



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Europe & Central Asia
Country (ies):	Tajikistan
Project Title:	Facilitating agrobiodiversity (ABD) conservation and sustainable use to promote food and nutritional resilience in Tajikistan (MSP)
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP /TAJ/021/GFF
GEF ID:	10821
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
Project Executing Partners:	FAO Tajikistan
Initial project duration (years):	3,5
Project coordinates: <i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> <i>a) Projects with 1st PIR;</i> <i>b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.</i>	Shahriston district of Soughd province, north Tajikistan Rasht and Tojikobod districts of Districts of Republican Subordination (DRS), south Tajikistan Baljuvon district of Khatlon province, south-east Tajikistan

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	25-Aug-2021
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	01-Apr-2022
Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	30-Sep-2025
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) ²	n/a

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	\$1,776,484
Total Co-financing amount (USD)³:	\$12,400,000
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	\$ 376,439
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)⁴:	\$219,302
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023⁵	\$ 2,091,000

¹ As per FPMIS

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

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

⁴ The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

⁵ Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	30 June 2023
Expected Mid-term Review date ⁶ :	June 2024
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	Not yet
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date ⁷ :	March 2025
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	

Overall ratings

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

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Low risk
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Status

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

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Mr. Kholov Khurshed	khurshed.kholov@fao.org
Budget Holder (BH)	Mr. Guchgeldiyev Oleg (FETAJ)	Oleg.Guchgeldiyev@fao.org
GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)	Mr. Bakhodur Sheralizoda Chairman of the Committee of Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan	cepciptj@gmail.com
Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Mrs. Carolina Rizzi Starr (REUTD)	Carolina.Starr@fao.org
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Mr Kaan Evren Basaran (REUTD)	Kaan.Basaran@fao.org

⁶ The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

⁷ The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.							
Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators ⁸	Baseline	Mid-term Target Mid-term Target ⁹	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress ¹⁰ since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating ¹¹
Conservation, Sustainable Use and Securing of the national and globally significant agrobiodiversity and the associated knowledge and cultural aspects of traditional agro-ecosystems of Tajikistan	Outcome 1: Enabling environment supports conservation of globally important agrobiodiversity (ABD)	Indicator 1: GEF Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) for maintenance of landraces and promotion of conservation of crop wild relatives (hectares)	None	(1.a) 30 active LR on-farm sites covering 600 hectares for maintenance of landraces	(1.a) 80 active LR on-farm sites covering 1,600 hectares for maintenance of landraces established	FAO signed LOA with National Centre for Environmental Protection Action (NCEPA) of the Committee of Environmental Protection (CoEP) under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for implementation of the project activities. The NCEPA of CoEP is appointed as state responsible organization and project executing partner on behalf of Government beneficiary organization in FAO-GEF Project implementation. FAO Project hired five (5) national specialist on Policy and legislation, ABD conservation, on-Farm production, CWR conservation and PPB. All specialists have necessary skills and knowledge in best conservation practices and techniques of LR. Moreover, the FAO Project contracted two (2) international consultants on CWR conservation and on-farm Plant breeding. Until June 2023, 10 farms identified in each target district, who actively deal with LR on-farm production, especially, legumes (beans, lentils, wheat, corn, oats) and fruits and nuts varieties (apple, pear, apricot, mulberry, Greek nuts, almond). In total 40 farms (1 ha each; direct: 40 ha; indirect (impact): 500 ha) captured by FAO Project by 2023.	S
				(1.b) 3 active CWR genetic reserves covering 150 hectares	(1.b) 10 active CWR genetic reserves covering 600 hectares established	Field data collection launched to enable assessment of CWR. FAO Project has signed LOA with National Centre for Genetic Resources to carry out inventory of agrobiodiversity, including LR and CWR from project sites. By June 2023, FAO project collected data on above 50 active CWR genetic reserves covering more than 10,000 ha of land in protected areas and natural reserves of Shahrison district (Kusavliyskiy natural reserve), Baljuvon district (Sari-Khosor national park) and Rasht district (Kamarob natural reserve).	S

⁸ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

⁹ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹⁰ Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic co-benefits as well.

¹¹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Moderately Satisfactory** (MS), **Moderately Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU). Refer to Annex 1.

