the workshop to update the management plan for Wadi El-Hitan site based on the Green List Requirement along with the enhancing gender mainstreaming and alignment with the Green List Standard. • 16 participants (1 female	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					& 14 male) from local government and PA community joined the online session on Green List refreshing training. 15 trainees (14 males & 1 female) were trained on the Green List gap assessment tool (IBEX Tool). The training was conducted for the two protected areas (Wadi El-Rayan & Qaroun) to measure their alignments with the Green List standard. From the 10th till the 13th of November 2024. 35 participates (30 males & 5 females) participated in a training workshop to enhance the capacity of the rangers, PA's staff and the NCS team to implement the Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness (CEPA) plan effectively. Training extended from the 3rd till the 4th of December 2024. 106 participants from local community and PAs received environmental awareness sessions during the cleanup campaign in the two protected areas (Wadi ElRayan and Qaroun PA). The sessions highlighted the importance of protected areas and fostered community engagement by involving local communities, civil society organizations, tourism companies, and other stakeholders in conservation activities. 48 participants attend the celebration of the Initiative to Prepare the Nomination	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					Dossier for Fayoum Protected Areas as a Geopark on the 13th of July 2025. • 56 local handicraft producers (46 males & 10 females) from local community in AlFayoum were trained on 11th of December 2025. The workshop explored the local socio-economic context and equipped artisans with a practical, easy-to-use marketing strategy.	
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.1.7: Develop Green List nomination dossiers	2025-12-30	95%	100%	The project supported the update and development of the IUCN Green List nomination dossier by preparing the required documentation and maps. The site application for the IUCN Green List has been renewed and submitted to the IUCN EGALs as part of obtaining the GL certificate for the site. It also facilitated communication with the EEAA, and delivered a workshop and training to prepare decision-makers and PA staff for the Green List application process. Following the decision of Steering Committee (SC), it was agreed that the project would support the renewal of the Green List certificate for Wadi Al Hitan–Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area, which expired at the end of 2023. • A Green List gap assessment using (IBEX tool) was conducted for Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qaroun protected areas. The assessment provided	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					insights into the readiness of the sites and the extent to which their management objectives align with Green List standards. • IUCN and the EEAA further strengthened alignment with Green List requirements through updates to the Wadi El Hitan management plan and the development of a PANORAMA solution showcasing best practices and success stories. • Signage across Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area (including Wadi El Hitan), and Lake Qaroun Protected Area (including Jabal Qatrani) was upgraded and installed. • The project supported the EEAA/MoE and PA staff in preparing for the Green List evaluator field visit EAGL visit to assess and verify the Means of Verification. The site visit took place from 29th December 2025 to 1st January 2026.	
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.1.8: Establish and operate a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee.	2025-12-30	100%	100%	The Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee (17 male & 6 female) (STAC) has been established following the official endorsement letter by the EEAA CEO. This committee supported the project, by providing technical advice and expertise in PA management planning and management effectiveness, biological monitoring, compliance monitoring and enforcement, etc. It will provide the EEAA with recommendations and advice on the listing/delisting	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					and status of species in AlFayoum Area. • 1st Technical and Scientific committee meeting has been conducted where project achievements were presented, and the committee's Terms of Reference were discussed, the meeting was held on the 23rd of October 2024. The committee comprises experts and researchers from different organisations including universities and will support PA management beyond project closure.	
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Output 1.1.2: Field monitoring programs within Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun PAs to assess the conservation status of key ecosystems and threatened and important species will be developed and implemented.	2025-12-31	100%	100%	Below activities have been fully achieved with all deliverables submitted: activity 1.1.1.1, 1.1.2.2, 1.1.2.3 according to the approved workplan. During project implementation of year 2024, a second NCE has been triggered and an updated workplan been approved by PSC on 15th Dec 2024.	HS
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.2.1: Design and implement monitoring and reporting systems for threats and status of ecosystems and species.	2025-12-30	95%	100%	- Implementing and supporting monitoring initiatives co-developed with the Italian cooperation. Based on Steering Committee recommendations, PA managers requested monitoring equipment, and accordingly, GPS devices and laptops were procured to support the monitoring activities in both protected areas. - The activity also contributed to systemising the monitoring process, by following the Green List standard rationale, to identify, site conservation values,	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					thresholds, performance measures, as well as threats while developing action plans to address gaps to monitor ecosystem services.	
