

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	9671	SMA IPMR ID	34727
Project Short Title	Wadi El Rayan project	Grant ID	S1-32GFL-000618/ P1-33GFL-001162
		Umoja WBS	GFL-11207-14AC0003-SB-008233
Project Title	Effective Management of Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun Protected Areas		
Project Type	Medium Sized Project (MSP)	Duration months	Planned Age 36
Parent Programme if child project		Completion Date	Planned -original PCA Revised - Current PCA 51.6 months
GEF Focal Area(s)	Biodiveristy		1-Jan-23
Project Scope	National		31-Dec-24
Region	Africa	Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	14-Dec-18
Countries	Egypt	UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	14-Dec-18
GEF financing amount	USD 1,319,864	Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	20-Jun-19
Co-financing amount	USD 8,800,000	Date of First Disbursement	26-Sep-19
		Date of Inception Workshop, if available	
Total disbursement as of 30 June	USD 1,206,371	Midterm undertaken?	No
Total expenditure as of 30 June	USD 789,657	Actual Mid-term Date, if taken	
		Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	TBD
		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	31-Dec-24
		Expected Financial Closure Date	31-Dec-24

## 1.2 EA: Project description

This project aims to strengthen the overall management of the Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun 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 Qarun 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 Qarun).

Output 1.1.1: PA management frameworks of Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun PAs developed, including participatory approaches.

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 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 Qarun).

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 Qarun PAs developed and implemented.

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

### Project Partners and stakeholders:

-The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)

-Nature Conservation Sector (NCS)

-Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

-Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation

-Tourism Department

-Fayoum Governor and Governorate

-Water and Environmental Police

-Security Department

-Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)

-Nature Conservation Egypt

-Fayoum Environmental Center

## 1.3 Project Contact

Division(s) Implementing the project

Ecosystems Division, UN  
Environment, Kenya

Executing Agency(ies)

International Union for Conservation of Nature – Regional Office for West Asia  
(IUCN ROWA)

Name of co-implementing Agency

NA

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

TM: UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)

Ersin E.

EA: Manager/Representative

Hany El Shaer

TM: UNEP Task Manager(s)

Jane Nimpamya

EA: Project Manager

Natalia Boulad

TM: UNEP Budget/Finance Officer

george Saddimbah

EA: Finance Manager

Omar Hamdan

TM: UNEP Support/Assistant

Ruth Igamba

EA: Communications lead, if relevant

N/A

## 2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

TM: UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)

Ecosystems Sub programme

TM: UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)

Ecosystems Sub programme

TM: PoW Indicator(s)

Expected Accomplishment 1: Use of the ecosystem services and sustainable productivity of terrestrial and aquatic systems is increased

EA: 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)

EA: Link to relevant SDG Goals

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

EA: Link to relevant SDG Targets

SDG 15: Life on Land

2.2 GEF Core or Sub Indicators

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

Indicators	Targets - Expected value			Materialised to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
✓ created or under improved management for con		314,000	314,000	129,800
✓				
✓				
✓				
✓				
✓				

Implementation Status

2023

4th PIR

	PIR #	Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
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				

**Rating towards outcomes:**

The rating for the 2023 year is **satisfactory** because the project was able to overcome the challenges faced during the first two years of the project and achieve tangible outcomes. There has been considerable progress in the project implementation on the outcome level towards achieving enhanced management effectiveness of lake Qarun and Wadi El Rayan PAs. The management plans for Lake Qarun, Jabal Qatrani and Wadi Al Hitan were developed. A restoration master plan was developed for Lake Qarun to address key threats affecting the lake. The project also developed a communication, education and awareness plan CEPA to enhance the awareness of local communities. This was coupled with training of the PAs staff on integrated management of protected areas, GIS, community engagement and several soft skills. Also, a very valuable report for identification of Nature Based Solutions NBS in WRPA and LQPAs has been developed. Also, supporting the enforcement and patrolling efforts by performing a full maintenance of vehicles and boats used in patrolling as part of the law enforcement programme in Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qarun Protected Areas. Alongwith, with a capacity building programme, the project organised 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 English language, levels one, two and three, after which the participants' performance was tested and certified.

