

1- Identification

1.1 Project details

GEF ID	10581	SMA IPMR ID	116302
Project Short Title	GEF AZE	Grant ID	S1-32GFL-000746
		Umoja WBS	SB-020116
Project Title	Implementing Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) Site Conservation and Preventing Global Extinctions		
Project Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium Sized Project (MSP)	Duration months	Planned 48 months
Parent Programme if child project			8.0 months
GEF Focal Area(s)	Biodiversity	Completion Date	Planned - original PCA 31-Dec-25
Project Scope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global		An extension request will be made at project mid-term to ensure the full 48 months for the project
Region	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	18-Dec-21
Countries	Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Madagascar	UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	12-Jul-21
GEF financing amount	USD 1,961,239	Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	21-Jul-22
Co-financing amount	USD 8,000,000	Date of First Disbursement	26-Sep-22
		Date of Inception Workshop, if available	11-Oct-22
Total disbursement as of 30 June	USD 200,000	Midterm undertaken?	No
Total expenditure as of 30 June	USD 187,149	Actual Mid-term Date, if taken	
		Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	21-Jul-24
		Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	30-Jun-26
		Expected Financial Closure Date	31-Dec-26

1.2 EA: Project description

Implementing Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) Site Conservation and Preventing Global Extinctions is a \$1.9 million, 4-year project in Colombia, Chile, Madagascar and Dominican Republic. Implemented by UNEP and executed by American Bird Conservancy, this project seeks to prevent extinctions through AZE site conservation and mainstreaming.

The Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) was launched globally in 2005 and is a joint initiative of local, national, and global biodiversity conservation organizations. It was established to designate and effectively conserve the most important sites for global biodiversity conservation. These sites have threatened species restricted to just a single site in the world. All AZE sites are also Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. The Alliance for Zero Extinction is a consortium of over 100 conservation organizations globally, ranging from large international NGOs to small-scale local NGOs.

The project's objective is to improve the conservation of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites in Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Madagascar. The main strategies to be pursued by the project includes the improvement of the conservation status of 20 AZE sites and associated AZE trigger species in focus countries, the mainstreaming of AZE site conservation at global and national levels, and the promotion of Knowledge Management to enhance understanding of and interest in AZE site conservation across sectors. The project seeks to improve protection of critically endangered and endangered species through implementation of priority AZE site conservation actions, enhance biodiversity conservation and reduce extinction threat through mainstreaming AZE site conservation, advance the application of KBA standards in pilot countries, and increase the understanding and application of AZE site conservation implementation in policies and plans by local, national, regional, and global stakeholders.

Component 1: Improvement of the conservation status of 20 AZE sites and associated AZE trigger species in focus countries. Focus on developing, updating and implementing conservation plans; testing OECM approach and achieving OECM status, where applicable; identifying and implementing activities to improve site financial sustainability.

Component 2: Mainstreaming of AZE concept in financial institutions, business and government policies, and into climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

Component 3: Capacity developed in pilot countries for the application of KBA standards. Documentation of existing and new AZE sites developed, shared and disseminated through the WDKBA and the AZE and KBA websites. Capacity development programs on monitoring, conserving and managing AZE sites designed and implemented at local, national and global level.

1.3 Project Contact

Division(s) Implementing the project

UNEP

Executing Agency(ies)

American Bird Conservancy

Name of co-implementing Agency

Names of Other Project Partners

Governments of Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Madagascar; BirdLife International; Asity Madagascar; SOH Conservation; Instituto Humboldt, The Chilean Association of Herpetology Network (RECH)

TM: UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)

TM: UNEP Task Manager(s)

TM: UNEP Budget/Finance Officer

TM: UNEP Support/Assistant

Ersin Esen

George Saddimbah

Aska Ochiel

EA: Manager/Representative

EA: Project Manager

EA: Finance Manager

EA: Communications lead, if relevant

Amy Upgren

Rachel Volchko

2- OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

TM: UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)

Nature

TM: UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

TM: PoW Indicator(s)

2.iv: PoWIndicator
Increase in territory of land- and
seascapes that is under
improved ecosystem
conservation and restoration

EA: UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages

This project is most closely linked with SDG 15, in particular 15.5 due to its focus on preventing species extinctions, 15.9 due to its focus on mainstreaming AZE site conservation. It also links with several other SDGs, including SDG 5, because of the focus on gender equality.

EA: Link to relevant SDG Goals

15, Life on Land

EA: Link to relevant SDG Targets

Target 15, Indicator 15.5 and 15.9

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	
✓ as created or under improved management for conse		919,639	919,639	0
✓ andscapes under improved practices (excluding prote		978,749	978,749	0
✓ 1: People benefitting from GEF-financed investment		10000	10000	0
✓				
✓				
✓				

Implementation Status

2023

1st PIR

FY 2023

FY 2022

FY 2021

FY 2020

FY 2019

FY 2018

FY 2017

FY 2016

FY 2015

PIR #

1st PIR

Rating towards outcomes
(DO) (section 3.1)

S

Rating towards outputs (IP)
(section 3.2)

S

Risk rating
(section 4.2)

L

2.3 Implementation status & Risk

EA: Summary of status
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

The project was initiated at a Global Inception Meeting in October 2022. It is progressing well. Monitoring is underway and initial results are now coming in, which will inform conservation planning decisions. National and local stakeholders are integrated into the first phases of conservation plan development. Conservation management actions have begun at some sites. At Ankafobe in Madagascar, for example, a serious fire affected the site in late 2022. As a result, restoration efforts have already begun, with 669 seedlings of the AZE species Sohisika being grown in a nursery.