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.2.2: Develop and implement a compliance monitoring and enforcement system.	2024-06-30	100%	100%	Deliverable 1.1.2.2. a: A patrolling and law enforcement plan was developed and implemented. The enforcement plan is now operational aligned with the zoning plan, with improved surveillance capacity. Deliverable 1.1.2.2 b: Comprehensive maintenance of vehicles, boats, and cars used for patrolling was conducted. Deliverable 1.1.2.2 c: Uniforms were supplied to patrolling staff to create a unified identity and enhance visibility.	HS
1 Component 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.	Activity 1.1.2.3: Establish and facilitate a PA biodiversity information management unit.	2025-12-31	100%	100%	Deliverable 1.1.2.3.a: Assessment report to establishing an information management unit based on a comprehensive development needs assessment, including hardware, software and training needs, in addition to developing an organisational structure for the unit. Deliverable 1.1.2.3.b: The project procured all needed software and hardware that were identified as a priority to establish the unit. Hardware like High tech computers/ workstations, servers and internet infrastructure was procured. Advanced ESRI GIS licenses and remote sensing software licenses were procured for	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					the unit.Deliverable 1.1.2.3.c: A specialised training on the use of the computer programs ArcGIS for EEAA field staff has been conducted, which was done on location using the equipment and licensed programs that were previously provided through this project. Along with a Comprehensive GIS training. Following results have been achieved with above mentioned deliverables:• Hardware and GIS and remote sensing software were secured for the information management unit. • High accuracy Satellite imagery was purchased to the dynamic parts of the protected area.	
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Output 2.1.1: Programmes for community participatory planning and involvement in PA management developed and implemented at the targeted PA sites.	2025-12-31	95%	100%	All community engagement outputs have been fully delivered. A CEPA plan was developed with wide public participation. A Local Community Advisory Committee was formally established via EEAA CEO decree and has held multiple meetings. An Environmental Educational Centre was established and furnished in Shakshouk village. Community-based eco-tourism infrastructure was enhanced, including solar power installation and signage upgrades. In addition to strengthening the gender, mainstreaming into the management plans and activities.Below Activities have been fully achieved with all deliverables submitted: Activity 2.1.1.1, Activity	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					2.1.1.2, Activity 2.1.1.3, 2.1.1.4 and 100% progress rate of the activity has been achieved and progressed according to the approved workplan.	
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Activity 2.1.1.1: Develop and implement a Communications, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan.	2025-06-30	100%	100%	- Deliverable 2.1.1.1.a: A Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan was developed by the project in coordination with CEDARE, with broad participation from local communities in the Al Fayoum area. The plan has been approved and implemented in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. - A clean-up campaign, as part of the CEPA implementation plan, was conducted in both protected areas to enhance environmental awareness and foster community engagement. - Based on the CEPA plan, a training workshop was delivered for protected area staff, including rangers and the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) team, to strengthen their capacity for effective planning. - Deliverable 2.1.1.1.b: Several visibility materials have been prepared for distribution during events and the official opening of the Educational and Environmental Centre. These include: 3D models of both protected areas. 3D pop-up brochures highlighting key information about the protected areas and their locations. - Branded items such as	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					desert scarves, water bottles, notebooks, pins, and tote bags.	
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Activity 2.1.1.2: Establish and operate a community environmental education Center.	2025-12-30	100%	100%	- Deliverable 2.1.1.2: The establishment and furnishing of the Environmental Education Centre have been completed. The centre is located on land adjacent to the management building of Qaroun Protected Area in Shakshouk. It serves as a hub for both the protected area (PA) and local communities to showcase their environmental work and activities. - The following actions supported the successful establishment of the centre: - The developed CEPA plan (under Activity 2.1.1.1) provided key recommendations that contributed to establishing an operational, community-focused environmental education centre. - An assessment was conducted for the land adjacent to the management building at Lake Qaroun Protected Area to address soil salinity issues, prepare the land for planting, and guide landscaping works. The assessment report was finalized, and its recommendations