

# GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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**UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2024**  
**Reporting from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024**

## 1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

### 1.1 Project Details

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>GEF ID:</b> 10672   | <b>Umoja WBS:</b> SB-022539      |
| <b>SMA IPMR ID:</b> 146345   | <b>Grant ID:</b> S1-32GFL-000765 |
| <b>Project Short Title:</b><br>Land Degradation Neutrality Iraq  |                                  |
| <b>Project Title:</b><br>Promotion of Integrated Biodiversity Conservation and Land Degradation Neutrality in Highly Degraded Landscapes of Iraq |                                  |
| <b>Duration months planned:</b>  | 48                               |
| <b>Duration months age:</b>  | 10                               |
| <b>Project Type:</b>   | Full Sized Project (FSP)         |
| <b>Parent Programme if child project:</b>  |                                  |
| <b>Project Scope:</b>  | National                         |
| <b>Region:</b>   | West Asia                        |
| <b>Countries:</b>  | Iraq                             |
| <b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>  | Biodiversity , Land Degradation  |
| <b>GEF financing amount:</b>   | \$ 4,538,128.00                  |
| <b>Co-financing amount:</b>  | \$ 25,500,000.00                 |
| <b>Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:</b>   | 2022-04-03                       |
| <b>UNEP Project Approval Date:</b>   |                                  |
| <b>Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):</b>  | 2023-10-05                       |
| <b>Date of Inception Workshop, if available:</b>   | 2024-06-27                       |
| <b>Date of First Disbursement:</b>   | 2023-10-30                       |
| <b>Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:</b>  | \$ 200,000.00                    |
| <b>Total expenditure as of 30 June:</b>  | \$ 0.00                          |
| <b>Midterm undertaken?:</b>  | No                               |
| <b>Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:</b>   |                                  |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:</b>   | 2025-10-05 |
| <b>Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:</b> | 2028-12-31 |
| <b>Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:</b>  |            |
| <b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:</b>      | 2028-05-05 |
| <b>Expected Financial Closure Date:</b>        | 2028-12-31 |

## 1.2 Project Description

The objective of the project is to strengthen governmental and non-governmental capacities to achieve biodiversity conservation and land degradation neutrality (LDN) in Middle Euphrates landscape through integrated landscape management. The project will focus on enhancing institutional capacity to effectively integrate biodiversity conservation and land degradation neutrality into sectoral policies. The project will support in establishing two new protected areas significantly contributing to conservation of species of global importance with close involvement the local stakeholders; development and implementation of protected area management plans, implementing sustainable land management techniques to improve agroecosystem services, and raising public awareness on the land degradation. The project has four components: 1. Strengthening national policies and framework to mainstream biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and protected area management into sectoral national policies and strategies. 2. Implementation of measures to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss and promote land rehabilitation to improve delivery of ecosystem services to serve well-being and health of local communities. 3. Implementation of nature-based solutions (NbS) and sustainable land management (SLM) techniques to improve flow of agro-ecosystem services in the Middle Euphrates Landscapes and contribute to land degradation neutrality (LDN). 4. Capacity building and knowledge management - a new information/knowledge database and an awareness strategy will also scale up the long-term impacts of the project to protect Iraq's unique biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services on which its people depend on, by making fully accessible management plans, best practices, monitoring and data to inform decision-makers and farmers. The project is executed by UNEP West Asia in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture in Iraq.

## 1.3 Project Contacts

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Division(s) Implementing the project</b> | Ecosystems Division   |
| <b>Name of co-implementing Agency</b>       |   |
| <b>Executing Agency (ies)</b>               | UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP ROWA)The Ministry of Environment, Iraq |
| <b>names of Other Project Partners</b>      |   |
| <b>UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)</b>            | Johan Robinson  |
| <b>UNEP Task Manager(s)</b>                 | Ersin Esen  |
| <b>UNEP Budget/Finance Officer</b>          | George Saddimbah  |
| <b>UNEP Support Assistants</b>              | Charles Imbezi  |

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|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>Manager/Representative</b>           | Geetha Nayak |
| <b>Project Manager</b>                  | Geetha Nayak |
| <b>Finance Manager</b>                  | Joana Bashir |
| <b>Communications Lead, if relevant</b> |              |

## 2 Overview of Project Status

### 2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):</b>  | Thematic: Nature action subprogramme   |
| <b>UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):</b> |  |
| <b>PoW Indicator(s):</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature: (i) Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity.</li> <li>• Nature: (iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas</li> <li>• Nature: (iv) Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration</li> <li>• Governance: (iii) Number of plans, approaches, strategies, policies, action plans or budgeting processes of entities at the national, regional and global levels that include environmental goals as a result of UNEP support</li> </ul> |
| <b>UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages</b>          | <p>UNSDCF for Iraq outlines five strategic priorities ranging from achieving social cohesion, protection and inclusion to promoting natural resource management and climate change resilience. The overall aim is to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth and efficient institutional services. Integrating the humanitarian, development and peace nexus within its collective work, the UNSDCF is aligned with Iraq's Vision 2030, the Kurdistan Regional Government's Vision for the Future and the National Development Plan. This synergy ensures that the UN's efforts are harmonized with national priorities and strategies, marking a transition from humanitarian assistance to sustainable development and peacebuilding, firmly rooted in the commitment to leave no one behind. The GEF project is directly contributes to UNSDCF strategic priority 4, Promoting Natural Resource and Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Resilience.</p>  |
| <b>Link to relevant SDG Goals</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</li> <li>• Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</li> <li>• Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</li> <li>• Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Link to relevant SDG Targets:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality</li> <li>• 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life</li> </ul>  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</li> <li>• 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements</li> <li>• 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</li> <li>• 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</li> <li>• 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species</li> <li>• 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## 2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