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			(1.c) 1 PA management plans (Sarikhosor Park 300 ha and Kusavliyskiy reserve 19,844 ha) updated to mainstreaming CWR conservation	(1.c) 2 PA management plans (Sarikhosor Park 300 ha and Kusavliyskiy reserve 19,844 ha) updated to mainstreaming CWR conservation	FAO Project signed Letter of Agreement with National Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety of the Committee of Environmental Protection for national policy and legislative framework improvement on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use as well as for updating management plans of 2 Protected Areas: Shahrison and Baljuvon. The final update of the management plans of 2 PAs is expected by Q2 of 2024.	S
	Indicator 2: GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender	None	600 (300 men and 300 women)	2,370 (1,185 men and 1,185 women)	By June 2023, FAO Project provided trainings to a total of 818 farmers (290 women) including family members in 4 target districts. This number is subject to increase by end of 2023.	HS
	Indicator 3: Number of community seed banks functional	None	1 community seed banks established	3 community seed banks established	The project identified the locations and potential farms for establishment of seed banks in Shahrison, Baljuvon and Rasht. Pilot operation of community seed banks is expected by end of 2023 and full operation and maintenance of seeds banks is envisaged in 2024 and 2025. 1. Seed Bank Shahrison – Commercial Cooperative “Buragen”; 2. Seed Bank Rasht – local farm “Gulruksor”; 3. Seed Bank Baljuvon – local farm Khudjai Sabz.	HS
	Indicator 4: Number of additional seed accessions of selected crops and CWR accessions established in seed bank	2,348 seed accessions of 49 genera in seed bank	200 seed accessions of 15 crops and 100 CWR accessions established in gene bank	400 seed accessions of 30 crops and 200 CWR established in seed bank	FAO Project collected information about availability of 54 seeds accessions of 25 crops : wheat and legumes (beans, lentils, wheat, corn, oats), vegetables (onion, carrot, garlic, pumpkin, etc.) and fruits and nuts varieties (apple, pear, apricot, mulberry, Greek nuts, almond) and recorded availability of 50 CWR in target districts. The seeds are still under collection and their establishment in seed banks expected by end of 2023, and full set by 2024.	S
	Indicator 5: Percentage of geo-referenced datasets available for CWR taxa and number of landrace datasets available for crops in target sites	None	CWR geo-referenced datasets for 80% taxa and LR datasets available for 15 crops in target sites	CWR geo-referenced datasets for 100% taxa and LR datasets available for 30 crops in target sites	Project signed LOA with National Centre of Genetic Resources and this indicator is an outcome for 2024	S
	Indicator 6: Status of assessment and modeling of resilience and fitness of crop LR and CWR for climate adaptation	None	150 LR of 15 crops and 50 CWR assessed	150 LR of 15 crops and 50 CWR assessed	Project signed LOA with National Centre of Genetic Resources and this indicator is an outcome for 2024	S
	Indicator 7: Level of national recognition and commitment for conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity in Tajikistan	Limited commitment to conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity	Review and gap assessment completed; broad consensus achieved on priority actions,	National Strategy and Action Plan for Conservation and Use of Agrobiodiversity (NSAP-CUA) prepared and adopted by Inter-Agency Commission on	The Letter of Agreement signed with National Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety of the Committee of Environmental Protection for national policy and legislative framework improvements, especially on development of NSAP-CUA. The final outcome on NSAP-CUA is expected in 2024.	S

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				and draft under preparation	Agrobiodiversity Conservation (IAC)		
		Indicator 8: Status of utilization of CWR population diversity for improved crop development	None in Tajikistan, but building on external research	5 CWR incorporated in breeding program	10 CWR incorporated in breeding program	Outcome is expected in 2024-2025	S
Outcome 2: Increased climate resilience and sustainable use of target landraces and CWR through targeted participatory plant breeding and capacity building to promote crop improvement		Indicator 9: Number of local LR with improved resilience identified	High LR diversity to build upon, but none developed	20 local LR with improved resilience identified	80 local LR with improved resilience identified	Outcome is expected in 2024-2025	S
		Indicator 10: Number of resilient varieties used by the farmers able to improve food security	Some existing varieties used by farmers	4 resilient varieties actively used by the farmers able to improve food security	12 resilient varieties actively used by the farmers able to improve food security	Outcome is expected in 2024-2025	S
		Indicator 11: Number of CWR traits characterized, evaluated and available to be incorporated in crop improvement programs	Practical plant breeders involved in crop development, but CWR assessments not evaluated and breeders lack training to use CWR more effectively	(11.a) 200 LR and 50 CWR accessions characterized and evaluated (11.b) 10 breeders given pre-breeding training (11.c) 2 CWR traits used in crop improvement	(11.a) 400 LR and 100 CWR accessions characterized and evaluated (11.b) 10 breeders involved in breeding crop improvements (11.c) 6 CWR traits used in crop improvement	Outcome is expected in 2024-2025	S
	Outcome 3: Improved policy, knowledge, financing and awareness promotes conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity	Indicator 12: Number of enhanced policies in support of conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity	Current policies lack adequate support for agrobiodiversity	Policy assessment completed to enable identification of gaps in at least 5 existing policies related to agrobiodiversity	5 existing policies amended to enhance gender sensitive agro-forest conservation and sustainable use	<p>FAO signed LOA with NBBC for promoting of national policy and legislative improvement works linked with elaboration of NSAP-CUA including 5 policy amendments. National Legal Specialist is hired and policy gap analysis conducted and analytical report with key recommendations on policy change and amendments provided in the report.</p> <p>5 policy amendments on CUA will be presented to Inter-Ministerial Working Group in June-July 2023 for decision making and advocacy. By-laws on the below listed laws will be prepared as priority amendments in the course of development of new NSAP-CUA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Seed Production" dated January 5, 2008, № 355; 2. Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On collection, preservation and rational use of genetic resources of cultivated plants" of August 1, 2012, № 892; 3. Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On biological farming and production" adopted on July 22, 2013, №1001; 4. Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On breeding" adopted on September 19, 2013, No. 1020; 5. Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On protection of plant varieties" adopted on December 29, 2010, No.672 	S