were successfully implemented, resolving the salinity challenges. - Additional landscaping works were completed at the Environmental Education Centre site in Shakshouk, Al Fayoum, enhancing the overall appearance and	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					functionality of the area surrounding the centre.o A ceremony was organized on 21st of December 2025 to celebrate the project's achievements and mark the official opening of the Environmental Education Centre. • Deliverable 2.1.1.2: The establishment and furnishing of the Environmental Education Centre have been completed. The centre is located on land adjacent to the management building of Qaroun Protected Area in Shakshouk. It serves as a hub for both the protected area (PA) and local communities to showcase their environmental work and activities. • The following actions supported the successful establishment of the centre:o The developed CEPA plan (under Activity 2.1.1.1) provided key recommendations that contributed to establishing an operational, community-focused environmental education centre.o An assessment was conducted for the land adjacent to the management building at Lake Qaroun Protected Area to address soil salinity issues, prepare the land for planting, and guide landscaping works. The assessment report was finalized, and its recommendations were successfully implemented, resolving the salinity challenges.o Additional landscaping works were completed at the Environmental Education	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					Centre site in Shakshouk, Al Fayoum, enhancing the overall appearance and functionality of the area surrounding the centre. A ceremony was organized on 21st of December 2025 to celebrate the project's achievements and mark the official opening of the Environmental Education Centre.	
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Activity 2.1.1.3: Establish and facilitate a Community Advisory Committee.	2025-12-30	100%	100%	Deliverable 2.1.1.3: The Local Community Advisory Committee for Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun protected areas was successfully established involving 28 members (8 female and 20 male) through an official endorsement letter from the EEAA CEO. The committee provides guidance on a wide range of issues affecting PA management and species protection. Several committee meetings have been conducted. To inaugural meeting to establish roles and guidance functions; Presenting the work of NGOs in AlFayoum and in the reserves; (3) presentation of the Educational Centre establishment and discussion of community support for its operation.	HS
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Activity 2.1.1.4: Support community-based eco-tourism infrastructure developments, services, product development and product sales.	2025-12-30	90%	100%	Deliverable 2.1.1.4: Significant eco-tourism infrastructure has been completed. • Upgrade and install all the signage in Wadi ElRayan protected areas (including Wadi ElHitan site) and Qaroun protected area (including	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					Jabal Qatrani site).• The project has identified the scope of the eco-tourism infrastructure development in wadi ElRayan and Qaroun protected areas. A sub-contract was awarded to a national NGO to implement these plans. The project has already installed a 25KW solar power system to serve the Jabal Qatrani site which is part of Qaroun Protected Area. • Visibility and function in enforcement, surveillance and eco-guiding of PAs and EEAA field staff have been enhanced both in Wadi El Rayan and Qaroun PAs.	
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Output 2.1.2: Controls and monitoring programmes to conserve ecosystem services and reduce overharvesting by local communities within Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun PAs developed and implemented.	2025-12-31	80%	100%	The project has contributed to conserving the ecosystem services and natural resources in WRPA and QPA through enhanced participatory decision making and management of natural resources, through the following: supporting the existing licencing and permitting systems and procedures of the government with site specific zoning plans, that guide the resource use regulations within the two protected areas, extending awareness and initiating dialogue with local communities (LCAC) and resource users and stakeholders (Steering committee) on the mechanisms for resolving conflicts and organising the resource management,	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					enforcement and surveillance plan and capacities was developed and is being implemented links to (the management plan, surveillance plan and zoning plans). Also, patrol vehicles received complete maintenance. The Green List dossier addressed ecosystem services and identified values, gaps and action plans to conserve and monitor ecosystem services. The project has also contributed to equipping Jabal Qatrani as a potential site for further eco-tourism development opportunities that could engage local communities in eco-tourism activities in the future.	
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Activity 2.1.2.1: Develop and update resource-use protocols and agreements.	2025-12-30	50%	100%	- Existing processes and creating a biodiversity information management unit been strengthened which supports tracking and licensing of application and permits. - The project contributed to enhancing and increasing the sustainable use of biological resources while reducing unsustainable and unauthorised activities through the following:- Two zoning plans for WRPA and LQPA were developed and updated as part of the PA management plan. These plans guide and regulate acceptable/ permitted activities and resource use/ access in each zone of the PA and were developed considering the	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					sensitivity and ecological importance of each zone.- The zoning plans specific to each PA add another layer of regulation to the existing national licensing and approval system.IUCN prepared a report documenting all the processes within the EEAA regarding the dispute Resolution and Sustainable Resource Use in Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun Protected Areas.	