**Rating towards outputs:**

The rating for the **2023 year is satisfactory** because the project was able to advance the work on different outputs and achieve considerable progress on the ground. For **Output 1.1.1:** PA management frameworks of Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun PAs developed, including participatory approaches, three management plan, were all delivered within the reporting period. For **Output 1.1.2:** Field monitoring programs within Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun PAs to assess the conservation status of key ecosystems and threatened and important species developed and implemented, a restoration plan for lake Qarun was developed and a partnership was established with BirdLife International to update the KBA's and fill the gaps in monitoring programmes (Also, an initial analysis was conducted by IUCN staff and the KBA secretariate to collect the data for species that might be trigger the KBA criteria in both PAs, this will be reviewed through Birdlife International, National Technical committee group that will be activated with coordination with EEAA). For **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, in addition to a training and study tour for the PA staff to Jordan on integrated management of protected areas which included demonstration of community engagement and participatory planning. For **Output 2.1.2:** Controls and monitoring programmes to conserve ecosystem services and reduce overharvesting by local communities within Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun PAs developed and implemented, an enforcement plan and surveillance plan was developed. Also, the project provided full maintenance to the vehicle (cars, boats and motorcycles) that are used for patrolling and surveillance. Also, installing a 25KW off-grid solar power system to serve the visitor centre in Jabal Qatrani which is part of Lake Qarun Natural Reserve.

**Overall risk rating:**

The overall risk rating for 2023 is Low, as the EEAA managed to issue the security clearance for the project implementation and the project was able to progress on outcome and output levels. Eventhough, to compensate this time while issuing the security clearance from the Egyptian Authorities, UCN has submitted a request to extend the project's implementation timeline from 31/December/ 2022 until 31/December/2024 to compensate for the delay that took place in the first two years (suffered from delays during the COVID outbreak between 2020 and 2021) of the project before getting the security clearance for the field activities. Now, these risks are very much reduced and the project is able to implement and achieve progress on the ground. There was a minor gap in implementation because of the absence of the project focal point from EEAA for a few months, but anew focal point was assigned to solve this issue. The high level support from the CEO of the EEAA is helping to solve many project challenges.

**Below are some progress highlights:****Challenges:**

1. Local Vendor allocation, and high cost because of the remoteness of the PAs
2. Communication; internet and phone coverage in Fayoum area.
3. The simplicity of the rural areas surrounding/containing protected areas resulting in absence of taken-as-default technology.

**Main Achievements:****EA:** Planned Co-finance

Total: 8,800,000 USD as per the PCA (8,500,000 USD as per Project document). By IUCN: 300,000 USD

**EA:** Actual to date:

**190,346,5 USD (Till 30th of June 2022)**

**EA:** Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.

The total IUCN co-financing reported till 30 June 2022 is **363,465 USD's**. This value excced the planned co-financing by IUCN. And, The co-financing from the EEAA is **1,540,000 USD's** covered from the Italian Cooperation project.

**EA:** Date of project steering committee meeting

13-Jun-23

2.5. Stakeholder

**EA:** 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 Affair 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 to ensure 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: 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.
- Local communities and resources 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 years 2022 - 2023 the project management team was able to engage stakeholders in many important activities, including the following:

- Developing management plans for Lake qarun, Jabal Qatrani, and wadi Al Hitan.
- Developing the Communication, education, awareness CEPA plan in a participatory manner.
- Developing Nature based Solutions NbS report in a highly participatory manner with contribution from relevant ministries, stakeholders and experts.
- Coordination with the local businesses (mainly training centers) in Al Fayoum regarding arrange trainings for the Protected areas staff in both reserve to increase their capacities in different fields (Computer, reporting, English language with different levels, MS office, PowerPoint). On the other hand, contracting with local printing shop in AlFayoum responsible in providing EEAA PA staff with eighty complete sets of field staff uniforms, including: two shirts, two trousers, a vest and shoes, which were designed and tailored to their needs and increase their vesability.
- Conducting a steering committee meeting for the Project was held in Egypt on the 13th June 2023 to review the workplan, agree on future priorities and discuss the potential of other complementary funding opportunities. All the members of the SC from the above mentioned organisations were invited along with the representative of UNEP Task Manager.