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

| Indicators   | Targets - Expected Value |                |              | Materialized to date |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|
|  | Mid-term                 | End-of-project | Total Target |                      |
| 1- Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use | 0.00                     | 176,292 ha     | 176,292 ha   |                      |
| 1.1- Terrestrial protected areas newly created   | 0.0                      | 176,292 ha     | 176,292 ha   |                      |
|  | 0.0                      | 0.0            | 0.0          |                      |
| 4- Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)                               | 0.0                      | 10000 ha       | 10000 ha     |                      |
|  |                          |                |              |                      |
| 4.3-Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems                           |                          | 10000 ha       | 10000 ha     |                      |
|  |                          |                |              |                      |
| 11.1- Male   |                          | 2500           |              |                      |
| 11.2- Female   |                          | 2500           |              |                      |
|  |                          |                |              |                      |

Implementation Status 2023: 1st PIR

### 2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

|         | PIR#    | Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1) | Rating towards outputs (section 3.2) | Risk rating (section 4.2) |
|---------|---------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| FY 2024 | 1st PIR | MS                                    | MS                                   | M                         |
| FY 2023 |         |                                       |                                      |                           |
| FY 2022 |         |                                       |                                      |                           |
| FY 2021 |         |                                       |                                      |                           |
| FY 2020 |         |                                       |                                      |                           |
| FY 2019 |         |                                       |                                      |                           |
| FY 2018 |         |                                       |                                      |                           |
| FY 2017 |         |                                       |                                      |                           |
| FY 2016 |         |                                       |                                      |                           |
| FY 2015 |         |                                       |                                      |                           |

#### Summary of status

The project was officially launched during CoP28 in Dubai by the Iraqi Minister of Environment on 04 Dec 2023. Owing security situation in West Asia and administrative delays, project implementation did not begin until May 2023. An inception meeting with project stakeholders including Ministry of Environment, sub-national entities, i.e Karbala and Anbar Environment Directorates and Ministries of Water Resources and Agriculture was held on 27th June 2024. As the next steps, it was agreed to undertake following activities:

- Collate information/data/assessment reports relating to
  - Hydrology, climate risks and socio-economic studies done in the past in the project locations
  - Historical management plans of the lake, if any.
  - Water sharing regulations/decrees relating to two lakes
  - Water shortages and any steps taken to address the issue
- Identify environmental projects implemented by other organizations, including NGOs and CSOs in the region
- The Ministry of Environment to discuss the project with high-level officials of the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture
- The Ministry of Environment will constitute the Project Steering Committee (PSC), and the first meeting of the PSC will be held in September following the workshop.
- The next workshop to discuss the project activities, implementation, and timeline will be held in September 2024. Decision makers from the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture will be invited to the workshop.



## 2.4 Co Finance

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Planned Co-finance:</b> | \$ 25,500,000  |
| <b>Actual to date:</b>     | 5,000  |
| <b>Progress</b>            | <p><b>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</b></p> <p>USD 25,500,00 has been reported by project partners as a co-financing amount; this has also been endorsed by the GEF. Therefore, it can be considered valid as of this PIR report. Project partners have not reported any barriers to materialization to date. This will be discussed and monitored closely during the project implementation and reported through co-financing reports. Given the political commitments and positive engagement with various national and sub-national project stakeholders, it is expected that by the end of the project, the co-financing will potentially be expected to exceed the planned amount. USD 5000 is a consolidated amount accounted for the contributions and time investment of representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Environment Directorates of Karbala, and Muthana and technical officers to collate existing reports, organise field visits and preparation of inception meetings.</p> |

## 2.5. Stakeholder

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Date of project steering committee meeting</b>              |  |
| <b>Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)</b> | <p>Project Steering Committee is in the process of being constituted and meeting will be held in September 2024. A meeting of stakeholders to discuss the project components and implementation plan was attended by senior official of Ministry of Environment, Karbala and Anbar Environment Directorate and representatives from Ministries of Water Resources and Agriculture (16 participants). A high-level representative of Ministry of Environment reiterated the Ministry's commitment and full support to the implementation of the project and engagement with high-level officials of Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture to ensure project success on the ground. Given the main focus of the project is integrated biodiversity conservation and addressing the drivers of land degradation in the region, it is critical to address the shortage of water resources through engagement with the Ministry of Water Resources.</p> |

## 2.6. Gender

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Does the project have a gender action plan?</b>            | Yes   |
| <b>Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):</b> | The Gender Action plan for the project was developed and endorsed at project inception phase. Gender considerations will be central to all new policies and plans. Gender dis-aggregated data will be collected at national, sub-national and site-level interventions implemented in the project. Every efforts will be made to mobilize participation of women in decision-making and implementation phase. |