		Indicator 13: Availability of financial incentives for ABD conservation and LR derived commodity enhancement	None	(13.a) 40 farmers applying community-based incentives for ABD conservation (at least 50% women) (13.b) 40 farmers applying community-based incentives to LR derived commodity enhancement (at least 50% women)	(13.a) 100 farmers applying community-based incentives for ABD conservation (at least 50% women) (13.b) 40 farmers applying community-based incentives to LR derived commodity enhancement (at least 50% women)	ToR for Financial and Credit Specialist is developed and hiring of national specialist is expected at the end of 2023. Outcome 2024-2025;	S
		Indicator 14: Extent of farmers' willingness to accept incentives for supporting ABD conservation and sustainable use	Farmers and communities have pride and value of endogenous ABD resources, but limited means to actively engage	(14.a) 50 community members accept incentives to compensate for public good services (14.b) 50 community members engage in economic assessment of cost-benefit approach to public good services	(14.a) 100 community members accept incentives to compensate for public good services (14.b) 100 community members engage in economic assessment of cost-benefit approach to public good services	ToR for Financial and Credit Specialist developed and hiring of national specialist is expected at the end of 2023. Outcome 2024-2025	S
		Indicator 15: Number of promotional best practice materials developed and disseminated	None	10 promotion materials on ABD values and 10 product campaign and material evaluations	25 promotion materials on ABD values and 25 product campaign and material evaluations	Training modules and education/information materials developed and distributed among local farmers during the training courses. FAO project engaged local mass media and local newspaper and radio to spread information about the Project, ABD conservation and sustainable use. Local newspaper Navidi Baljuvon (Vision of Baljuvon) published article about the project on the local newspaper (1000 editions/month) and started negotiation with Radio Rasht/Tojikobod on broadcasting of a short radio talk on ABD conservation and sustainable use.	S

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

N/A

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs ¹²	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan - 2023)	Main achievements ¹³ (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance ¹⁴ in delivering outputs
Outcome 1.1: Enabling environment supports conservation of globally important agrobiodiversity (ABD)				
<p>1.1.1 Checklists and inventories for crop landraces (LR) and crop wild relatives (CWR) implemented based on FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for LR and CWR conservation</p> <p>1.1.2: Conserved resource gap analysis completed based on ecogeographic data collation of ecological and geographic distributional data</p> <p>1.1.3: Assessment of conserved diversity and crop production resilience completed, covering 300 LR and 100 CWR</p> <p>1.1.4 Tajikistan's National Strategy and Action Plan for Conservation and Use of Agrobiodiversity (NSAP-CUA)</p>	<p><i>3 district-based community seed banks established for conserved landraces and crop wild relatives and accessible to local and remote users</i></p> <p><i>400 seed accessions of 30 crops and 200 CWR established in seed bank</i></p> <p><i>80 active on-farm sites covering 1,600 hectares established for the maintenance of crop landraces</i></p> <p><i>10 active genetic reserves covering 600 ha adapted to promote conservation of crop wild relatives</i></p> <p><i>2 PA management plans updated to mainstreaming CWR conservation</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At least two (2) introductory meetings/ events regarding project activities organized and conducted in each targeted district; Completed consultations with CoEP on creation of Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) for development/ approval of National Programme on ABD conservation in Tajikistan; Inventories completed of on-farm/in-nature populations, and gap analysis and found difference between the ABD diversity population in the wild in nature or cultivated on-farm (conserved either using in-situ or ex-situ techniques); Conducted assessment of current active CWR and landrace in situ and ex situ conservation actions, including comparison analysis undertaken on CWR and landrace diversity 	<p>FAO signed LOA with National Centre for Environmental Protection Action (NCEPA) of the Committee of Environmental Protection (CoEP) under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for implementation of the project activities. The NCEPA of CoEP is appointed as state responsible organization and project executing partner on behalf of Government beneficiary organization in FAO-GEF Project implementation.</p> <p>FAO Project hired five (5) national specialist on Policy and legislation, ABD conservation, on-Farm production, CWR conservation and PPB. All specialists have necessary skills and knowledge in best conservation practices and techniques of LR. Moreover, the FAO Project contracted two (2) international consultants on CWR conservation and on-farm Plant breeding.</p> <p>Until June 2023, 10 farms identified in each target district, who are actively dealt with LR on-farm production, especially, legumes (beans, lentils, wheat,</p>	

¹² Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

¹³ Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁴ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