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Activity 2.1.2.2: Establish a resource user permit system	2025-12-30	70%	100%	The patrolling and law enforcement plan, developed and implemented, has significantly enhanced the surveillance capacity of the team, enabling more effective monitoring of permitted and unapproved resource uses. The resource use in the two protected areas has significantly enhanced in the protected area and become more sustainable. The PA noted an increase of the site visitors, and measurements of water quality in Lake Qaroun.Deliverable 2.1.2.2: The number of visitors in both PA and its associated sites increased as follow:• WRPA: the total visitors in 2024 equal 716,676 visitors while in 2025 (Covering six months only) equal to be 444,682 visitors. • QPA: the total visitors in 2024 equal 18,700 visitors while in 2025 (Covering six months only) equal to be 13,707 visitors.The project did not establish a new	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					permit system based on the request of the PSC, as EEAA has established a national licensing and permitting system applicable to both PAs. The national permitting system includes conducting Environmental Impact Assessments EIA and considers protected area zoning for the approval of development activities and resource use within protected areas. The project supported by revising the zoning plans as part of the management plans. The project also provided a simplified review of the licensing and permitting system. Based on the existing permitting system, numbers of authorized or licensed users have been increased as follow:• WRPA: Number of resource users in 2018 equal 7 while in 2025 equal 24. These activities covering camps inside the reserve, cafetieres and handcrafts shops by the local community. • QPA: Number of resource users in 2023 equal 29 and in 2024 equal 69 while the requests decreased till 22 requests in the current year. These activities covering camps inside the reserve, agricultural activities, boats within the QP lake along with commercial photography.As for the violations, the number of reported incidents in both PA were as	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					follows:• WRPA: No incidents were records in the site since 2019 till 2025. • QPA: Total incidents that were records in the site for 2023 year equal 72. while in 2024, 2025 there is no incidents were registered.IUCN prepared a report documenting and clarifying all the processes within the EEAA regarding the dispute Resolution and Sustainable Resource Use in Wadi El-Rayan and Qaroun Protected Areas.	
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Activity 2.1.2.3: Developing best practice demonstration sites. Extended activity: Develop and implement site Management Plan for Qatrani.	2022-06-30	100%	100%	Deliverable 2.1.2.3.a: Best practice demonstration sites have been developed through the eco-tourism infrastructure improvements, including the solar-powered visitor centre at Jabal Qatrani and the upgraded signage across the PAs. The Environmental Educational Centre serves as a demonstration site for community engagement. These sites demonstrate sustainable infrastructure and participatory management approaches that can be replicated in other PAs.Deliverable 2.1.2.3.b: Upon the agreement achieved during PSC June 2023, activity 2.1.2.3 it was agreed that the activity would support developing and implementing site Management Plan for Qatrani. A site-specific management plan was developed, and solar panels were installed to support the operation of	HS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					the site.	
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Extended activity: Develop and implement site Management Plan for Qatrani.	2022-06-30	100%	100%	A site management plan (Deliverable 2.1.2.3 b.) for Jabal Qatrani (part of Qaroun Protected area) was implemented. The plan is supported by infrastructure investments (Deliverable 2.1.1.4) including the 25kW off-grid solar power system at the visitor centre, signage upgrades, and the broader management framework established for Qaroun PA. This was upon the agreement achieved during PSC June 2023, activity 2.1.2.4 Undertake conflict resolution processes with resource users has been included into the workplan to support the decision making about the permit system which already existed.	HS
2 Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.	Activity 2.1.2.4: Undertake conflict resolution processes with resource users.	2025-12-30	40%	100%	The Local Community Advisory Committee now serves as the primary platform for conflict resolution with resource users. The committee has facilitated dialogue between governmental bodies, NGOs, and local community members. This formal structure provides a transparent, ongoing mechanism for addressing resource-use conflicts that previously did not exist. PA managers have reported that the committee "enhances communication and coordination between the protected area, governmental bodies, and the local community through a direct channel available anytime –	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					something that was not efficient in the past."	