## 2.7. ESSM

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)</b> | <p><b>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</b><br/>Yes</p> <p><b>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</b></p> <p>The project is in the moderate risk category. It is recommended that the human rights guiding principles are followed throughout the project cycle. It seems that the project location is not confirmed. Inclusion of Marshland and the UNESCO heritage sites in the project areas would require assessment and further consultation with the local communities and cultural heritage experts to fully comply with the related national laws and UNESCO requirements to insure there is no unintended or indirect harm.</p> |
| <b>New social and/or environmental risks</b>   | <p><b>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</b><br/>No</p> <p><b>If yes, describe the new risks or changes?</b></p>  |
| <b>Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts</b>      | <p><b>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</b><br/>No</p> <p><b>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?</b><br/>Not applicable</p>  |
| <b>Environmental and social safeguards management</b>                                | Recommendations and risks identified in UNEP Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF) will be monitored in the implementation of the project.   |

## 2.8. KM/Learning

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Knowledge activities and products</b> | Not applicable at this stage.   |
| <b>Main learning during the period</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lake Razzaza (project site) is a reservoir fed by excess water from Lake Habbaniyah in the Anbar Governorate in Western Iraq. However, as a result of the drought, one of the consequences of climate change, the impact of massive dams built by riparian countries, and deteriorating water infrastructure have led to severe depletion of water in Lake Habbaniyah. This, in turn, has led to inadequate or lack of water diversion to Lake Razzaza.</li><li>• Currently, Lake Razzaza doesn't receive water from Lake Habbaniyah. This has led to a massive reduction in the extent of the lake; currently, only the tail end of the lake remains.</li><li>• Ministry representatives highlighted the issue of untreated sewage from the City of Karbala being channeled to Lake Razzaza. There is no fishing or any other recreational use of this lake.</li><li>• Lake Sawa (project site) is a natural lake in southern Iraq, fed by underground water aquifers. However, due to poor management and overuse of groundwater extraction coupled with impact of climate change, the lake has almost disappeared.</li><li>• In both locations, currently there is no agriculture-reliant population.</li><li>• Given the main focus of the project is integrated biodiversity conservation and addressing the drivers of land degradation in the region, it is critical to address the shortage of water resources through engagement with the Ministry of Water Resources.</li></ul> |

## 2.9. Stories

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Stories to be shared</b> | Not applicable at this stage. |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|

### 3 Performance

#### 3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

| Project Objective and Outcomes  | Indicator   | Baseline level | Mid-Term Target or Milestones  | End of Project Target   | Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only) | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June           | Progress rating |
|---|---|----------------|--|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Strengthen governmental and non-governmental capacities to achieve biodiversity conservation and land degradation neutrality in Middle Euphrates landscape through integrated landscape management      |   |                |  |   |   |   |                 |
| 1.1 New supportive policies and plans (Integrated Conservation Management Framework) which integrate landscape level SLM and biodiversity conservation measures adopted by the Ministry of Environment. | Number of adopted policies and plans integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. | 0              | Midterm: One assessment of available policies and plans (national, regional, governorates) that identify integration of biodiversity conservation and land degradation neutrality and gap assessment. One ICMF joint multi-stakeholder technical | Project End: Integrated Conservation Management Framework approved and endorsed by Government. At least 6 policies and plans (national, regional, new PAs management plans) revised in the direction to integrate biodiversity and SLM. | 0   | Since this is a high-level outcome, there is no progress to report in this cycle. | MS              |

| Project Objective and Outcomes | Indicator | Baseline level | Mid-Term Target or Milestones   | End of Project Target | Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only) | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June | Progress rating |
|--------------------------------|-----------|----------------|---|-----------------------|---|---|-----------------|
|                                |           |                | <p>working group established; 3 meetings of the group to support the development of ICMF. One draft ICMF and Plan. At least 3 policies and plans (national, regional, new PA management plan) revised in the direction to integrate biodiversity and SLM. Baseline and identification and design of economic incentives and disincentives to promote the implementation of ICMF with the Agricultural Cooperative Bank and/or</p> |                       |   |   |                 |

| Project Objective and Outcomes   | Indicator  | Baseline level | Mid-Term Target or Milestones   | End of Project Target  | Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only) | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June   | Progress rating |
|--|--|----------------|---|--|---|---|-----------------|
|  |  |                | other local banks and investors. Relevant sectors practice integrated co-management; first attempts to integrate biodiversity conservation and SLM into sectoral policies and strategies. |  |   |   |                 |
|  | Increased capacity of the Ministry of Environment to implement Integrated Conservation Management Framework as measured by the Capacity Development Scorecard. | 15             | Capacity and training needs assessment is completed<br>Capacity development score: 25-30  | One 4-year capacity building program completed<br>Capacity development score: 35.                              | 0   | Capacity building training has not been initiated at this stage in the project.   | MS              |
| 2.1 Two new PAs established and sustainably managed: Razzaza lake and Sawa lake and surrounding areas. | Number of new PAs established and increase in surface of ecosystems protected nationally under PAN (measured in ha).   | 0              | Midterm: Baseline biodiversity and ecological survey of 2 pilot KBAs. Baseline socio-economic and land use studies for 2  | Project End: 2 new PAs gazetted officially by the Ministry of Environment. PAN passes from 5 existing to 7 PAs | 0   | This again is a high-level outcome. Establishing PA is a long drawn-out process in Iraq. Project has collected information on climate vulnerability carried out by WFP, which will be the basis for the further work. Given the core issues is around water, the project was presented in a meeting of Water Task Force, which has membership of all UN | MS              |