<p>prepared and adopted by Inter-Agency Commission on Agrobiodiversity Conservation (IAC)</p> <p>1.1.5 Conservation measures in NSAP-CUA implemented by management type as follows:</p> <p>(i) maintenance of crop</p> <p>(ii) management plans for genetic reserves with active management plans</p> <p>(iii) Seed accessions and CWR held in the national gene bank</p> <p>1.1.6: Capacity building program for local communities developed and implemented to support on-farm maintenance of traditional crop landraces, with special attention to women groups.</p> <p>1.1.7: Capacity building plan for Tajik conservation professionals (i.e. central and field government staff), including a special section on advanced ABD conservation techniques, developed and implemented</p>	<p><i>Guidelines for CWR in-situ conservation adapted to application in Tajikistan</i></p> <p><i>At least 1,400 farmers trained with improved skills for on-farm management of landrace diversity (50% women)</i></p> <p><i>At least 60 conservation professional & field staff trained and promoting on-farm maintenance of landrace diversity (50% women)</i></p>	<p>with CWR taxa actively conserved in the wild and landraces cultivated on-farm.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Completed Mapping of the potential farmers willing to cooperate under the project; and 6. Capacity building program developed and implemented among local communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 active on-farm sites, covering 500 ha (out of total of 80 active on-farm sites covering 1,600 hectares) established for the maintenance of crop landraces; • At least 500 farmers (out of total of 1,400 farmers) trained with improved skills for on-farm management of landrace diversity (50% women); • At least 30 (out of total 60) conservation professional & field staff trained and promoting on-farm maintenance of landrace diversity (50% women); 7. Established at least 1 community seed bank (Prodoc: out of 3 community seed banks). 8. At least 100 seed accessions of 30 crops and 50 CWR (out of total of 400 seed accessions of 30 crops and 200 CWR) established in seed bank and 200 LR and 50 CWR accessions (out of total of 400 LR and 100 CWR accessions) characterized and evaluated¹⁵; 9. 100 LR and 30 CWR (out of total of 400 LR and 100 CWR) accessions characterized and 	<p>corn, oats) and fruits and nuts varieties (apple, pear, apricot, mulberry, Greek nuts, almond).</p> <p>In total 40 farms (1 ha each; direct: 40 ha; indirect (impact): 500 ha) captured by FAO Project by 2023.</p> <p>Field data collection launched to enable assessment of CWR. FAO Project has signed LOA with National Centre for Genetic Resources to carry out inventory of agrobiodiversity, including LR and CWR from project sites. By June 2023, project collected data on above 50 active CWR genetic reserves covering > 1000 ha of land in protected areas and natural reserves of Shahrison district (Kusavliyskiy natural reserve), Baljuvon district (Sari-Khosor national park) and Rasht district (Kamarob natural reserve).</p> <p>FAO signed Letter of Agreement with National Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety of the Committee of Environmental Protection for national policy and legislative framework improvement on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use as well as for updating management plans of 2 Protected Areas: Shahrison and Baljuvon. The final update of the management plans of 2 PAs is expected by Q2 of 2024. The LoA also includes work on national policy and legislative framework improvements, especially on development of NSAP-CUA. The final outcome on NSAP-CUA is expected in 2024.</p> <p>By June 2023, the project has provided training to a total of 818 farmers (290 women) including family members in 4 target districts. This number is subject to increase by end of 2023.</p>
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¹⁵ This project activity is recurring activity and will be carried out until 2025. The targets indicated under the PIR-2023 are targets of 2023 year, only.

		<p>evaluated to enable its use in national breeding programs¹⁶;</p> <p>10. 30 LR of 15 crops and 20 CWR (out of total of 150 LR of 15 crops and 50 CWR) assessed, and 6 CWR traits used in crop improvement¹⁷;</p> <p>11. At least 50% of female conservationists and extension workers trained on CWR in-situ and landrace on-farm conservation techniques</p>	<p>The project identified the locations and potential farms for establishment of seed banks in Shahrison, Baljuvon and Rasht. Pilot operation of community seed banks is expected by end of 2023 and full operation and maintenance of seeds banks is envisaged in 2024 and 2025.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seed Bank Shahrison – Commercial Cooperative “Buragen”; 2. Seed Bank Rasht – local farm “Gulrukhsor”; 3. Seed Bank Baljuvon – local farm Khudjai Sabz. <p>FAO Project collected information about availability of 54 seeds accessions of 25 crops: wheat and legumes (beans, lentils, wheat, corn, oats), vegetables (onion, carrot, garlic, pumpkin, etc.) and fruits and nuts varieties (apple, pear, apricot, mulberry, Greek nuts, almond) and recorded availability of 50 CWR in target districts. The seeds are still under collection and their inclusion in seed banks expected by end of 2023, and full set by 2024.</p>
<p>Outcome 2.1: Increased climate resilience and sustainable use of target landraces and CWR through targeted participatory plant breeding and capacity building to promote crop improvement</p>			
<p>2.1 1: Capacity building program to support Tajik farmers improve management and maintenance of LR and add value to crop products</p> <p>2.1.2: An Advisory and training package targeting local technicians to increase LR resilience, conservation and use developed and used in pilot areas</p>	<p><i>At least 80 local LR with improved climate resilience developed</i></p> <p><i>Improved farmer incomes from added-value landrace products and new markets developed from at least 12 varieties used by the farmers</i></p> <p><i>At least 80 farmers with improved LR skills to develop</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey assessment carried-out on crop landraces held / cultivated on-farm. ABD threatened by climatic change identified; and List of cultivated varieties that have potential to resist to climate change developed; 2. Training programme developed and professional training courses provided to breeders involved in breeding crop improvements, support the use of conserved accessions (start; 30% in 2023); 	<p>Project signed LOA with National Centre of Genetic Resources and the first indicator is an outcome of 2024;</p> <p>Training and education courses provided to of 818 farmers (290 women) including family members in 4 target districts. The trainings delivered until June 2023 covered the following topics:</p>

¹⁶ This project activity is recurring activity and will be carried out until 2025. The targets indicated under the PIR-2023 are targets of 2023 year, only.

¹⁷ Ibid;