2.6. Gender

**TM:** Does the project have a gender action plan?

No

**EA:** Gender mainstreaming  
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The project is ensuring gender mainstreaming in all of the project activities. The project targets interventions to tackle issues concerning women and indicators to monitor and track women participation in project activities. The project also aims to increase women participation in forums such as the Local Community Advisory Committee and Scientific & Technical Advisory Committee.

Challenges:  
The engagement of women in project activities since the two PAs are very remote and we are still working to have more active engagement of local women

Gender marking will measure the following data:

- The number of women and men among the full-time project staff. (Project manager is a female, project assistant for the first two years was a female)
- The number of women and men that are project board members. (The EEAA GEF deputy focal point and the new project focal point for the technical manner is a woman, both of them on the steering committee).
- The number of women engaging with the project activities.

2.7. ESSM

**TM:** Was the project classified as moderate/high risk at CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?

▼ No

**TM:** Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?

▼ No

**TM:** If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?

**TM:** If yes, please describe the new risks, or changes

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

▼ No  
N/A

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

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

**Environment safeguards:** The project is contributing to enhance effective management of Wadi Rayan and Lake Quran to improve the conservation of priority of endemic and threatened species (and endangered species if confirmed present) and their critical habitats, through the development of adaptive management frameworks, operational capacities and mechanisms for the participation of local communities. During the PPG phase, potential environmental and social impacts were examined in accordance with UN Environment's ESERN procedure. No specific environmental concerns were raised for the project.

**Social safeguards:** The project is addressing local community involvement and enhancing economic inclusion of population segments. Gender and youth engagement were identified as requiring more attention. The second component of the project deals with establishing effective community participation in PA management and conservation through the following indicators:  
-Increasing the number of community members around the targeted PAs that are attending PA management meetings and participating in decision-making.  
-Increasing number of local community public involvement events and numbers of people participating.

**Progress and challenges:**  
The project does not have environmental or social safeguard issues, on the contrary, it aims to enhance the management effectiveness of Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qarun PAs by providing participatory tools and enhancing the engagement of local communities in protected areas management.

2.8. KM/Learning

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

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 for WRPA and LQPA.
  - 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.
  - Lake Qarun PA management plan
  - Jabal Qatrani site mangement plan
  - Wadi Al Hitan management plan.
  - Lake Qarun restoration plan
- Please check **Annex IV** for the above mentioned deliverables.

Also, we are on the process to prepare the following reports:  
- Develop the KBA assessment for both Protected areas according to the new Global KBA standard to be published on the World Database for Key Biodiversity Areas WDKBA after it's get Review/ confirmation by KBA secretariate. This will be done through Birdlife International but gets delayed due to EEAA request.  
- Supporting the renewal of the certificate of declaring Wadi Al-Hitan protected area as a Green List site, and considering introducing new areas such as Jabal Qatrani region, through an initial assessment that clarifies the criteria and indicators that must be worked on to support the declaration of the site within the Green List in the long term. This will be done on IUCN Green List Compass.

*Please attach a copy of any products*

**EA:** Main learning during the period

NBS report and the restoration plan were key documents, but we would prefer not to publish openly at this stage since these reports will be published on IUCN's publication library jointly by IUCN, UNEP and EEAA

2.9. Stories

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

Not applicable at this stage of the project since the field activities have started after the issue of the security clearance in June 2021. We expect to have more input for this section during the next fiscal year."