Initial steps towards assessing OECM potential have been taken in Chile and Madagascar. Public awareness and educational events have been held at multiple sites in Madagascar, and new partnerships with local groups have been created in Dominican Republic that focus on improving local understanding of the AZE trigger species *Leuconotis quiqueana*. Private sector options for AZE site conservation have been explored with potential private sector partners in Chile and Dominican Republic, and feasibility studies for sustainable revenue generation are underway in Dominican Republic, where sustainable coffee opportunities at one project AZE site and ecotourism potential at the other project AZE site are being analyzed. At the Manjakatempo project AZE site in Madagascar, a survey to identify nature-based livelihood options was carried out with local communities.

Early progress has been made in protected area designation process. In Colombia, government designation to protect a portion of a project AZE site is underway. This effort, achieved in close collaboration with local communities, will add just under 2,000 ha to previously unprotected area of the AZE site Enclave Seco del Rio Dagua. In Dominican Republic, over 200 hectares of habitat were purchased to expand private protected areas adjacent to one of the project AZE sites.

AZE mainstreaming efforts have also begun. BirdLife International led a project-wide mainstreaming webinar in February and subsequent one-on-one meetings with project leads in each country to advance mainstreaming efforts. Mapping of private sector and financial stakeholders is underway; policy analysis guidance for the assessment, identification and prioritization of relevant national policies for AZE integration has been shared with project partners; and guidance on mainstreaming AZE site conservation approach is currently in development. ABC was invited to present in a webinar on sustainable finance to 57 Chilean and multinational banks and businesses. This presentation focused on the benefits of and tools for integrating AZE into safeguard policies, including IBAT, which will serve as a model for future webinars with the private sector. In addition, AZE has joined the NBSAP Forum 2.0 and is in the process of developing information to be shared with CBD Parties via the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project. An initial meeting was held with the NBSAP Forum 2.0 leads at UNDP to discuss opportunities for AZE engagement.

A 3-day KBA workshop was held in Colombia on the process of identification and delimitation of KBAs. Twenty-seven participants from research institutes, government entities and NGOs were in attendance.

Preliminary new and revised AZE sites are in draft form. Following additional review and consultations, new sites and trigger species are likely to be proposed, and some current AZE sites are likely to be removed from the AZE list, though they would remain as KBAs.

A Gender Integration Toolkit was developed specifically for the GEF AZE project. This toolkit includes two worksheets to identify the potential roles of different stakeholder groups in gender mainstreaming and to develop a strategy to encourage gender equality. It is available in both Spanish and English.

While overall project risk is low, three risks are assessed as medium. The first, Climate change impacts degrade or alter the last remaining habitats of one or more AZE trigger species, has already affected the project, as a serious fire burned part of the Ankafobe AZE site in Madagascar. Though restoration efforts are already underway, this fire highlights the continued risk that climate change will pose to AZE sites and species. The second risk, Weak or poor commitment by government agencies, has also already impacted our project. Despite early engagement with and interest by a specific government agency in Colombia in participating in the project, this agency has since decided to disengage from the project. As a result, some of the project AZE sites in Colombia need to be revised. Discussions with new partners at other AZE sites have been initiated. The third risk, Lack of participation of local Indigenous Communities and/or of the financial sector, has not faced any obstacles thus far in the project.

2.4 Co-finance

EA: Planned Co-finance

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

8,000,000

EA: Actual to date:

1,512,334

Cofinance is proceeding on track. Discussions with several potential partners have been held and as a result, additional cofinance from new entities may be forthcoming in the next year. A challenge is changes to the project AZE site in Colombia, since much of the cofinance from that country was directly linked to the project AZE sites. We are currently evaluating options for ensuring that overall cofinance levels remain on target.

2.5. Stakeholder

EA: Date of project steering committee meeting

11-Oct-22

EA: Stakeholder engagement
(will be uploaded to GEF Portal)

Stakeholder engagement has generally been strong in the project, though we expect stronger engagement in the second half of 2023 when on-the-ground efforts at all project sites is underway. National and local stakeholders have been involved in the early phases of conservation plan development. Public awareness and educational events have been held at multiple sites in Madagascar, and new partnerships with local groups have been created in Dominican Republic that focus on improving local understanding of the AZE trigger species. Opportunities for nature-based livelihood options are in development in partnership with local communities in Colombia, Dominican Republic and Madagascar. For example, in Colombia, local stakeholders have been engaged in the protected area designation process to expand protection at a project AZE site. This effort focuses not only on expanding protection but also on nature-based livelihood options for local communities, such as agroforestry.

At the national level, discussions on OECM potential in Chile included both NGO and government participants. Similarly, a 3-day KBA identification and delimitation workshop held in Colombia included twenty-seven participants from Colombian research institutes, government entities and NGOs. Global stakeholders have also been engaged in the project. A webinar by ABC on the benefits of and tools for integrating AZE into safeguard policies, including IBAT, was presented to over 50 Chilean and multinational private sector entities.