<p>2.1 3: Local communities in 4 selected districts to improve at least 24 local landraces resilience through PPB</p> <p>2.1 4: Evidence-based value-added information system developed and set-up including at least 25 case studies to facilitate market viability of traditional crop varieties in Tajikistan</p> <p>Output 2.1.5: Capacity building program carried out for 16 government based and 10 commercially based plant breeders on characterization and evaluation of newly conserved agrobiodiversity to promote their sustainable use</p> <p>2.1.6: Capacity building program for national experts in pre-breeding using CWR diversity to use greater breadth of diversity in crop improvement</p>	<p><i>improved quality and quantity of LR products (50% women)</i></p> <p><i>400 LR and 100 CWR accessions characterized and evaluated to enable its use in national breeding programs</i></p> <p><i>10 breeders trained in pre-breeding techniques and applying at least 6 CWR traits for crop improvement</i></p> <p><i>At least 5 existing policies amended to include conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity</i></p> <p><i>100 farmers/ community-based incentive applied to both ABD conservation and LR derived commodity enhancement</i></p> <p><i>At least 25 promotion materials and best practices on ABD values developed and promoting positioning brands, geographical designations and other markets etc.</i></p>	<p>3. Mapping of potential products to be included in the market studies conducted (start);</p> <p>4. Study on alternative market channels for ABD products conducted. Selection of value chains based on environmental and socio-economic sustainability criteria completed/ conducted (start; 20% in 2023)¹⁸</p>	<p><i>1. Introductory training: the purpose of the project task, the importance of ABD landraces and landraces, their wild relatives, the main directions of the project on the conservation and sustainable use of ABD;</i></p> <p><i>2. Terms and methods of pruning fruit trees on the example of apple and pear;</i></p> <p><i>3. The main methods of grafting fruit plants on the example of a walnut;</i></p> <p><i>4. The importance of seed production, the need to create a seed bank to strengthen ABD;</i></p> <p><i>5. Hybridization of wheat.</i></p> <p>FAO project is hiring the Value Chain development specialist to conduct mapping of potential cash-crops / products to be included in the market research and study work; Study of alternative market channels for ABD products, especially cash-crops is yet to be conducted.</p>	
<p>Outcome 3.1: Improved policy, knowledge, financing and awareness promotes conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity</p>				
<p>Output 3.1.1: Inter-agency national commission on agrobiodiversity conservation</p>	<p><i>At least 5 existing policies amended to include conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity</i></p>	<p>4. Conducted gap analysis and assessment of existing policy related to agrobiodiversity and developed recommendations for policy/ legislative</p>	<p>The Inter-Ministerial Working Group established and order of NCEPA on IMWG membership issued. The TOR and by-law/ regulation document of IMWG and PSC members developed and approved by NCEPA and CoEP.</p>	

¹⁸ It is recurring activity and only 20% of total volume of work envisaged to be achieved in 2023 year.

<p>and use and its incorporation into relevant policy instruments</p> <p>Output 3.1.2 Improved understanding of ABD economic value and related ecosystem services, life cycle assessment and market studies that benefit rural livelihoods and food security from improving market channels analyzed</p> <p>Output 3.1.3 Microfinancing credit lines for supporting farmers to improve their production and access sustainable markets</p> <p>Output 3.1.4 Developed and implemented gender sensitive RBM system, communication strategy and KM strategy targeting decision makers concerning the value of agrobiodiversity, its conservation, use and contribution to provisioning ecosystem services</p> <p>Output 3.1.5 Project Mid-term Review and Final Evaluation contributing to adaptive management and long-term strategy for agrobiodiversity conservation and use.</p>	<p><i>100 farmers/ community-based incentive applied to both ABD conservation and LR derived commodity enhancement</i></p> <p><i>At least 25 promotion materials and best practices on ABD values developed and promoting positioning brands, geographical designations and other markets etc.</i></p>	<p>frameworks improvements for on-farm maintenance of LRs, CWR genetic reserves, etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Developed and produced number of gender-responsive catalogues, pamphlets, posters, explaining the value and knowledge concerning agrobiodiversity (draft; 10%). 5. Prepared number of materials, videos, contents and broadcasted through radio and television programs, explaining the value and knowledge concerning agrobiodiversity (draft; 10%). 6. Developed target content to classes and distributed among the district schools or community centers, explaining the value and knowledge concerning agrobiodiversity (draft; 10%). 7. Developed communication strategy on agrobiodiversity in face of climate change (draft; 10%). 6. Developed a roadmap and implemented activities related to women participation throughout the project, gender mainstreaming, and gender sensitive policy action in the projects activities and specifically in the policy related activities (draft; 70%); 7. Provided technical guidance in production of gender sensitive training content, knowledge products and communication materials, such as, gender-responsive catalogues, pamphlets, posters, as well as contents for radio and television programs, and provide inputs to the 	<p>FAO signed LOA with NBBC for promoting of national policy and legislative improvement works linked with elaboration of NSAP-CUA including 5 policy amendments. National Legal Specialist is hired and policy gap analysis conducted and analytical report with key recommendations on policy change and amendments provided in the report. Report is available and attached to the PIR.</p> <p>5 policy amendments on CUA must be presented to Inter-Ministerial Working Group in June-July 2023 for decision making and advocacy. By-laws on the below listed laws will be prepared as priority amendments in the course of development of new NSAP-CUA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Seed Production" dated January 5, 2008, № 355;</i> 2. <i>Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On collection, preservation and rational use of genetic resources of cultivated plants" of August 1, 2012, № 892;</i> 3. <i>Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On biological farming and production" adopted on July 22, 2013, №1001;</i> 4. <i>Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On breeding" adopted on September 19, 2013, No. 1020;</i> 5. <i>Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On protection of plant varieties" adopted on December 29, 2010, No.672;</i> <p>Ascertained the financial, banking and micro-crediting practices of local banks in rural areas, but separate assessment on micro-crediting schemes operated by local banks must be undertaken by national financial specialist in 2024;</p> <p>The Project aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) by improving the participation and decision making of rural women to benefit from equal socio-economic opportunities and services in general. The Project collected disaggregated data by sex, age, and gender; conducted rapid gender assessment prior to significant activities in order to effectively address the different needs and priorities of women and men within all levels of stakeholders; conducted stakeholder analysis, which provided</p>
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		<p>awareness raising packages for classes of district schools on the value and knowledge concerning agrobiodiversity conservation (draft; 20% in 2023);</p>	<p>opportunities for consultations with and engagement of women’s organizations and beneficiaries, fostering women’s role as drivers of change in agrobiodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming promoted. The Gender Focal Points identified at province and district levels; contact details shared and network cultivated; the gender crop mapping process launched among women at district level, included but not limited to: (i) revised and finalized the supply chain, crop value, workload distribution; (ii) distributed and collected information among men to compare and explore entry point activities in the targeted districts;</p> <p>Determined the scale and level of women’s engagement and contribution to agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as discovered the most appropriate mechanisms to enhance gender mainstreaming at all levels of the project activities.</p> <p>Training modules and education / information materials developed and distributed among local farmers during the training courses.</p> <p>FAO project engaged local mass media and local newspaper and radio to spread information about FAO-GEF Project, ABD conservation and sustainable use. Local newspaper Navidi Baljuvon (Vision of Baljuvon) published article about the FAO-GEF Project on the local newspaper (1000 editions/ month) and negotiations with Radio Rasht/ Tojikobod on broadcasting of a short radio talk on ABD conservation and sustainable use has started.</p>	
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4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