### 3. RATING PROJECT PERFORMANCE

#### 3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Development Objectives)

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	EA: Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	TM: Progress rating
<b>Objective</b>							
To improve the management effectiveness of the Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun protected areas through community involvement and capacity building	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 PA management effectiveness-tracking tool METT was applied for both sites in consultation with the two protected area site managers and key stakeholders. The baseline METT scores by the beginning of the project showed that the METT scores were higher than expected and in comparison to the baseline provided in the project results framework. This was discussed with the stakeholders and was explained that several projects took place in the two PAs and these contributed to enhancing the METT scores. METT assesment conducted in June 2020 gave teh following scorse (Wadi El Rayan 67 points, and Lake Qarun 53 points) MEET reassessment will take place again by the end of year 2023 to measure the improvement witht the recent achievements, activities conducted in the project site.	HS
<b>Outcome 1</b>							
Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness (Strengthened PA management tools, processes and capacities) Demonstrated at two targeted PAs: Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun.	1. Number of PA management tools, processes and capacities applied and/or strengthened.	There are no PA management tools, processes and capacities for improved management effectiveness that have been applied in LQPA and WRPA.	2 management plans for The 2 PAs developed. 4 field monitoring programs developed.	30 staff are trained in all key topic areas.	100%	The project has managed to train about 72 staff from the PAs and EEAA staff, the following activities have taken place: -Training needs assessment -Training on IUCN's Green List -Training on Protected Areas Management effectiveness -Training on CEPA plan -Training on computer and soft skills - Advance specialized training on the use of the ArcGIS for EEAA field staff, which was done on location using the equipment and licensed programs that were previously provided through this project.  72 staff was trained on different topics and in the upcoming activities could be increased as well. 3 Managment Plans for were developed and updated (including Jabal Qatrani) 1 restoration plan for Lake Qarun	HS
	2. Increase in % of management effectiveness scores (as measured in the GEF BD1 METT) for Wadi El-Rayan and Qarun protected areas, covering a total of 314,400 hectares .	21 points (0%)	52 points (150%) increase in score over baseline.	63 points (200%) increase in score over baseline	90%	Management effectiveness tracking tool METT was applied for both PAs in June 2020, the METT scores by the beginning of the project were already higher than the mid-term target. After developing more management tools, (MP's, CEPA plan, restoration plan, enforcement and surveillance plan), it is expected to have a considerable increase in the METT scores. An update of the METT scores will be done by the end of 2023.	S

<p>3. Stable or increase in populations or habitat size of threatened species in the PAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WRPA: Population of Dorcas gazelle (<i>Gazella dorcas</i>), IUCN Red List Category Vulnerable</li> <li>- LQPA: Habitat size of Slender-billed Gull (<i>Larus genei</i>), and Egyptian Eared Grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>).</li> </ul>	<p>Baselines to be established during year 1 of project implementation.</p> <p>Presence or absence of Red List Species (NT, VU, E) is determined and populations estimated</p>	<p>Targets to be established during year 1 of project implementation</p>	<p>Targets to be established during year 1 of project implementation</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>The relevant assessments were postponed based on the request from EEAA as the work for Birdlife international was postponed due to security clearance and EEAA request. Based on the recent SC meeting we will start working on this closely with birdlife as we are coordinating for a meeting to continue the work and conduct the needed survey. Work to be continued by mid 2024.</p>	<p>U</p>
<p>4. Increase in condition measured by Ecosystem Health Index (EHI) of critical biodiversity habitat as a result of improved management focused on the conservation of targeted species.</p>	<p>At least 117,000 hectares within target PAs.</p>	<p>EHI to be developed during Project implementation.</p>	<p>EHI to be developed during Project implementation.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>The calculation of the EHI index depends that the country conducts a national red list of ecosystems assessment, this is out of the scope of the project and not applicable</p>	

Outcome 2

<p>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</p>	<p>1. Number of participatory approaches to PA management that have been effectively applied</p>	<p>A local community advisory committee for the PAs does not exist.</p>	<p>Committee is established (50% women) and operating with at least two meetings per year.</p>	<p>Committee is functioning and effective (50% women) with at least two meetings per year</p>	<p>60</p>	<p>Community participation was strengthened through the involvement of local communities in the development of the MP's and trainings and workshops, below are examples of active community participation:  - Lake Qarun management plan, Jabal Qatrani management plan, Wadi Al Hitan management plan.  - Green List training on enhancing governance and local community engagement  - Communication, education and awareness plan CEPA plan, developed in a participatory manner  - Steering committee meeting with the participation of the local community  - Local community advisory committee TOR's established</p>	<p>S</p>
	<p>2. Increase in number of community members around the targeted PAs that are attending PA management meetings and participating in decision-making.</p>	<p>Baseline to be established in 2021 as part of the development of the Communications, Education and Public Awareness Plan (CEPA).</p>	<p>Targets to be established in 2022 including engagement of women and youth, as part of the CEPA plan.</p>	<p>Targets to be established in 2022 including engagement of women and youth, as part of the CEPA plan.</p>	<p>90</p>	<p>Community participation was strengthened through the involvement of local communities in the development of the MP's and trainings and workshops, below are examples of active community participation:  - Lake Qarun management plan, Jabal Qatrani management plan, Wadi Al Hitan management plan.  - Green List training  - Communication, education and awareness plan CEPA plan  Steering committee meeting</p>	<p>S</p>
	<p>3. Increase in number of local community public involvement events and numbers of people participating.</p> <p>Examples of events:  • Management plan public meetings/open houses.  • School visits to PAs or classroom visits.  • Environmental fairs.  • Local Advisory Committee participation.  • Etc.</p>	<p>Unknown.   At project inception, the current average number of events and participants will be estimated, based on the experience over the last five years.</p>	<p>Mid-term target:  • Number of events and participants has increased by at least 50% from the baseline.   End of project target:  • Number of events and participants has increased by at least 100% from the baseline.</p>	<p>Annual reports.   PIRs.</p>	<p>90</p>	<p>The workshops and stakeholders engagements was conducted through out conducting/ updating the management plans for the three sites and in the same time during conducting the CEPA plan which will be activated and supported by EEAA beyond the project life cycle not only for short term.   Annual reports and PIRs for the project was submitted to UNEP on regular bases.</p>	<p>S</p>