| Project Objective and Outcomes | Indicator  | Baseline level | Mid-Term Target or Milestones  | End of Project Target   | Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only) | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June                 | Progress rating |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|--|---|---|---|-----------------|
|                                |  |                | pilot KBAs Climate vulnerability assessments for 2 pilot KBAs. At least 2 consultations at each site to discuss PA proposals. Two PA proposals formulated, submitted and under evaluation by National Committee for Protected Areas. | (additional 176,292 ha).  |   | and international organizations working in Iraq on water.                               |                 |
|                                | Number of PA management plans adopted for the new PAs. | 0              | Midterm: Two management plans agreed and developed (one for each of the PA) based on consultation with local stakeholders. Two eco-tourism plans agreed and  | Project End: Two new management plans for Razzaza Lake (156,234 ha) and Sawa Lake (20,058 ha), including eco-tourism and climate adaptation | 0   | Activities under this output will be implemented after the KBA/PA has been established. | MS              |

| Project Objective and Outcomes  | Indicator   | Baseline level | Mid-Term Target or Milestones  | End of Project Target  | Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only) | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June   | Progress rating |
|---|---|----------------|--|--|---|---|-----------------|
|   |   |                | developed (one for each of the PA) based on consultation with local stakeholders.  | plans, adopted by Ministry of Environment.   |   |   |                 |
|   | Increase in Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool scores of the new 2 PAs.   | 0              | Midterm: Assessment of the management effectiveness of the targeted 2 KBAs after completing scientifically based assessments.  | Project End: A score of at least 77 (over a maximum of 126) in the management effectiveness tracking tool (METT-4 IUCN) for both Razzaza Lake and Sawa Lake.         | 0   | Existing METT tool will be adapted to suit the requirement of two new PAs. This will come much later in the project phase.  | MS              |
| 3.1 Replication/ scaling up of SLM in more areas of similar nature in Middle Euphrates Landscape in line with Output 1.1.6. | Basic data on LDN and SLM are collected or updated, and analysed with priority SLM measures to be developed and implemented in SLM pilot areas (for a total of 10,000 ha of agricultural arable land) in Middle Euphrates promoting climate smart agricultural practices. | 0              | Midterm: One report with baseline survey results and mapping of LDN and SLM issues, including climate change vulnerabilities, sensitivity and adaptive capacity and hydrological | Project End: LND and SLM measures endorsed by 2 governorates (Karbala and Al-Muthanna) and MoE. One implementation plan for climate smart agricultural practices and | 0   | Preliminary discussion with MoE Iraq and a field visit to Lake Razazza revealed currently there are no agriculture-reliant communities around both project sites. Owing to acute water scarcity and prolonged drought, no agriculture is currently practiced in this area. A socio-economic survey and ecological survey will be undertaken to assess this feasibility of activities planned under this output. | MS              |



| Project Objective and Outcomes | Indicator  | Baseline level | Mid-Term Target or Milestones   | End of Project Target  | Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only) | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June | Progress rating |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|---|--|---|---|-----------------|
|                                |  |                | modeling. One report identifying and analysing agriculture practices and proposing climate smart agricultural practices. One set of tools aimed at facilitating and support local decision-making in relation to application of LDN and SLM measures. One community-based SLM strategy developed (in line with ICMF). | specific LDN measures.   |   |   |                 |
|                                | Increased productivity of benefitting farmers participating in project pilots through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Office of Agriculture Training and Extension (MoA). | 0              | Midterm: One training needs assessment report. One implementation plan of SLM   | Project End: One evaluation report for the pilot Farmer Field Schools with lessons | 0   | Same as above.  | MS              |

| Project Objective and Outcomes | Indicator                      | Baseline level | Mid-Term Target or Milestones  | End of Project Target   | Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only) | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June | Progress rating |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--|---|---|---|-----------------|
|                                |                                |                | strategy in the 2 pilot SLM areas e.g., through the Farmer Field Schools. Two Farmer Field Schools (one in each site) established and running led by the Office of Agriculture Training and Extension (MoA). One capacity building programme is developed with the Office of Agriculture Training and Extension (MOA) to integrate SLM and biodiversity conservation elements. | learned captured and disseminated. One report for each pilot site (for a total of 10,000 ha) evaluating the productivity of land plots trialed with new agricultural techniques (versus the baseline data). |   |   |                 |
|                                | Number of benefitting farmers. | 0              | Mid-term: 2,000  | Project End: 4,000  | 0   | Same as above   | MS              |

| Project Objective and Outcomes   | Indicator   | Baseline level | Mid-Term Target or Milestones   | End of Project Target  | Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only) | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June   | Progress rating |
|--|---|----------------|---|--|--|---|-----------------|
|  |   |                | beneficiaries (1,000 women) (including their families).   | beneficiaries (including their families).  |  |   |                 |
|  | Increased capacity of local banks at the 2 project SLM areas in providing financial support to farmers in relation to the sustainable management of agro-ecosystems.          | 0              | Midterm: One training needs assessment report developed by UNEP Climate Finance Unit. One capacity building program tailored to the gaps in capacity identified among local banks in pilot site developed by UNEP Climate Finance Unit. | Project End: One capacity program is implemented at governate level (Karbala and Al-Muthanna); 20 bank staff per governorate trained, and a training report is produced. | 0  | This activity will be carried out after ascertaining the feasibility of agriculture and allied activities in the project sites. | MS              |
| 4.1 Stakeholders apply their increased knowledge and take actions on land use planning, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and LDN. | Project database is uploaded into Environment Information System in the Ministry of Environment incorporating Biodiversity and SLM data and traditional management practices. | 0              | Midterm: Identification of a set of baseline data and information integrated into the established   | Project End: One project database integrated into EIS System at Ministry of Environment. Upload of 2   | 0  | This will be penultimate set of activities under project. Will be undertaken in 2026.   | MS              |