Tools created or adapted for the project, such as a Participation Assessment Tool and a Gender Integration Toolkit, are expected to increase stakeholder engagement and have been translated into Spanish for greater accessibility.

2.6. Gender

TM: Does the project have a gender action plan?

Yes

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

A Gender Integration Toolkit for the project, to be used by project partners to advance gender mainstreaming, has been developed; Project leads in 2 of 4 (50%) of the project countries are women, the project manager and financial manager at the executing agency are women, 1 of 2 project leads (50%) at key project partner (BirdLife International) is a woman. Gender is being mainstreamed as the project gets underway.

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

No

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

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

No

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

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

2.7. ESSM

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

While the project's safeguards risks are low, the following efforts are being made to manage any possible environmental or social risk. Stakeholder lists created during project development are being reviewed to ensure that those who are interested and may be affected positively or negatively around the project activities, approaches or results are consulted, and in Dominican Republic for example, additional stakeholders have been invited to participate in the project. Plans have been made to engage vulnerable or marginalized people in an informed, inclusive, transparent, and equal manner. For example, in Chile plans are underway to hire two Indigenous coordinators to ensure the equal representation and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in project activities. Gender-balanced representation in the design and implementation of the project is in progress, with a Gender Integration Tool developed specifically for this project to promote the inclusion of women in the project at all levels. While the grievance redress mechanism was explained during project development, it will also be highlighted at the upcoming in-person project meeting in September 2023, as part of a larger session on environmental and social safeguards. To ensure that possible economic benefits include marginalized or vulnerable groups, including women in poverty, efforts to develop nature-based livelihood options are involving potentially marginalized groups through community surveys, in the case of Madagascar, and through explicit integration of women, in the case of Dominican Republic. In terms of environmental risks, this project is not expected to add risk but instead to help mitigate risk. For example, the conservation actions to be implemented by the project should improve resilience against potential climate change impacts.

2.8. KM/Learning

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

Gender Integration Toolkit, Updated AZE factsheet, Dedicated project webpage, Presentation (PPT) on AZE for financial institutions and businesses

Please attach a copy of any products

EA: Main learning during the period

One lesson learned is that even when project partners are involved in the project from the very beginning, unforeseen changes may occur. In Colombia, early discussions with and interest from National Parks to collaborate with the project led to the inclusion of three national parks as project AZE sites. However, since the project officially began, this interest has diminished to the point where changes in the project AZE sites are necessary. While this is a obstacle, we have learned to adapt to this challenge by reaching out to potential new partners working at other AZE sites in Colombia.

2.9. Stories

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

The strong public-private collaboration in conserving the AZE site Bayahibe in Dominican Republic would be a strong story to share. Similarly, the fire at the Ankafobe AZE site in Madagascar and the subsequent efforts by project partner Missouri Botanical Garden to restore the site may be of interest to the GEF communications division. A third story that could be of broad interest is the engagement of local communities in nature-based livelihood options that are being developed in conjunction with the expansion of protection at the project AZE site, Enclave Seco del Rio Dagua, in Colombia.

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
Objective							
To improve the conservation of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.		EA to fill	EA to fill	EA to fill	EA to fill	EA to fill	
Outcome 1							
Outcome 1.1. Improved protection of critically endangered and endangered species through implementation of priority AZE site conservation actions	1. Management plans developed and adopted for over 1,054,714 ha at 20 AZE sites in project countries	12 Management Plans	14 Management Plans	20 Management Plans	10%	Data to inform the development and updating of management plans for the project AZE sites is currently being gathered. Initial discussions with stakeholders are taking place. See 1.1.1.1. for additional information.	S
	2. Populations of key species at pilot sites remain stable and/or increase	Declining: 23 Threatened: 1 Stable: 1 Increasing: 0	Declining: 0 Threatened: 1 Stable: ≥ 14 Increasing: ≥10	Declining: 0 Threatened: 0 Stable: ≥10 Increasing: ≥15	0%	It is early in the project to have results on this indicator. Data are being collected through monitoring efforts that will inform this indicator.	S