	4. Number of resource use permits issued (as a % of number of known users) has increased.	0 (system is non-existent).	Mid-term target: •50% of known resource users are registered through a permit.  End of project target: •100% of known resource users are registered through a permit.	Reports of compliance monitoring and enforcement patrols.  Reports of GIS, remote sensing, Earth Observation systems.	NA	Based on the recent SC meeting conducted, An important note was raised by the representatives of the EEAA clarified that this activity is not doable (not <i>achievable</i> ) as the previous mechanism that were developed were cancelled by the Ministry. They recommended cancelling this activity	
	5. Level of reduction in unsustainable resource uses in areas within and adjacent to the two targeted PAs. This will be measured as the % decrease in area with un-approved activities (e.g., agriculture).	Unknown.  The baseline area (hectares) with un-approved activities will be calculated in the first year of the project.	Mid-term target: •A 50% decrease in area with un-approved activities.  End of project target: •No un-approved activities exist.	Reports of compliance monitoring and enforcement patrols and actions taken.  GIS, remote sensing, Earth Observation systems reports.	50%	Enforcement plan developed to reduce unsustainable landuse practices	S
<b>Outcome 3</b>							
<b>Outcome 4</b>							

For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

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

Output	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project targets)	EA: Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	TM: Progress rating
<b>Under COMPONENT 1: Strengthen management capacities of targeted PAs for the conservation of threatened and important species and their habitats.</b>					
<b>Output 1.1:</b> <b>Output 1.1.1:</b> PA management frameworks of Wadi El-Rayan and Lake Qarun PAs developed, including participatory approaches.					
Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop and implement protected area management plans	12/31/2023	100%	100%	The project developed and updated the following management plans: -Lake Qarun management plan -Jabal Qatrani management plan -Wadi Al Hitan management plan The management plans were developed and approved by the EEAA team, and the implementation will be on-going till the end of the project	HS
Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop Key Biodiversity Area classifications for WRPA and LQPA	12/31/2024	15%	30%	IUCN and Birdlife signed an agreement to develop a KBA assessment for Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qarun. The assessment was postponed because the EEAA requested postponing this activity till after getting the security clearance. IUCN and Birdlife updated the workplan accordingly. Currently, after IUCN, EEAA, Birdlife International coordinate for a meeting to discuss the next steps for the KBA training for the National Coordination Group NCG and conduct the field survey assessment. In the meantime, IUCN Staff and the KBA secretariate conduct a preliminary analysis for the Species found in both PAs to get an indication (estimate) about the species that can be trigger the Global KBA criteria along with collecting a couple of Scientific papers on those species. This analysis will support Birdlife team with data analysis and site assessment. It's planned to have the field survey assessment by the end of year 2023 or beginning of 2024.4	U
Activity 1.1.1.3: Develop and implement habitat and species conservation plans	12/31/2024	0%	10%	This activity is postponed till 2023 based in coordination with EEAA. This will be activated based on the meeting IUCN, EEAA will organise with the Italian Cooperation project manager and relevant expert.	HU