| Project Objective and Outcomes | Indicator  | Baseline level | Mid-Term Target or Milestones   | End of Project Target   | Progress as of current period(numeric, percentage, or binary entry only) | Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June | Progress rating |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|---|---|--|---|-----------------|
|                                |  |                | database (baseline data on biodiversity and LDN/SLM agriculture, monitoring parameters etc.) with existing information systems. | new PAs in the PA page of the Ministry of Environment website.  |  |   |                 |
|                                | Number of new initiatives promoted by stakeholders within the Middle Euphrates landscape in terms of land use planning, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and LDN. | 0              | Midterm: At least 2 initiatives promoted by stakeholders.   | Project End: At least 6 initiatives promoted by stakeholders.   | 0  | Same as above.  | MS              |
|                                | Project Reporting and M&E system operational and on time.  | 0              | Midterm: One M&E system is established and approved by UNEP. One project midterm review completed.                              | Project End: One terminal evaluation report produced and 1 lesson learned report produced and disseminated. | 0  | Two half-yearly reports have been prepared.                             | MS              |

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

| Component   | Output/Activity   | Expected completion date | Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%) | Implementation status as of current reporting period (%) | Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay   | Progress Rating |
|---|---|--------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------|
| 1 Component: Strengthened policies, frameworks, (Sustainable Land Management, Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management). | 1.1.1 Assessment of national/subnational policies, legislation and procedures that identify integration of biodiversity conservation and land degradation neutrality into national policies and plans with consideration to the impact and role of women in conservation. | 2025-04-30               | 0   | 5  | Iraq has committed to the following LDN commitments. 1. Improve productivity and Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) stocks in 80,000 ha of annual crops and plantation lands by 2035 as compared to 2017. 2. Increase the current SOC levels by 2035: for shrubs and grasslands; crop land. 3. Conversion of bare land to pasture lands in 100,000 ha by 2035 as compared to 2017. 4. Reduce salinization rate by improving productivity and SOC stocks in cropland and plantation lands 10,000 ha. by 2035 as compared to 2017. 5. Conversion of sand dune land to grasslands in 150,000 ha by 2035 as compared to 2017. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is leading the implementation of the national LDN strategy in Iraq. In the meeting held on 27th June '24, it was agreed to discuss the implementation of this project with high-level officials of Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water Resources. Activities under this output will include analysis of historical and current water sharing agreements relating to two project sites. The establishment of PAs or restoration of biodiversity will solely depend on the availability of water. Currently, project is working at strategic level to bring all ministries together to agree | MS              |

| Component | Output/Activity   | Expected completion date | Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%) | Implementation status as of current reporting period (%) | Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay  | Progress Rating |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|---|--|--|-----------------|
|           |   |                          |   |  | and act on core issues before ground level activities are implemented.   |                 |
|           | 1.1.2 A national cross-sector and multi-level Integrated Conservation Management Framework (ICMF) developed and approved by the key Ministries (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources).   | 2025-05-31               | 0   | 10   | One of the key challenges that needs to be addressed is bringing all ministries and departments together to agree on a mechanism to coordinate, exchange information/data to achieve objective of this project. Project steering committee will include representation from all relevant ministries, however this would not suffice. This activity has not been achieved till date and ICMF will be developed much later in the project. | MS              |
|           | 1.1.3 Joint multi-stakeholder/multi-sectoral working groups established to form a coordination mechanism for the implementation of the ICMF (considering involvement of private sector, gender balance and trainings and workshops targeted for women and girls).   | 2025-05-31               | 0   | 10   | The need to constitute a joint multi-stakeholder working group was discussed during the meeting on 27 June '24. The Ministry of Environment committed to engage with high-level officials in other relevant ministries. This is expected to be completed by Sep 24.  | MS              |
|           | 1.1.4 Increased capacity on Integrated Conservation Management and Compliance designed and implemented across relevant ministerial sectors (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, trade, and environment) targeting national and sub-national professionals, administrators, NGOs, private sector and community leaders and other stakeholders considering gender appropriate responses particularly women on the field. | 2025-09-30               | 0   | 0  |  | MS              |
|           | 1.1.5 Economic incentives and disincentives designed to promote the implementation of ICMF.   | 2025-02-28               | 0   | 0  |  | MS              |
|           | 1.1.6 The Integrated Conservation Management plan for the Middle Euphrates Landscape developed to identify and reduce   | 2024-10-31               | 0   | 0  |  | MS              |