		<p>Chile AZE Sites</p> <p>Puquios-Ollagüe: 1</p> <p>Las Cascadas Loa River: 3</p> <p>Mehuín 1: 39</p> <p>Murmuntani: 1</p> <p>Los Molles - Pichidanguí coastal area: 7</p> <p>Río Vilama: 1</p> <p>Tocopilla coastal hills: 1</p> <p>Zapahuira: 1</p> <p>Colombia AZE Sites</p> <p>Enclave Seco del Río Dagua: 27</p> <p>Farallones de Cali National Park: 70</p> <p>Munchique Natural National Park and southern extension: 64</p> <p>Páramo Urrao / Colibrí del Sol Bird Reserve: 61</p> <p>Parque Nacional Natural Chingaza and surroundings: 67</p> <p>Dominican Republic AZE Sites</p> <p>Bayahibe: 7</p> <p>Padre Domingo</p>	<p>≥ 5% increase from baseline for all sites</p>	<p>≥ 20 % increase from baseline for all sites</p>	<p>0%</p>	<p>While work towards the actions that will increase METT scores is being determined and implemented, changes to METT scores will not be available until the METT assessment at project midterm.</p>	<p>S</p>
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	4. Equitable participation of women and Indigenous Communities in conservation plan development and implementation.	Gender Action Plan with indicators disaggregated by sex, developed during PPG to ensure women have equitable access, participation, and benefits. Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) developed during PPG to ensure Indigenous Peoples have equitable access, participation, and benefits	At least 50% of indicators in Gender Action Plan are met. At least 50% of indicators in Indigenous Peoples Plan are met.	100% of indicators in Gender Action Plan are met. 100% of indicators in Indigenous Peoples Plan are met.	10%	<p>The Gender Action Plan has been shared with all project partners. A gender integration toolkit, developed specifically for this project, provides resources and suggestions to partners to develop a strategy to help women get involved in the decision-making process.</p> <p>Advances have already been made in meeting indicators in the Gender Action Plan. Progress has been made on the goal of ensuring that all capacity building and support provided by the project for nature-based livelihood options equitably include women and men. A proposal to the National Agricultural Bank of Dominican Republic to support local communities in producing sustainable coffee includes the provision that at least 40% of the beneficiary families be those headed by young people under 35 years of age and women.</p>	S
	5. GEF Core Indicator 1.2: Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness	919,639 hectares under management	Actions towards 919,639 hectares of terrestrial protected areas under improved management agreed by the stakeholders	919,639 hectares of terrestrial protected areas under increasingly improved management	10%	<p>An evaluation of all baseline METTS led to the development of recommendations to improve management at each of the 20 project AZE sites. Next steps are to review these recommendations to help inform decisions on management actions at each site.</p> <p>Two project AZE sites are in the process of being expanded to protect additional habitat. See 1.1.1.4 and 1.1.2.4 for additional information.</p> <p>Nature-based livelihood opportunities for local communities are being evaluated at several project sites in two project countries. See 1.1.5.1 and 1.1.5.2 for additional information. In Madagascar, initial efforts to transfer management of the use of non-timber forest products to local communities are underway at on project AZE site. See 1.1.2.1 for additional information.</p>	S

	6. GEF Core Indicator 4.1: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity	0	Actions towards 978,749 hectares of landscapes under improved management agreed by the stakeholders	978,749 hectares of landscapes under increasingly improved management	10%	Monitoring conducted at project AZE sites will provide a baseline for proposed actions for improved site management. Conservation plan development, educational outreach events, socio-economic surveys of local communities, and proposals to local and national development banks to advance the sustainability of project AZE sites are in progress.	S
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Outcome 2

Outcome 2.1. Biodiversity conservation enhanced and extinction threat reduced through mainstreaming AZE site conservation.	1. Number of financial institutions (national, regional, and global banks and agencies) in the four project countries that integrate AZE site conservation into their policy/operational approaches and ongoing screening of potential investments and	National Lending Institutions: 1 (Bancolombia S.A.) Regional Lending Institutions: 2 (Inter-American Development Bank) (Development Bank of Latin America)	National Lending Institutions: 2 Regional Lending Institutions: 3	National Lending Institutions: 4 Regional Lending Institutions: 4	5%	AZE was invited to present in a webinar on sustainable finance to 57 multinational and Chilean banks and businesses by Arcadis, a multinational consulting firm. The title of the presentation by AZE was "Biodiversity Challenges for investment projects: experience and perspectives." The talk focused on the benefits of and tools, such as IBAT, for integrating AZE into safeguard policies, and will serve as a model for future webinars with the private sector. Please see 2.1.1.4 for additional information.	S
	2. Number of reports and plans by project country governments that include the conservation of AZE sites.	12 Management Plans	14 Management Plans 11 METT Reports	20 Management Plans 20 METT Reports	5%	AZE has joined the NBSAP Forum 2.0 and is in the process of developing information to be shared with CBD Parties via the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project. An initial meeting was held with the NBSAP Forum 2.0 leads at UNDP to discuss opportunities for AZE engagement.	S
	3. Number of finance institutions and companies operating in the four project countries and more broadly using IBAT to better scope and plan their actions within the vicinity of AZE sites	Chile: 0 Colombia: 0 Dominican Republic: 0 Madagascar: 0	4 in project countries	12 in project countries	5%	AZE was invited to present in a webinar on sustainable finance to 57 multinational and Chilean banks and businesses by Arcadis, a multinational consulting firm. The title of the presentation by AZE was "Biodiversity Challenges for investment projects: experience and perspectives." The talk focused on the benefits of and tools, such as IBAT, for integrating AZE into safeguard policies, and will serve as a model for future webinars with the private sector. Please see 2.1.1.4 for additional information.	S