Activity 1.1.1.4: Develop Lake Qarun ecosystem restoration master plan	12/31/2021	80%	100%	An ecosystem restoration plan for Lake Qarun was developed and submitted for the EEAA. The plan is approved by the EEAA and it formed a basis for the development of SAP GCF concept note aiming to restore the lake.	HS
Activity 1.1.1.5: Establish and implement best practice guidelines and manuals	12/31/2023	20%	40%	A desk revision and discussion of the needed best practice guidelines and manuals was conducted to identify priority guidelines and manuals to be developed in 2023. Based on the recent SC meeting, a coordination meeting will be conducted between IUCN, EEAA and Italian Cooperation project manager to discuss this activity as some of these manuals already prepared through previous project and this can consider as a deliverables (co-financing).	U
Activity 1.1.1.6: Conduct PA staff and community training to conserve biodiversity	6/30/2024	80%	90%	Several training programmes have been conducted through this project, including: The project has managed to train about 72 staff from the PAs and EEAA staff, the following activities have taken place: -Training needs assessment -Training on IUCN's Green List -Training on Protected Areas Management effectiveness -Training on CEPA plan -Training on computer and soft skills.  Upcoming training will be on the Identifications of the Key Biodiversity Areas according to the Global Standard.	S
Activity 1.1.1.7: Develop Green List nomination dossiers	3/31/2024	40%	60%	The project has initiated the process of the preparation for 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 was done to prepare the EEAA staff (decision makers and PA staff) for the Green List application process. Based on the recent SC meeting conducted we agree that we will support in renewing the certificate of Wadi al Hitan- Al Wadi El-Rayan protected area as it will expire by the end of 2023, and considering introducing new areas such as Jabal Qatrani region, through an initial assessment that clarifies the criteria and indicators that must be worked on to support the declaration of the site within the Green List in the long term.	S
Activity 1.1.1.8: Establish and operate a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee	12/31/2024	20%	30%	The establishment of the scientific advisory committee is part of the KBA assessment which is conducted in coordination with BirdLife International. Also, based on the recent Steering Committee meeting, one of the output was to coordinate closely with EEAA to activating the local community advisory Committee, especially after implementing the management plan, because it is one of the most important items that must be available for inclusion in the Green List. Also, Activating the Scientific Committee to start work on the important biodiversity points of the two reserves. This will be starting in the forth quarter of 2023 and will continue till the end of the project.	U
<b>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</b>					
Activity 1.1.2.1: Design and implement monitoring and reporting systems for threats and status of ecosystems and species	3/31/2024	10%	40%	A desk review and discussions were initiated to assess the needs related to this activity. Based on the recent SC meeting, the EEAA Protected areas present all the equipment's, maintenance conducted in the project sites, and based on this they presented their needs for Wadi Al-Rayyan and Qarun reserves and the work priorities were clarified, in order to be implemented by the project, this will be subjected if the budget is available and the priorities coincide with the project's priorities: please follow attachment 1 in the SCM for more info.	U
Activity 1.1.2.2: Develop and implement a compliance monitoring and enforcement system	12/31/2023	100%	100%	An enforcement and surveillance plan was developed for the Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qarun PAs with patrolling routes identified. A comprehensive maintenance for the vehicles used in patrolling was conducted including (cars, boats and motorcycles) based on the request of the EAA. The PA staff including rangers were also provided with uniforms to enhance their image during the patrolling and surveillance routes.	HS

Activity 1.1.2.3: Establish and facilitate a PA biodiversity information management unit	12/31/2022	90%	100%	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 infrastructure were procured. Advanced ESRI GIS licenses and remote sensing software licenses were procured for the unit. Organising a specialized 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.	HS
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**Under Component 2: Establish effective community participation in PA management and conservation / management of natural resources.**