| Component   | Output/Activity   | Expected completion date | Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%) | Implementation status as of current reporting period (%) | Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay | Progress Rating |
|---|---|--------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------|
|   | the pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in Middle Euphrates landscape and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders (Implementation of the Plan formulated under Components 2, 3 and 4).  |                          |   |  |   |                 |
| 2 Component: Measures avoiding degradation and biodiversity loss and land rehabilitation to improve ecosystem functions and services: the project will strive to establish and make operative 2 new protected areas according to clear criteria and belonging to the national list of Key Biodiversity Areas published in 2016. | 2.1.1 The National Protected Area Network of Iraq is expanded by 176,292 ha through the declaration and establishments of new 2 PAs that are sustainably managed.   | 2027-03-31               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
|   | 2.1.2 PA Management plans factoring the resilience to climate change developed and implemented for Razzaza Lake and Sawa Lake.  | 2025-05-31               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
|   | 2.1.3 Operationalization of habitat, biodiversity and land monitoring system aligned with the Integrated Conservation Management Plan in collaboration with key government stakeholders (Ministry of Health and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Planning) taking into account gender disparities and empowering women in decision making processes. | 2027-09-30               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
| 3 Component: Demonstration of more sustainable flow of agro- ecosystem services through implementing nature-based solutions in Middle Euphrates Landscape.  | 3.1.1 Decision support tools for locally adaptive LDN measures provided to support decision-making through assessments (ecological and vulnerability).  | 2024-10-31               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
|   | 3.1.2 Locally adaptive LDN measures to enhance water conservation and prevent changes in the characteristics of soil, wind erosion, salinization and loss of natural fertility of soil identified and validated by the governorates and Ministry of Environment.  | 2025-02-28               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
|   | 3.1.3 Techniques and management practices, including but not limited to the revision/reform of existing policies and possibly adoption of new policies for sustainable land management developed and tested in 10,000 ha of the 2 pilot SLM areas   | 2027-09-30               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |

| Component   | Output/Activity   | Expected completion date | Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%) | Implementation status as of current reporting period (%) | Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay | Progress Rating |
|---|---|--------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------|
|   | (Karbala and Al-Muthanna) (results will be monitored through the monitoring system developed under Output 2.1.3).   |                          |   |  |   |                 |
|   | 3.1.4 In collaboration with the Office of Agricultural Extension Services and Training, capacity development program established and local stakeholders (e.g. farmers, farmer cooperative systems, agricultural associations, PA managers, women) trained on best practices for SLM, biodiversity conservation, water conservation, climate smart agriculture and agrobiodiversity. | 2027-07-31               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
|   | 3.1.5 Training sessions on sustainable finance for the local banks in the Middle Euphrates landscape organized.   | 2025-02-28               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
| 4 Component: Capacity building and knowledge management: a new information/knowledge database and an awareness strategy will also scale up the long-term impacts of the project in protecting Iraq's unique biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services on which its people depend on, by making fully accessible management plans, best practices, monitoring and data to inform decision makers and farmers. | 4.1.1 An information/knowledge management system developed and made accessible to stakeholders enabling learning from and upscaling of pilot activities (ensuring accessibility by men, women, and youth).  | 2025-07-31               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
|   | 4.1.2 A communication and awareness strategy is developed to support implementation of ICMF.  | 2025-10-31               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
|   | 4.1.3 Awareness raising and technical materials, based on best practices identified through Component 2 and 3, developed in local languages, disseminated, and used for training of landowners, communities, and private sector, taking into account gender balance, to promote adoption of SLM practices and biodiversity conservation.  | 2027-04-30               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |
|   | 4.1.4 Project monitoring and evaluation system operating providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets.  | 2027-04-30               | 0   | 0  |   | MS              |

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





## 4 Risks

### 4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

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

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

### 4.2 Table B. Risk-log

#### Implementation Status (Current PIR)

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

| Risks  | Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs | CEO ED | PIR 1 | PIR 2 | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | Current PIR | Δ | Justification  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|---|--|
| Disruption of or impediments for project activities due to the ongoing COVID 19-pandemic; reallocation of committed co-financing from theGovernment to COVID-relatedinitiatives. | All outputs                       | H      | L     |       |       |       |       |             | ↓ | The COVID pandemic poses a risk to the implementation of the project. particularly if new variants arise. Similarly, to other countries around the world. Shutdowns took place in the country. and lockdown measures were implemented in the heat of the |

| Risks  | Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs | CEO ED | PIR 1 | PIR 2 | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | Current PIR | Δ | Justification  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|---|--|
|  |                                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |             |   | <p>pandemic. However as of the end of 2021.lockdown measures have eased and physical meetings have been taking place. As of 29September 2021 12% of Iraq population has received 2 vaccination doses while 6.3% has received only one. In order to boost the vaccinated proportion in the population the Iraqi Government has received a 100 million USD from the World Bank (*). This massive vaccination program. That is planned to starting October 2021. Should curb and limit intensity of future Covid infection outbreaks. By the time this project will start beingimplemented the majority of adult people ofIraq will have been vaccinated. All Covid-related safety measures will be adopted (e.g. mask wearing. social distancing etc.)The project can arrange part of the activities to be run online (e.g. meetings and consultations. trainings)</p> |
| There is limited professionalcapacity in Iraq to support theimplementation of technical project activities | All outputs                       | M      | M     |       |       |       |       |             | = | <p>The Project Management capacity of the Iraqi MoE has improved through the years in terms of technical capacities by developing and implementing several GEF-funded projects carried out with other UN agencies including UNEP.UNEP will</p>   |