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

In the framework of the project work plan on 1 August 2022 an LoA with the National Centre for Implementation of the Environmental Protection Actions (NC IEPA) was signed for provision of “Technical service to enable environment supports for the conservation of globally important agrobiodiversity (ABD), to increase climate resilience and sustainable use of target landraces and CWR through targeted participatory plant breeding and capacity building to promote crop improvement and to improve knowledge, financing and awareness promoting conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity”. The NCEPA of CoEP is appointed as state responsible organization and project executing partner on behalf of Government beneficiary organization in FAO-GEF Project implementation.

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group established and order of NCEPA on IMWG membership issued. FAO signed Letter of Agreement with National Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety of the Committee of Environmental Protection for national policy and legislative framework improvement on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use as well as for updating management plans of 2 Protected Areas: Shahrison and Baljuvon. The final update of the management plans of 2 Pas is expected by Q2 of 2024. The LoA signed especially includes promoting of national policy and legislative improvement works linked with elaboration of NSAP-CUA including 5 policy amendments. The final outcome on NSAP-CUA is expected in 2024.

Field data collection launched to enable assessment of landraces and CWR. FAO has signed LOA with National Centre for Genetic Resources to carry out inventory of agrobiodiversity, including LR and CWR from project sites. By June 2023, FAO project collected data on more than 50 active CWR genetic reserves covering > 10,000 ha of land in protected areas and natural reserves of Shahrison district (Kusavliyskiy natural reserve), Baljuvon district (Sari-Khosor national park) and Rasht district (Kamarob natural reserve).

By June 2023, FAO Project has provided trainings to a total of 818 farmers (290 women) including family members in 4 target districts. This number is subject to increase by end of 2023. Training and education / information materials developed and distributed among local farmers during the training courses. FAO project will have engaged local mass media and local newspaper and radio to widespread information about FAO-GEF Project, ABD conservation and sustainable use.

The project identified the locations and potential farms for establishment of seed banks in Shahrison, Baljuvon and Rasht. Pilot operation of community seed banks is expected by end of 2023 and full operation and maintenance of seeds banks is envisaged in 2024 and 2025.

1. Seed Bank Shahrison – Commercial Cooperative “Buragen”;
2. Seed Bank Rasht – local farm “Gulrukhsor”;
3. Seed Bank Baljuvon – local farm Khudjai Sabz.

Until June 2023, 10 farms identified in each target district, which actively dealt with LR on-farm production, especially, legumes (beans, lentils, wheat, corn, oats) and fruits and nuts varieties (apple, pear, apricot, mulberry, Greek nuts, almond). In total 40 farms (1 ha each; direct: 40 ha; indirect (impact): 500 ha) have been engaged by FAO Project by 2023.

The project collected information about availability of 54 seeds accessions of 25 crops: wheat and legumes (beans, lentils, wheat, corn, oats), vegetables (onion, carrot, garlic, pumpkin, etc.) and fruits and nuts varieties (apple, pear, apricot, mulberry, Greek nuts, almond) and recorded availability of 50 CWR in target districts. The seeds are still under collection and their establishment in seed banks expected by end of 2023, with the full set to be completed by 2024.

The Project aimed at promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment (GEWE) by improving the participation and decision making of rural women to benefit from equal socio-economic opportunities and services in general. The Project collected disaggregated data by sex, age, and gender; conducted rapid gender assessment prior to significant activities in order to effectively address the different needs and priorities of women and men within all levels of stakeholders; conducted stakeholder analysis, which provided opportunities for consultations with and engagement of women’s organizations and beneficiaries, fostering women’s role as drivers of change in agrobiodiversity conservation. The project has also established a network of Gender Focal Points at province and district levels.