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

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Low	Low
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Low	Low
4 Budget	Low	Low
5 Financial Management	Low	Low
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low	Low

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Government resources (e.g. counterpart staff) and co-financing contributions are not forthcoming in a timely manner.	All outcomes & outputs	L	M	M	L	L	L	L		The project has been able to overcome issues with the government, and it now has security clearance and has a great support

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										from the CEO of the EEAA and senior staff which reduces the risk of resource allocation. For the co-financing part of the project. We coordinated closely with the EEAA to map and allocate additional potential co-financing agencies based on their work on Fayoum Governorate. Like the additional co-finance budget from “Environment Without Borders Foundation”
Change in leadership in relevant governmental bodies could cause delay in implementation of the project activities	All outcomes & outputs	L	M	L	L	L	L	L		The Project has very strong support from the leadership of the EEAA at different levels. the CEO and senior advisors and management. and the PA management. This reduces the risk of having a negative impact if one of the leader’s changes.
Limited local expertise to lead and participate in project activities	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		The capacity-building programme is progressing and reducing this risk. Also. the protected areas managers notify us that when they get a training course or workshop, they to transfer this knowledge to the staff and build their capacity.
Failure of government agencies to implement project activities or reach agreement or to resolve conflicts among different stakeholders.	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		This risk is reduced as the IUCN has now the flexibility to work on the ground and to speed up the process of communication with the related

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										bodies. We sub-contracted a national expert to support in this coordination and support in updating the progress towards the results framework already agreed on. Along with the support from the EEAA in provided the needed.
Insufficient engagement of stakeholders. including women and youth.	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		This risk is expected to be low as the project has the flexibility to work on the ground now after getting the security clearance. Also. we moved forward in the establishment of the local community Advisory committee following the EEAA CEO official endorsement. to include a member's from the related stakeholders and they will support both protected areas in their management and advise on the best ways of engaging both women and Youth in the PA activities (three out of 17 member are women from local community they have businesses in Al-Fayoum as Tour operators.). Please check Annexes contain the fully signed letter by the EEAA CEO.
Cost of implementing plans and strategies may be pre-emptive (e.g.. addressing pollution in Lake Qarun).	All outcomes & outputs	M	M	L	L	L	L	L		This risk is now reduced as the IUCN is working in parallel to secure funding to implement the additional

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										plans. like the restoration plan through SAP GCF project. Also. based on the previous SC meeting. UNEP's representative. she "Encouraged Egypt to submit project proposals to GEF to complement the achievement of Egypt's objectives for protecting the environment and natural reserves" and this might be an entry point for allocation of new fund". Additionally. there is a big project currently in progress in Fayoum Funded by an international agency to upgrade the wastewater sewage system in the government and as a result of this will decrease the pollution to the lake. On the other hand. the representative from the Fisheries resources department. point out that the recent analysis of the lake quality shows an improvement as they are in the process to add a new type of fishes for harvesting. (figures for the improvement in the water quality for the lake has been obtained by the related ministry through the EEAA and it shows improvement over time).
Data collected during the project is	All outcomes & outputs	M	M	L	L	L	L	L		This is ranked as a low risk as the

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
inadequately secured and not available for future use.										IUCN is trying to update the data through regular data collection and communication with partners. Also, during the KBA assessment for both PA's and the re-listing of Wadi El Hitan site on the IUCN Green List, several documents and field surveys were collected and provided to the EEAA team.
		L	M	L	L	L	L	L		

4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
NA					

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	No

Minor amendments

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

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original legal instrument		2019-06-12	2019-06-20	2022-12-31	
Extension 1	Revision	2022-09-26	2022-11-15	2025-06-30	period extended.
	Extension	2025-03-27	2025-04-29	2026-12-31	A No cost extension up to 31 Dec 2026 was concluded

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 or 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 Description	Activity Description
Lake Qarun PA	29.45979	30.59148			
Wadi El Rayan	29.15	30.41667			

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

Project location shapefiles

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

Additional Supporting Documents:

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
Wadi Al-Hitan_EGY_IUCN GL Certificate Apr2026.pdf	Executing Agency	2026-08-09 11:57:24	Download
Socioeconomic_training_workshop.pdf	Executing Agency	2026-08-09 11:57:24	Download

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
Picture1_Project_location_map.jpg	Executing Agency	2026-08-09 11:57:24	Download
Conflict_Resolution_report_Final_14Jan2026.pdf	Executing Agency	2026-08-09 11:57:24	Download
CEPA - WED celebration - Fayoum Geopark_Final.pdf	Executing Agency	2026-08-09 11:57:24	Download
CEPA - Clean-up campaign report.pdf	Executing Agency	2026-08-09 11:57:24	Download