| Risks  | Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs | CEO ED | PIR 1 | PIR 2 | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | Current PIR | Δ | Justification  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|---|--|
|  |                                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |             |   | support MOE and will be responsible for project cycle management services. Working closely with the MoE and other implementing partners. UNEP ROWA will perform support activities such as (project oversight, liaising with GEF, revising and approving budgets, ensure timely disbursement, following up on progress, and certifying project completion) as stated under the implementation arrangement. |
| Relevant stakeholders for the project development processes have very limited understanding and awareness of the environmental and BD conservation issues and of land degradation neutrality issues. This is (and will continue to) limit severely the efforts of MoE to uphold BD conservation issues in the Government's agenda. The MoE is also constrained in terms of its ability to foster mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation issues and environmental concerns into other sectors and Ministries. | Outcome 1.1 and 4.1               | M      | M     |       |       |       |       |             | = | This is a constraint and risk that will be addressed through a significant budget allocation for stakeholder consultation, awareness raising, consensus building and communication-related activities. These tasks are outlined as Component 1 and 4 of the project and will be designed to provide cross-cutting support to Components 2 and 3.   |
| Climate-change related weather extremes may negatively affect project activities for ecosystem restoration and effective SLM practices.  | Outcome 3.1                       | M      | M     |       |       |       |       |             | = | Appreciable worsening of climatic changes are unlikely to occur over the course of project implementation, but the on-going climatic trends could certainly affect the outcomes of the project over the long term. Specific  |

| Risks | Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs | CEO ED | PIR 1 | PIR 2 | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | Current PIR | Δ | Justification  |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|---|--|
|       |                                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |             |   | <p>recommendations from the GEF's STAP were taken into account (**). A thorough assessment of risks over the medium and long term, based on local ecological and agricultural conditions and associated CC vulnerability and exposure at the two KBAs and at the two governorates, will be performed under Component 2/Output 2.1.1. Based on this data and based on different CC risk scenarios an international CC adaptation expert will discuss with local stakeholders and develop specific risk mitigation plans and resilience plans for the two components focusing on field work (component 2 and 3). Steps will be taken to build resilience measures into project design to minimize the risk and/or adapt to new conditions when possible. The project's approach will enable stakeholders to better understand vulnerabilities and strategically adapt to the associated risks. Building the capacity for this resilience will be key to the project's long-term success. SLM and CA practices will be selected based on their potential contribution to more r</p> |

| Risks   | Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs | CEO ED | PIR 1 | PIR 2 | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | Current PIR | Δ | Justification   |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|---|---|
| Appreciable worsening of climatic changes are unlikely to occur over the course of project implementation. but the on-going climatic trends could certainly affect the outcomes of the project over the long term. Specific recommendations from the GEF's STAP were taken into account (**). A thorough assessment of risks over the medium and long term, based on local ecological and agricultural conditions and associated CC vulnerability and exposure at the two KBAs and at the two governorates, will be performed under Component 2/Output 2.1.1. Based on this data and based on different CC risk scenarios an international CC adaptation expert will discuss with local stakeholders and develop specific risk mitigation plans and resilience plans for the two components focusing on field work (component 2 and 3). Steps will be taken to build resilience measures into project design to minimize the risk and/or adapt to new conditions when possible. The project's approach will enable stakeholders to better understand vulnerabilities and strategically adapt to the associated risks. Building the capacity for this resilience will be key to the project's long-term success. SLM and CA practices will be selected based on their potential contribution to more r | All outcomes                      | M      | S     |       |       |       |       |             | ↓ | The design of the project will take this risk into account by: (a) focusing on the development of broad-based technical, professional, and institutional capacity within the MoE. This may partly compensate for the possible temporary lack of high-level political support, and technical staff can sustain the process of project development. In addition (b) Through an active consultation, awareness, and outreach program (all 4 components), the project will develop a broader base of understanding, consensus and support within other ministries and stakeholders (with a special focus on decision makers), thus increasing the level of political support for the BD conservation agenda and land degradation neutrality in the country. |
| The concept of Protected Areas? Mahmiat?  | Outcome 2.1                       | M      | M     |       |       |       |       |             | ↓ | the combination of increased national   |

| Risks  | Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs | CEO ED | PIR 1 | PIR 2 | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | Current PIR | Δ | Justification  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|---|--|
| is often initially met with resistance and prejudice by stakeholders and local communities. This is expected to constrain the initial efforts of the MoE towards discussing and establishing a PAN                       |                                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |             |   | capacity and broad consultative and awareness efforts is expected to mitigate this anticipated problem by removing critical barriers and building consensus and understanding of BD conservation issues among all key stakeholders involved in the project development process. The project will also take stock of the participatory and community based ?Hema? approach to PA management as approved at the IUCN congress in Jeju (2012).<br>ref.: <a href="http://www.spnl.org/jeju-declaration-adopted-to-promote-green-growth/">http://www.spnl.org/jeju-declaration-adopted-to-promote-green-growth/</a> |
| Insufficient engagement efforts and unclear roles of stakeholders in the execution of the project may result in lack of commitment from local communities and therefore may result in failure of demonstration projects. | Outcome 3.1                       | N/A    | L     |       |       |       |       |             |   | A stakeholder analysis and assessment will be performed at the early project stages, taking into full consideration the recent experience of UNEP GEF GFL/5392 PAN project and FAO GEF 9745 SLM project and their lessons learned. The project will strive since its early implementation stages to engage effectively the key stakeholders, especially local communities, with a focus on youth and women, with the aim to value as much as possible their traditional ecological and agriculture   |