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

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR. For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2023 Development Objective rating¹⁹	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating²⁰	Comments/reasons²¹ justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	<i>The overall project implementation rate is satisfactory. Major advancements can be observed for some project activities, particularly linked with existence of traditional knowledge and practices among local communities on seed plantation, collection, storage and multiplication, as well as use of forest products and wild relatives of agriculture crops in local farms.</i>
Budget Holder	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	<i>The overall project implementation is satisfactory.</i>
GEF Operational Focal Point²²	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	<i>The overall project implementation on track and rate is satisfactory. Project team closely working with representative of OFP as well as with communities in the pilot areas to achieve the targets of the project</i>
Lead Technical Officer²³	Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	<i>The project implementation is on track, the project team is working very closely with the communities and trust has been built, the results from the project implementation are noticed by different stakeholders</i>
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	<i>The project is on good track for achievement of its targeted results. Necessary arrangements with various stakeholders and parties of the execution are in place and the work/engagement with the local stakeholders have started successfully.</i>

¹⁹ **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

²⁰ **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

²¹ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

²² In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

²³ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

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

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

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

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁴ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	Low

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

²⁴ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (Esm-unit@fao.org) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf>)

6. Risks

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

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²⁵	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Health / COVID-19	Low	Yes	Risks associated with the Covid19 while considered low as it would likely affect the early phase of the project. However, if the Covid19 situation remains uncontained, a contingency plan would be developed to allow for project activities to continue even under hypothetical temporal lock-down scenarios. This plan will entail efforts to maximizing experts in country. Methods for biosecure implementation will be needed, such as increased use of remote communication, use of PPE, etc.	Covid-19 restrictions is lifted at country level; epidemic situation is down and limitation is no longer valid;	
2	Political / The enabling legal and institutional framework is not sufficiently conducive to the Project Objectives and is not modified/adopted in a timely way.	Moderate	Yes	Component 3 addresses weaknesses in the legal and institutional framework and will ensure that all issues related to the suitability or adequacy of policies related to ABD will be identified and raised through the proper administrative channels. Progress with strengthening the enabling environment will be continuously monitored by the Government and FAO, and strategic changes to the Project approach will be identified and implemented if necessary.	The political risk re-rated to the low during project implementation as policy and legislative framework improvement is running in full swing and beneficiary government organizations partnership is at adequate level.	

²⁵ Risk ratings means a rating of the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	Type of risk	Risk rating ²⁵	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
3	Coordination/ Lack of coordination or integration of the actions of the State Agencies working with ABD conservation and use	Moderate	Yes	Stakeholder engagement and transparency in project preparation and during project implementation the establishment of an inter-agency National Commission on Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Use is established and will monitor the implementation of project activities under the National Strategy for Conservation and Use of agrobiodiversity, so ensuring inter-agency operations to achieve project objectives.	Coordination between state responsible agencies and organizations improved and enhanced, considering that Inception Workshop of the Project is conducted, where roles and responsibilities of each state responsible agency participating in the project were clearly described and distributed; Coordination work relied on the NCEPA and CoEP among development partners and key state responsibly organizations; Inter-Ministerial Working Group and Project Steering Committee, service as a tool of national platform for policy making and strategic overview and implementation of the project.	
4	Climatic / Climate change impacts on ABD and management systems makes resource loss inevitable and Best Practices knowledge platforms quickly outdated.	Low	Yes	Climate change resilience measures will be approached through various project outputs and supported by analysis and feedback from core indicator achievement, adaptive field-based monitoring systems and market access assessment. This will allow for goals and activities to be reassessed during project implementation, if necessary.	No new changes in this direction assessed or recorded. Modelling of climate resilience crops is yet to be piloted in the target districts for ABD products, LR and CWR. Scientist and research institutes will be engaged to conduct modelling and testing of genetic resources, local varieties of agriculture crops and their crop wild relatives, with regards to the climatic change conditions, searching for the drought resistance crops.	

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

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Low	Low	

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

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

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
Recommendation 1:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation.....	
Recommendation.....	
Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize	

8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines²⁶. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements	Additional LoAs were signed with NBBC, for national policy work, and with National Centre for Genetic Resources for national inventory and gene-bank database establishment; This decision was made by NCEPA and the PMU and allows for a better and more engaged executing process	2023	NCEPA and the PMU
Financial management			
Implementation schedule			
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

²⁶ Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

9. Stakeholders' Engagement

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

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government institutions			
State Committee on Environmental Protection	Beneficiary Government organization / GEF OFP; Responsible for the project design, implementation and monitoring of the project	Responsible for the implementation of all the environmental policies and sustainable use of natural resources, to support the implementation of the policies. The committee coordinates several centers. National Centre for Environmental Protection Actions (NC EPA), The Biodiversity and Biosafety Centre, State Institution of specially protected natural area and State institution Research Laboratory on Nature	N/A
National Centre for Environmental Protection Actions (NC EPA)	Lead executing agency	Development and implementation of National Environmental Action Plan. Development of digital data bank for ecological monitoring of priority directions of natural protection (BD, Protected Areas, wetlands, wastes, hygiene and water resources)	N/A
NGOs²⁷			
NGO Noosphera	Foreseen to be involved in the implementation of the outcome 3.1, actively supporting the implementation of the National Strategy for Conservation and Use of agrobiodiversity and action plan.	Initial contact has been established and discussions are conducted to arrange for the NGO's provision of support and training for women and men – local farmers across a broad range of issues.	
Private sector entities			
Micro-Finance Organization and Funds	Foreseen to support the implementation of the outcome 3.1 providing small grants to the farmers involved the project.	Work to be initiated	
Others²⁸			
National Biodiversity and Biosafety Centre	Responsible for the implementation at national	FAO signed LOA with NBBC for promoting of national policy and legislative improvement works	

²⁷ Non-government organizations

²⁸ They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women's groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then