Outcome 3.1

Outcome 3.1 Application of KBA standards is advanced in pilot countries.	1. Number of existing and new AZE sites, confirmed and documented in the project countries.	Chile: 21 AZE sites, 196 KBAs in total Colombia: 39 AZE sites, 152 KBAs in total Dominican Republic: 4 AZE sites, 35 KBAs in total Madagascar: 53 AZE sites, 240 KBAs in total	Chile: Baseline + 1 Colombia: Baseline + 1 Dominican Republic: Baseline + 1 Madagascar: Baseline + 1	Chile: Baseline + 2 Colombia: Baseline + 2 Dominican Republic: Baseline + 2 Madagascar: Baseline + 2	20%	Progress is being made for this indicator. New AZE sites in Colombia, Dominican Republic and Chile have been preliminarily proposed and are in review. Please see 3.1.2.5 for more information.	S
Outcome 3.2							
Outcome 3.2. Increased understanding and application of AZE site conservation implementation in policies and plans by local, national, regional and global stakeholders	Number of policies, strategies and plans developed or implemented by local communities, private sector groups, NGOs, and other stakeholders to apply AZE knowledge in their conservation and community practices, including at least 1 on-the-ground intervention.	Policies, strategies, and plans: 3 (Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Madagascar)	Policies, strategies, and plans: 7	Policies, strategies, and plans: 11	5%	AZE has joined the NBSAP Forum 2.0 and is in the process of developing information to be shared with CBD Parties via the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project and for project countries to share nationally. An initial meeting was held with the NBSAP Forum 2.0 leads at UNDP to discuss opportunities for AZE engagement.	S
	GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries as co-benefit of GEF investment	0 women, 0 men		5,000 women; 5,000 men	10%	A Gender Integration Toolkit for the project, to be used by project partners to advance gender mainstreaming, has been developed; Project leads in 2 of 4 (50%) of the project countries are women, the project manager and financial manager at the executing agency are women, 1 of 2 project leads (50%) at key project partner (BirdLife International) is a woman. Gender is being mainstreamed as the project gets underway. For example, a proposal has been presented to the National Agricultural Bank in Dominican Republic to help 200 families produce sustainable coffee and establish a system to market it. At least 40% of the beneficiary families would be headed by young people under 35 years of age and women.	S

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
Under Comp 1					
Output 1.1.1. Conservation plans for each site developed and being implemented.			15%	Excellent progress has been made in the Dominican Republic, where private reserves have been expanded near the AZE site to provide additional protection to key habitats. In	S
1.1.1.1. Data collection for monitoring	31-Dec-23	NA	25%	Four monitoring surveys have been conducted in the Dominican Republic, two at the Bayahibe	S
1.1.1.2. Revision or Updating of Conservation Plans	31-Aug-25	NA	0%	To be initiated shortly.	MS
1.1.1.3. New Conservation Plans	31-Dec-24	NA	10%	A conservation plan for the AZE site Bayahibe is in development in collaboration with the	S
1.1.1.4. METT Implementation	31-Dec-25	NA	15%	In the Dominican Republic, two land purchases were completed that will benefit the	S
Output 1.1.2. Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) approach tested and OECM status achieved. Where applicable, process to designate AZE sites as new protected areas initiated and advanced.			15%	In Colombia, a public protected area at the AZE site Enclave Seco del Rio Dagua is being expanded to include an additional 1,954 ha under protection. Discussions have been held with the Central Romana Corporation, which owns part of the Bayahibe AZE site in Dominican Republic. Initial efforts to assess the OECM potential of AZE sites in the project countries have begun in Chile and Madagascar.	S
1.1.2.1. Assessment of OECM potential	31-Aug-24	NA	10%	A meeting on OECMs in Chile was held on March 2, 2023 with WWF-Chile, UN Environment	S
1.1.2.2. OECM proposals	31-Dec-24	NA	0%	To be started once assessments have progressed.	MS
1.1.2.3. Protected Area Feasibility Assessment	31-Aug-24	NA	10%	Discussions have been held with the Central Romana Corporation, which owns part of the Bayahibe AZE site in Dominican Republic. If the AZE species is found on their properties, the	S
1.1.2.4. Protected Area Designation Process	31-Dec-25	NA	20%	A project to expand the protected area Integrated Management Regional District Enclave de Atuncela, in Valle del Cauca department, Colombia was initiated in March 2023, following	S
Output 1.1.3. Local communities and NGOs fully integrated into conservation planning process. Participation of women and Indigenous Communities prioritized in the development and implementation of conservation plans.			10%	Public education and awareness efforts have made good headway in Dominican Republic and Madagascar. For example, at the AZE site in Madagascar, three field visits with a total of 45 local children from primary and secondary schools in the villages surrounding the protected area were conducted. Multiple trainings on the use of the project's Participation Assessment Tool have been held with project partners to assess and ensure higher levels of participation from a diversity of stakeholders. Site Conservation Planning trainings will be discussed at the in-	S
1.1.3.1. Participation Assessment Tool Application and Implementation	31-Dec-25	NA	10%	Details on how to use the Participation Assessment Tool developed and shared with the project partners via the project's Google Drive were discussed during the BirdLife webinar organized	S
1.1.3.2. Public Education and Awareness	31-Dec-25	NA	20%	The National Fund of Environment and Natural Resources (Fondo MARENA), a collaborator	S
1.1.3.3. Training in Site Conservation Planning	31-Dec-24	NA	0%	No progress to date. A session on site conservation planning training is slated for the September 2023 GEF AZE in-person meeting.	MS
Output 1.1.4. Opportunities for long-term financial sustainability of AZE site conservation actions identified, such as commitments by private sector entities to finance the management of AZE sites and implemented where applicable.			15%	Private sector options for AZE site conservation have been explored in Chile, Madagascar and Dominican Republic.	S
1.1.4.1. Assessment of Private Sector Options for AZE Site Conservation	30-Jun-24	NA	25%	Multiple discussion have been held with a potential private sector partner about a feasibility assessment for the creation of a protected area at the Tocopilla AZE site in Chile. This partner,	S
1.1.4.2. Publication of Private Sector Options for AZE Site Conservation	31-Dec-24	NA	5%	At the Bemanevika AZE site, two Village Savings and Loan Association are in place, two are being set up, and two are currently being analyzed for feasibility. In addition, capacity building	S
Output 1.1.5. Nature-based livelihood options, including ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) projects, and REDD+ projects, identified and turned into income-generating activities around the AZE sites, where applicable			10%	Site-specific feasibility assessments for nature-based livelihood options and pilot projects have begun in Dominican Republic, where the focus has been on sustainable coffee and ecotourism. At the Manjakatombo AZE site in Madagascar, a socio-economic survey was carried out to identify nature-based livelihood options.	S