<b>Output 2.1:</b> <b>Output 2.1.1:</b> 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	12/31/2024	90%	100%	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 Fayoum area. Now the CEPA Plan was developed and approved we need to implement it with support of the EEAA and related stakeholder for the successful results and outcomps planned in it. So we can consider this activity completed but it will be continued during the project life cycle and beyond.	HS
Activity 2.1.1.2: Establish and operate a community environmental education centre	6/30/2022	25%	35%	The CEPA plan provided recommendations that contribute to achieve an operational community environmental education centre. IUCN and EEAA identified the scope and development needs for establishing and operating the community educational center and the work will be sub-contracted to a national NGO to implement the plans. Based on the recent SC meeting, we agree that the activity related to the modernization, maintenance, and expansion of the environmental education building in the village of Shakshuk is accepted in principle by the UNEP in the event that the budget is available. and this will be done through the agreement that IUCN and sub-contracting company in Egypt "which will implement the specific activities for the project". During the field visit the building was assessed and emphasised it's need for maintenance and improvement.	U
Activity 2.1.1.3: Establish and facilitate a Community Advisory Committee	12/31/2023	30%	35%	IUCN and EEAA have developed a terms of reference for the community advisory committee to identify its scope and roles and it will be activated in 2023, however, community is actively engaging in the CEPA plan development, training (Green list), and developing management plans. Based on the recent SC meeting, IUCN and EEAA will conduct a meeting to plan how to activate this advisory committee and it's impact based on what mentioned in the CEPA plan and the needs of the project.	U
Activity 2.1.1.4: Support community-based eco-tourism infrastructure developments, services, product development and product sales	6/30/2024	60%	100%	The project has identified the scope of the eco-tourism infrastructure development in wadi El Rayan and Lake Qarun. A sub-contract will be awarded to a national NGO to implement these plans. The project has already installed a solar power system to serve the Jabal Qatrani site which is part of Lake Qarun. Based on the recent SC meeting, several discussions points were agreed on for more improvement on the infrastructure for the eco-touism as follow (Completing solar energy cells to raise the efficiency of solar energy production capacity within the targeted areas and linking them to the government grid., Establishing pergolas to support eco-tourism activities in the two reserves and Enhancing the functionality of restroom facilities in the visitor areas of Wadi El-Rayan and the administrative building of Qarun Reserve, with the objective of providing improved services to visitors. Noting that this will be subjected to the allocated budget and cost for maintenance.	HS
<b>Output 2.1.2:</b> 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.					
Activity 2.1.2.1: Develop and implement resource-use protocols and agreements	6/30/2024	20%	30%	A desk review and discussion was carried out to identify the needs in relevance to resource use and protocols. Based on the recent SC meeting we will coordinate for a meeting with the project manager for the Italian Cooperation project (co-financing party) to discuss what's already implemented by the Italian Cooperation project, to avoid the duplication of efforts and work. The budget allocated for these activities will be re-allocated to cover other activities that support the project implementation, in alignment with the donor regulation and guidelines.	U

Activity 2.1.2.2: Establish a resource user permit system	6/30/2022	20%	NA	EEAA have already successful experience in other protected areas and they would like to adopt the same model. Based on the recent SC meeting all the members and agree to cancel this activity based on the recommendation of the representative of the Environmental Affairs Agency due to its cancellation by the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, and it was approved by UNEP's Representative.	
Activity 2.1.2.3: Develop best practice demonstration sites	6/30/2022	100%	100%	This activity was replaced with developing a management plan for Qatrani site within Lake Qarun. This plan was developed and approved by EEAA. Also, IUCN and EEAA agreed in the inception workshop to develop a report on potential nature based solutions to be applied in Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qarun. This report was developed and submitted to EEAA	HS
Activity 2.1.2.4: Undertake conflict resolution processes with resource users.	6/30/2022	10%	25%	A desk review and discussion was carried out to identify the needs in relevance to resource use and protocols. Based on the recent SC meeting we will coordinate for a meeting with the project manager for the Italian Cooperation project (co-financing party) to discuss what's already implemented by the Italian Cooperation project, to avoid the duplication of efforts and work. The the budget allocated for these activities will be re-allocated to cover other activities that support the project implementation, in alignment with the donor regulation and guidelines.	U
<b>Under Comp 3</b>					
<b>Under Comp 4</b>					
<b>Under Comp 5</b>					