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	level of all activities linked to the implementation of Tajikistan's commitments to CBD and Nagoya Protocol.	linked with elaboration of NSAP-CUA including 5 policy amendments. National Legal Specialist is hired and policy gap analysis conducted and analytical report with key recommendations on policy change and amendments provided in the report. Report has been developed in Russian and is being translated into English.	
National Centre for Genetic Resources	Responsible for establishing the national gene bank, training, including training of specialist biologists and data collection, description, analysis, catalogue composition and preparation for storing.	FAO Project has signed LOA with National Centre for Genetic Resources to carry out inventory of agrobiodiversity, including LR and CWR from project sites. By June 2023, data was collected on above 50 active CWR genetic reserves covering > 1000 ha of land in protected areas and natural reserves of Shahrison district (Kusavliyskiy natural reserve), Baljuvon district (Sari-Khosor national park) and Rasht district (Kamarob natural reserve).	
<i>New stakeholders identified</i>			
WFP project to reduce the impacts of a climate change in the remote and mountainous districts	Synergy and supplementary works	WFP is implementing a project to reduce the impacts of a climate change in the remote and mountainous districts. Under this project we work in 11 districts, which includes Rasht and Tajikabad.	
District Newspaper Office and Radio House	PR and communication, visibility of FAO and GEF	The district mass media organizations will be engaged in civic awareness raising and public advocacy campaigns	

10. Gender Mainstreaming

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

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	Gender Mapping exercise was carried out. Disaggregated data collected and analysed. Distinguish analysis of workload between men and women in terms of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use in rural areas is carried out and it was revealed that workload is equally divided/distributed between women and men. In some cases, the women do not carry out heavy work dealt with lifting heavy loads. Women are mainly in charge of in-house cleaning, sorting and drying/packaging/ bottling and storage of ABD crops (seeds, fruits), while men are dealing with collecting/ harvesting, transporting, carrying and ploughing.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	Trainings on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use organized separately, devoted to women groups in villages only. Women groups and women networks are encouraged and supported to participate/ to contribute and to apply for project grant support through FAO-GEF's project national executing partner, i.e. NCEPA, for on-farm conservation and development of LR and CWR.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Established seed banks in rural communities with free access of local communities, particularly women, to agrobiodiversity seeds and crops. The project also sought to support women-farmers (Female Headed Households) on-farm conservation and production (LR), as well as created access of women to the lease agreements with Forest agency to rent a forest land for protection, sustainable use (collect, reproduce of forest products) and restoration of forest landscapes, through increasing forest restoration and production (CWR). Crossing between on-farm and wild forest nature is underway.
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	No information to report under PIR 2023; more information will be shared in PIR 2024.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	No information to report under PIR 2023; more information will be shared in PIR 2024.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	50% of total number of beneficiaries are women; Developed field data collection system and maintained project database and ensured tracking of number of women captured in the course of project implementation: trainings, CB, awareness raising campaigns, district events and exhibitions, on-farm production, forest and CWR restoration and sustainable use, etc.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	National Gender Specialist (vacant)
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	Involved activist women from each target area for mobilization and encouragement of women groups to attend in project activities. Women Committee is a state institution under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan that has sister organizations in each district and provinces, and the project has leveraged and actively engaged the local and regional resources in project activities, particularly for gender mainstreaming actions.

11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, <u>during this reporting period.</u>	
Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.	Initiated
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year .	Initiated
Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	Pending: actual ground work is underway. The human-interest story from the project outcomes can be provided in 2 nd PIR in 2023-2024.
Please provide links to related website, social media account	NCEPA http://tajnature.tj/en/
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	Project information leaflet Project map with climatic zones and agrobiodiversity diverse verities Press release on Inception Workshop Project information and data shared with district newspapers (1000 papers / month) and this cooperation is envisaged to be strengthened.
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details	Vacant as of June, 2023 at project level; Victoria Kalinin, Communication Officer at FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

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

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

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

n/a

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁹	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing ³⁰	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant/ In-kind	100,000	100,000	n/a	100,000
State budget	Committee on Environmental Protection	Grant/ In-kind	4,000,000	1,000,000	n/a	4,000,000
State budget and Donor funds	State Institution for Specially protected Areas	In-kind	2,000,000	86,000	n/a	2,000,000
Donor funds	Agency for Hydrometeorology	In-kind	2,000,000	100,000	n/a	2,000,000
State budget and Donor funds	National Centre for Implementation of the Environmental Protection Actions	In-kind	1,500,000	375,000	n/a	1,500,000
Donor fund	National Centre for Biodiversity and Biosafety	In-kind	1,500,000	320,000	n/a	1,500,000
Donor grant	Public Organization NOOSFERA	In-kind	500,000	30,000	n/a	500,000
State budget and donor fund	Research Laboratory on Natural Protection	In-kind	800,00	80,000	n/a	800,000
TOTAL			12,400,000	2,091,000		12,400,000

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

²⁹Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

³⁰Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions)

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development Objectives Rating. A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected not to achieve most of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits

Implementation Progress Rating. A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

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

Annex 2.

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
Shahriston District	39.65	68.78		mountainous terrain / landscape, natural reserve; horticulture, agriculture crop production, animal husbandry
Rasht District	39.02871	70.37446		horticulture, agriculture crop production, animal husbandry, forest products / herbs,
Tojikobod District	39.2	70.8		horticulture, agriculture crop production, animal husbandry, forest products / herbs;
Baljuvon	38.49763	69.84949		National Park territory; Horticulture, agriculture, animal husbandry, forest products collection, honey, herbs,

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