1.1.5.1. Site-specific Feasibility Assessments	30-Apr-24	NA	20%	Studies on the feasibility of projects in the coffee sector in Bahoruco, near the Padre Domingo Fuertes Natural Monument AZE site, have been conducted. A proposal has been presented to	S
1.1.5.2. Green Business Pilot Projects	31-Dec-25	NA	5%	In the Dominican Republic, efforts are being initiated to establish an ecotourism center in the	S
Under Comp 2					
Output 2.1.1. Technical services provided to lending institutions, including local, regional, and national banks and investors, for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation.			20%	Financial stakeholders have been mapped in 2 of the 4 project countries. Initial materials and resources for AZE mainstreaming have been developed and shared with project partners. A brief guidance on mainstreaming the AZE site conservation approach is under development. Workshops on mainstreaming the AZE concept have been held with country partners. In Colombia, a national workshop focusing on KBA assessment and monitoring was conducted. A	S
2.1.1.1. Mapping of Financial Stakeholders	30-Sep-23	NA	50%	Details on how to undertake stakeholder mapping (with an example) have been provided in the Participation Assessment Tool and Policy Advocacy Strategy template (also available in	S
2.1.1.2. Materials for AZE Mainstreaming	31-Mar-24	NA	25%	Materials and resources for AZE mainstreaming were compiled and shared via project's Google	S
2.1.1.3. Workshops for National Partners	31-Oct-24	NA	15%	BirdLife organized a two-hour long webinar on 14 February 2023, highlighting key	S
2.1.1.4. AZE & IBAT Awareness Webinars	31-Oct-25	NA	15%	Following the delivery of the first webinar on the details of BirdLife-led activities on 14	S
Output 2.1.2. Financial and technical support to project countries to include AZE in their national policies and regulations.			10%	A Policy Analysis guidance for the assessment, identification and prioritization of relevant national policies for AZE integration has been developed and shared for use by the partners. The next step is to undertake an assessment of gaps and opportunities for AZE integration in national policies.	S
2.1.2.1. Assessment of Opportunities for AZE integration into National Policies - including Climate Change	31-Mar-25	NA	10%	A Policy Analysis guidance for the assessment, identification and prioritization of relevant national policies for AZE integration has been developed and shared for use by the partners. The details of the guidance were discussed with country partners during the February 2023	S
Output 2.1.3 Technical support provided to businesses for strengthening AZE integration into industry policies and standards.			15%	Materials and resources for AZE mainstreaming have been compiled and shared with project partners, and guidance on mapping private sector stakeholders has been provided in one-on-one meetings with each country partner. AZE has joined the NBSAP Forum 2.0 and is in the process of developing information to be shared with CBD Parties via the Global Biodiversity	S
2.1.3.1. Mapping of Private Sector Stakeholders	30-Sep-23	NA	10%	Concurrently with 2.1.1.1, details on how to undertake stakeholder mapping have been provided in the Participation Assessment Tool and Policy Advocacy Strategy template	S
2.1.3.2. AZE and IBAT Webinars	30-May-25	NA	15%	ABC was invited to present in a webinar on sustainable finance to 57 Chilean and multinational	S
2.1.3.3. Materials for AZE Mainstreaming	31-Mar-24	NA	25%	Concurrently with 2.1.1.2, materials and resources for AZE mainstreaming have been compiled	S
Output 2.1.4 Technical support provided for mainstreaming of AZE site conservation into climate mitigation and adaptation actions, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), REDD+, and climate resilience strategies and policies at national and global levels, including national biodiversity, climate, water, forest and land management targets, strategies and plans at the landscape and national scale.			15%	Materials and resources for AZE mainstreaming have been compiled and additional documents are in development, including a brief updated guidance on mainstreaming AZE site conservation approach. A Policy Analysis guidance document for the assessment, identification and prioritization of relevant national policies for AZE integration has been developed and shared with country partners.	S
2.1.4.1. Training on Biodiversity Mainstreaming and AZE	30-Sep-23	NA	10%	AZE mainstreaming remains a key component of the BirdLife-led activities in the project. To fulfil the aim, a series of webinars (including training on biodiversity mainstreaming and AZE)	S
2.1.4.2. Updating of Existing Training Materials	30-Apr-24	NA	20%	As highlighted earlier, materials and resources for AZE mainstreaming have been compiled based on BirdLife's experience of previous projects and useful manuals (e.g. mainstreaming	S
2.1.4.3. Scoping of Opportunities for Green Recovery	30-Nov-25	NA	10%	As described above, a Policy Analysis guidance for assessment, identification and prioritization of relevant national policies for AZE integration has been developed and shared for use by the	S
Under Comp 3					
Output 3.1.1. Capacity developed in pilot countries for the application of KBA standards.			40%	A detailed agenda for KBA workshops has been completed. A 3-day KBA workshop was held in Colombia. The 27 participants included representatives from NGOs, research institutes, government entities, as well as taxonomic experts. This workshop will serve as a model for	S
3.1.1.1. KBA Workshop Agenda	31-Oct-23	NA	100%	A sample agenda for a three-day face-to-face workshop was prepared using as a model the	HS
3.1.1.2. KBA Workshops	31-Oct-24	NA	30%	Within the framework of the project "Key areas for biodiversity - Establishing the plan for	S