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

#### 4 Risk Rating

##### 4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

Risk Factor	EA's Rating	TM's Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	✓ Low : well developed, stable Management Structure and Roles/responsibilities are clearly defined/understood. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery. ✓ Low : Steering Committee and/or other project bodies meet at least once a year and Active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC provides direction/inputs. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	✓ Low : Well developed, stable Management Structure and Roles/responsibilities are clearly defined/understood. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery. ✓ Low : Steering Committee and/or other project bodies meet at least once a year and Active membership and participation in decision-making processes. SC provides direction/inputs. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
2 Governance structure - Oversight	✓ Low : Project progressing according to original work plan and Adaptive management is practiced and regular monitoring. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	✓ Low : Project progressing according to original work plan and Adaptive management is practiced and regular monitoring. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
3 Implementation schedule	✓ Low : Activities are progressing within planned budget and Balanced budget utilisation including PMC. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	✓ Low : Activities are progressing within planned budget and Balanced budget utilisation including PMC. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
4 Budget	✓ Low : Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and Audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	✓ Low : Funds are correctly managed and transparently accounted for and Audit reports provided regularly and confirm correct use of funds. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
5 Financial Management	✓ Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and implementation issues. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	✓ Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and Reports are complete and accurate with a good analysis of project progress and implementation issues. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
6 Reporting	✓ Low : Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.	✓ Low : Sound technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before implementation or during early stages. Low likelihood of potential negative impact on the project delivery.
7 Capacity to deliver		

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)

4th 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.

Risk	Risk affecting:	Risk Rating						Δ	Variation respect to last rating
		CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5		
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		=	The project has been able to overcome the issues with the government, and it now has the security clearance and has a great support from the CEO of the EEAA and senior staff which reduces the risk of resource allocation.
Change in leadership in relevant governmental bodies could cause delay in implementation of the project activities	All outcomes & outputs	L	M	L	L	L		=	The Project has very strong support from the current leadership of the EEAA at different levels, the CEO and senior advisors and management, and the PA management, this reduces the risk of having negative impact if one of the leaders changes.
Limited local expertise to lead and participate in project activities	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L	L		=	The capacity building programme is progressing and reducing this risk.

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							=	This risk is reduced as IUCN has now the flexibility to work on the ground and sub-contract local/ international consultants when needed.
Insufficient engagement of stakeholders, including women and youth.	All outcomes & outputs	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
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							=	This risk is now reduced as IUCN is working in parallel to secure funding to implement the additional plans, like the restoration plan through SAP GCF project. Also, based on the recent 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".
Data collected during the project is inadequately secured and not available for future use.	All outcomes & outputs	M	M	L	L	L							=	This is ranked as a low risk as IUCN is trying to update the data through regular data collection and communication with partners

<b>Consolidated project risk</b>		L	M	L	L	L							=	This section focuses on the variation. The overall rating is discussed in section 2.3.
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**4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks**

List here only risks from Table A and B above that have a risk rating of M or higher in the current PIR

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIR-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom

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

### Project Minor Amendments

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

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

Minor amendments	Changes	Minor amendments
Results framework	No	
Components and cost	No	
Institutional and implementation arrangements	No	
Financial management	No	
Implementation schedule	Explain in table B	
Executing Entity	No	
Executing Entity Category	No	
Minor project objective change	No	
Safeguards	No	
Risk analysis	No	
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	No	
Co-financing	No	
Location of project activity	No	
Other	No	

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

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original Legal Instrument		12-Jun-19	20-Jun-19	31-Dec-22	
Amendment 1	Revision				
Extension 1	Extension		15-Nov-22	30-Jun-25	

### GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=4/21.84/82.79) (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=4/21.84/82.79>) or [GeoNames](http://www.geonames.org/) (<http://www.geonames.org/>) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here (<https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/assets/general/Geocoding%20User%20Guide.docx>)

Location Name Required field	Latitude Required field	Longitude Required field	Geo Name ID Required field if the location is not an exact site	Location Description Optional text field	Activity Description Optional text field
Lake Qarun PA	29.45979	30.59148	Birkat Qārūn		
Wadi El Rayan	29.15	30.41667	Wādī ar Rayyān		

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

#### Annex I: Maps JPG format:

Map Number 1: Egypt's system of protected areas. Site #12-Lake Qarun Protected Area, #13-Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area (NBSAP, 2016). Map Number 2: Location of Wadi El-Rayan Protected Area, Map Number 3: Location of Lake Qarun Protected Area.

#### Annex II: Protected areas, lakes as shapefiles.

[Annex any linked geospatial file]