| Risks  | Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs | CEO ED | PIR 1 | PIR 2 | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | Current PIR | Δ | Justification  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|---|--|
|  |                                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |             |   | knowledge and to assign clear roles as to avoid these kind of risks.   |
| Lengthy processes of approval and activation of legislation. especially PA proposal approval | Outcome 2.1                       | M      | M     |       |       |       |       |             | = | The project will have limited influence over this higher-level institutional and governance issue. supporting the preparation and discussion of legal and institutional set-up with a targeted consultation and awareness outreach campaigns focusing on decision makers and other government departments represented in the Cabinet and members of parliament. The project will benefit from the newly developed process of approval of PA promoted by UNEP GEF GFL/5392 PAN project and IUCN               |
| Difficulties in implementing project recommendations and enforcing legislative provisions    | All outcomes                      | M      | M     |       |       |       |       |             | = | This is a longer-term risk that may affect the long-term impact and sustainability of project activities. This issue is bound to remain largely outside of the project's influence due to the limited budget and timeframe of the project. However. GEF support will focus on removing main initial barriers to lay-out solid foundations for integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. by: (a) building essential national capacity; (b) raising the level of understanding |



| Risks   | Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs | CEO ED | PIR 1 | PIR 2 | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | Current PIR | Δ | Justification  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|---|--|
|   |                                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |             |   | and buy-in with other government sectors and society at large; and (c) putting in place the necessary technical, legal and institutional instruments to support PA management. These initial building blocks can be subsequently developed and expanded upon through Government efforts and other Donor-assisted projects.   |
| Security issues in the country  | all components                    |        | S     |       |       |       |       |             |   | The security issues in the country caused significant delays to the launch of the project.   |
| Rehabilitation of disused and abandoned land surfaces may encounter resistance from landowners (public and private) and political figures medium As with other constituent-based risks. the firstline | Outcome 3.1                       |        |       |       |       |       |       |             |   | As with other constituent-based risks, the firstline of mitigation is inclusion. Identified private-sector stakeholders will be included when possible and appropriate (at different levels) to lessen such risks and identify opportunities for growth. Value chains have been identified as one of the main crosscutting issues of this project. such that proactive efforts are being made to identify opportunities to build and strengthen the full length of affected value chains (and even creating additional value chains). Local institutions will provide a basis for private sector stakeholders to interact and negotiated directly with |

| Risks                 | Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs | CEO ED | PIR 1 | PIR 2 | PIR 3 | PIR 4 | PIR 5 | Current PIR | Δ | Justification   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|---|---|
|                       |                                   |        |       |       |       |       |       |             |   | communities (which comprises the program's primary constituency). Another mitigation measure can be through capacity building and awareness targeted at project beneficiaries. This will involve tools such as economic models and plans. economic analysis that clearly show that there is an economic and social benefit to the adoption of the SLM measures (win-win). |
| Administrative delays | All components                    |        | M     |       |       |       |       |             |   | Administrative delays in recruiting the PM, launching the activities and making all key Ministries support the project cause delay in project activities.   |
|                       |                                   | M      | M     |       |       |       |       |             |   |   |

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

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

| Risk                           | Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.) | Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period | What   | When        | By Whom |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------|---------|
| Security issues in the country |  |  | Develop a backup plan to ensure continuation of project activities | Dec 2024    | ROWA    |
| Administrative delays          |  |  | Ensure strong support of the Ministry of                           | by Dec 2024 | ROWA    |

| Risk   | Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)                                | Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period | What   | When             | By Whom |
|--|---|--|--|------------------|---------|
|  |   |  | Environment. Min of Agriculture and Ministry of Water affairs so that activities commence. Ensure project team in Iraq is in place |                  |         |
| Difficulties in implementing project recommendations and enforcing legislative provisions  | This is a longer-term risk that may affect the long-term impact and sustainability of project activities. |  | Actions planned in the CEO<br>End will be implemented  | project duration | ROWA    |
| Lengthy processes of approval and activation of legislation. especially PA proposal approval   | This is a longer-term risk that may affect the long-term impact and sustainability of project activities. |  | Actions planned in the CEO<br>End will be implemented  | project duration | ROWA    |
| The concept of Protected Areas?Mahmiat? is often initially met with resistance and prejudice by stakeholders and local communities. This is expected to constrain the initial efforts of the MoE towards discussing and establishing a PAN | This is a project risk that mitigation measures are defined in the project activities                     |  | Actions planned in the CEO<br>End will be implemented  | project duration | ROWA    |

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



## 5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

### Project Minor Amendments

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

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

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

Minor amendments

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

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

GEO Location Information:

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

| Location Name            | Latitude  | Longitude | GEO Name ID | Location Description                           | Activity Description |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--|----------------------|
| Lake Razzaza (Lake Milh) | 32.665588 | 43.637580 |             | Lake Razazah is located in Karbala Governorate |                      |
| Lake Sawa                | 31.310316 | 45.007363 |             | Lake Sawa is located in Muthana Governorate    |                      |

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

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

**Additional Supporting Documents:**

| Filename   | File Uploaded By | File Uploaded At    |                                 |
|--|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Meeting_summary_Report_UNEP.pdf                    | Executing Agency | 2024-08-08 14:25:05 | <a href="#"><u>Download</u></a> |
| Expenditure Template by Component_GEFID 10672.xlsx | Executing Agency | 2024-08-08 14:24:03 | <a href="#"><u>Download</u></a> |