Output 3.1.2 Documentation of existing and new AZE sites developed, shared, and disseminated through the World Database of KBAs and the AZE and KBA websites.			10%	Several new and modified AZE sites, including sites in the project countries, have been proposed and are currently under review. Plans are underway for map updates to be made prior to the next report (December 2023).	S
3.1.2.1. Recreation of Map in ESRI	Jul-24	NA	0%	It is anticipated that there will be several new AZEs included in the September 2023 release,	S
3.1.2.2. Create View of AZE from Master KBA	Aug-24	NA	0%	This activity is on hold while wider plans for the redevelopment of the BirdLife DataZone into a Knowledge Hub are developed. It is anticipated that the underlying infrastructure needed for	S
3.1.2.3. Annual AZE updates on Website	31-Dec-25	NA	0%	Updates are expected in September 2023.	S
3.1.2.4. Reassess Candidate AZE Sites	31-Jul-24	NA	5%	The dataset of candidate AZEs, identified in 2017, but not confirmed at that time was located	S
3.1.2.5. Data Assessment and Submission for New AZE Sites	31-Dec-25	NA	25%	One new Amphibian triggered AZE site in Ecuador has recently been confirmed by the KBA Secretariat and will be included in the September 2023 KBA Release.	S
Output 3.2.1: Improved knowledge of site-based conservation in non-project countries supported.			5%	While the current project is still in its beginning phases and has few lessons learned, lessons learned from the previous GEF AZE project have been integrated into the current project.	S
3.2.1.1. Systematization of Lessons Learned	31-Dec-25	NA	10%	Lessons learned from the previous GEF AZE project have been integrated into the current project. For example, at the recommendation of the Terminal Evaluation, we have set up a	S
3.2.1.2. Integration of AZE into Community Practices	31-Dec-25	NA	0%	No progress to date.	S
Output 3.2.2: Capacity development programs (trainings and workshops) on monitoring, conserving and managing AZE sites designed and implemented at local, national and global level. The participation of women and Indigenous Communities in these programs will be prioritized.			10%	A Gender Integration Toolkit developed specifically for the GEF AZE project aims to help users 1) understand the causes of gender inequality in a community, 2) identify the groups affected by gender inequality, and 3) develop a strategy to help women get involved in the decision-making process. A webinar on AZE and sustainable finance that AZE presented at the invitation of Arcadis, a multinational consulting firm, included both firms that work exclusively in Chile as well as many that work regionally and globally.	S
3.2.2.1. Develop Gender-sensitive Training Materials	30-Apr-24	NA	20%	A Gender Integration Toolkit was developed specifically for the GEF AZE project. This toolkit aims to help users 1) understand the causes of gender inequality in a community, 2) identify	S
3.2.2.2. National Workshops	31-Dec-25	NA	0%	An initial national workshop will be held in the second half of 2023.	S
3.2.2.3. Regional and Global Level Webinars	31-Dec-25	NA	5%	The webinar on AZE and sustainable finance that AZE presented at the invitation of Arcadis, a multinational consulting firm, included both firms that work exclusively in Chile as well as many	S
Output 3.2.3: Communication strategies produced and provided to governments for the promotion of improved understanding of the AZE concept at local, regional, and national levels.			5%	AZE has joined the NBSAP Forum 2.0 and is in the process of developing information to be shared with CBD Parties via the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) project and for project countries to share nationally.	S
3.2.3.1. Production of National Webinar Materials	Nov-24	NA	5%	AZE has joined the NBSAP Forum 2.0 and is in the process of developing information to be shared with CBD Parties via the Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS)	S
3.2.3.2. Production of Social Media Materials for Governments	Sep-25	NA	0%	Updates are expected in September 2023.	S

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 and agreed upon	✓ Low : well developed, stable management structure and roles/responsibilities are clearly defined and agreed upon
2 Governance structure - Oversight	✓ Low : Oversight Committee and/or other project bodies are in place and active	✓ Low : Oversight Committee and/or other project bodies are in place and active
3 Implementation schedule	✓ Low : Project progressing according to original work plan and Adaptive Management processes	✓ Low : Project progressing according to original work plan and Adaptive Management processes
4 Budget	✓ Low : Activities are progressing within planned budget and balanced	✓ Low : Activities are progressing within planned budget and balanced
5 Financial Management	✓ Low : Fund use is correctly managed and reported	✓ Low : Fund use is correctly managed and reported
6 Reporting	✓ Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and confirm correct use of funds	✓ Low : Substantive reports are presented in a timely manner and confirm correct use of funds
7 Capacity to deliver	✓ Low : Technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before	✓ Low : Technical and managerial capacity of institutions and other project partners and Capacity gaps were addressed before

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)

1st 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							Variation respect to last rating	
	Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	PIR 6	Δ	Justification
Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic	All	H	L						↓	COVID risks have lowered significantly since project development phase.
Climate change impacts degrade or alter the last remaining habitats of one or more AZE trigger species	Comp. 1	L	M						↑	Climate change impacts (fire) have already degraded the habitat in one project AZE site at the very beginning of the project.
Climate change impacts have uncertain effects on AZE sites	Comp. 1	L	L						=	
Weak or poor commitment by government agencies	Comp 1 and 2	M	M						=	This risk of government agency commitments to this project being reduced happened at the beginning of our project, when one agency decided against participating in the project despite its initial commitment to do so.
Lack of participation of local Indigenous Communities and/or of the financial sector	Comp 1 and 2	M	M						=	So far, this risk has not been an issue.
Political instability or changes alter governmental priorities related to biodiversity conservation.	All	L	L						=	So far, this risk has not been an issue.
A snapshot approach to AZE site assessments could miss longer-term trends that affect site vulnerability	Comp. 1	L	L						=	We believe we have sufficient data and information to assess key long-term trends. Project partners are knowledgeable experts on the project sites and work closely to understand site vulnerabilities.
Lack of interest in or resistance to conservation actions at AZE sites by local communities	All	L	L						=	We have found that local communities are keen to advance conservation actions at AZE sites.

All	L	L								Project partners are keen to ensure gender mainstreaming is achieved. However, the risk of not fully achieving a 50/50 gender representation in the project remains.
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	L	L								This section focuses on the variation. The overall rating is discussed in section 2.3.
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List here only risks from Table A and B above that have a risk rating of M or higher in the current PIR

List here only risks from Table A and B above that have a risk rating of High or Higher in the current TIR			Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By whom
Climate change impacts degrade or alter the last remaining habitats of one or more AZE trigger species	N/A	One focus of the project at the site affected by fire (Ankafobe, in Madagascar) will be on recovering from the fire impacts and building additional resilience to mitigate future impacts. Reforestation efforts are already underway: seedlings of the AZE species (the CR sohisika tree <i>Schizolaena tampoketsana</i>) are being grown in nurseries for future planting.	Reforestation of several species, including the AZE trigger species; fire prevention efforts such as prescribed burns implemented.	Over the next year	By project partner Missouri Botanical Garden
Weak or poor commitment by government agencies	N/A	This risk will be mitigated moving forward by 1) adapting by selecting 3 new project AZE sites and 2) mainstreaming AZE in to national plans and policies.	Continued efforts on AZE mainstreaming to solidify commitments by government agencies to prioritize AZE site conservation	Over next 2 years	By project partners (BirdLife International, ABC, government partners in project countries)
Lack of participation of local Indigenous Communities and/or of the financial sector	N/A	Mapping of financial sector stakeholders and initial outreach to financial sector.	Follow project's Indigenous Peoples Participation Planning Framework and continue strong outreach to and webinars/discussions with financial sector stakeholders	Over entire project	By all project partners (BirdLife International, ABC, and all partners in project countries)

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					
Amendment 1	Revision				
Extension 1	Extension				

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>) or GeoNames(<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\(https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/assets/general/Geocoding%20User%20Guide.docx\)](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
AZE site Rio Vilama, Chile	-22.87	-68.00			
AZE site Murmantani, Chile	-21.18	-68.37			
AZE site Zapahuira, Chile	-18.19	-69.78			
AZE site Los River, Chile	-22.32	-68.65			
AZE site Los Molles - Pichidangui coastal area, Chile	-32.14	-71.47			
AZE site Tocopilla, Chile	-22.20	-70.19			
AZE site Mehuin 1, Chile	-39.39	-73.14			
AZE site Enclave Seco del Rio Dagua, Colombia	3.73	-76.67			
AZE site Páramo Urrao / De Las Aves Colibri El Sol, Colombia	6.48	-76.16			
AZE site Bayahibe, Dominican Republic	18.42	-68.87			
AZE site Monumento Natural Miguel Domingo Fuerte, Dominican Republic	18.11	-71.19			
AZE site Manjakatampo-Ankaratra, Madagascar	-19.35	47.30			

AZE site Itremo, Madagascar		-20.57	46.48			
AZE site Mahavavy - Kinkony, Madagascar		-16.02	45.88			
AZE site Bemanevika / Tsaratanana massif, Madagascar		-14.35	48.61			
AZE site Ankafoke, Madagascar		-18.10	47.18			

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

[Annex any linked geospatial file]