



## FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

### 2023 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

## Table of contents

1. BASIC PROJECT DATA .....	2
2. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) (DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE) .....	5
3. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (IP).....	10
4. SUMMARY ON PROGRESS AND RATINGS .....	18
5. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS (ESS) .....	24
6. RISKS .....	27
7. FOLLOW-UP ON MID-TERM REVIEW OR SUPERVISION MISSION .....	33
8. MINOR PROJECT AMENDMENTS .....	34
9. STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT.....	35
10. GENDER MAINSTREAMING .....	38
11. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES .....	40
12. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT .....	42
13. CO-FINANCING TABLE .....	43

## 1. Basic Project Data

### General Information

<b>Region:</b>	Asia and the Pacific (RAP)
<b>Country (ies):</b>	Iran, Islamic Republic of
<b>Project Title:</b>	Rehabilitation of Forest Landscapes and Degraded Land with Particular Attention to Saline Soils and Areas Prone to Wind Erosion
<b>FAO Project Symbol:</b>	GCP /IRA/064/GFF
<b>GEF ID:</b>	3450
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Land Degradation (LD), Biodiversity (BD)
<b>Project Executing Partners:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization (NRWO) of the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad</li> <li>- Agriculture and Natural Resource Research Centre</li> </ul>
<b>Initial project duration (years):</b>	5 years and 7 years of extension
<b>Project coordinates:</b> <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>	<i>[Projects in a) and b) categories should indicate YES here and provide the geocoded data in Annex 2]</i>  Sarayan, South Khorasan (33.859331, 58.514857) Rigan, Kerman (28.708088, 58.655576)

### Project Dates

<b>GEF CEO Endorsement Date:</b>	29 March 2011
<b>Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :</b>	1 July 2011, Inception started in November 2011
<b>Project Implementation End Date/NTE<sup>1</sup>:</b>	30-Jun-16
<b>Revised project implementation End date (if approved) <sup>2</sup></b>	31 October 2023

### Funding

<b>GEF Grant Amount (USD):</b>	USD 2,668,300
<b>Total Co-financing amount (USD)<sup>3</sup>:</b>	USD 8 338 834
<b>Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):</b>	USD 2,437,490
<b>Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)<sup>4</sup>:</b>	USD 2,368,803
<b>Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023<sup>5</sup></b>	USD 8,338,834

<sup>1</sup> As per FPMIS

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

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

<sup>4</sup> The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

<sup>5</sup> 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:	18 April 2023 (The next PSC Meeting is planned to be organized in August 2023)
Expected Mid-term Review date <sup>6</sup> :	NA
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	April 2016
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date <sup>7</sup> :	April 2023 (Actual Date)
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	<i>None</i>

**Overall ratings**

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	<i>S</i>
Overall implementation progress rating:	<i>MS</i>
Overall risk rating:	<i>M</i>

**ESS risk classification**

Current ESS Risk classification:	<i>M</i>
----------------------------------	----------

**Status**

Implementation Status (1 <sup>st</sup> PIR, 2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR, etc. Final PIR):	11 <sup>th</sup> PIR
--	----------------------

**Project Contacts**

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Vahid Jafarian, Director-General of the Bureau of Desert Affairs, Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad and National Project Director (NPD)	<a href="mailto:jafarian1393@yahoo.com">jafarian1393@yahoo.com</a>
Budget Holder (BH)	Yubak Dhoj GC, FAO Representative <i>ad interim</i> to the Islamic Republic of Iran	<a href="mailto:yubak.gc@fao.org">yubak.gc@fao.org</a>
GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)		

<sup>6</sup> The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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

<b>Lead Technical Officer (LTO)</b>	Fidaa Haddad, Forestry Officer, FAO Forestry Division (NFO)	<a href="mailto:Fidaa.Haddad@fao.org">Fidaa.Haddad@fao.org</a>
<b>GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)</b>	Chris Dirkmaat, Executive Officer, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB)  Maude Veyret-Picot, Technical Officer, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB)	<a href="mailto:Chris.Dirkmaat@fao.org">Chris.Dirkmaat@fao.org</a>  <a href="mailto:Maude.VeyretPicot@fao.org">Maude.VeyretPicot@fao.org</a>

## 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 <sup>8</sup>	Baseline	Mid-term Target Mid-term Target <sup>9</sup>	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress <sup>10</sup> since project start Level/I (and %) on 30 June 2023	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
To reduce land and forest degradation by investing in Sustainable Land and Forest Management (SLFM) in three target provinces and developing national and local capacity to support the widespread	<b>Outcome 1:</b> Strengthening capacity of local communities in 45 pilot villages, provincial and local institutions to plan, implement and evaluate	Workshop participants trained in participatory and integrated Sustainable Land and Forest Management (SLFM) initiatives and are using their new skills on the ground	Baseline measured at Y0	N/A	At least 200 people of the population in each of the two watersheds and 70% of the Provincial staff including men and women trained on SLFM.	100%	S
		Participatory Village Resource Management Council (PVRMC) and Village Councils (VC), SLFM Village Level Plan	Baseline measured at Y0	N/A	- 6 Participatory Village Resource Management Councils established - 45 Village Level Plans formulated - 2 watershed level plans formulated	100%	S

<sup>8</sup> This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

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

<sup>11</sup> 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.

implementation of these techniques across the whole of the country		(VLP) and Watershed Level Plan (WLP) developed for the pilot villages and village clusters respectively.					
		Rural Development Funds established in pilot villages.	Baseline measured at YO	N/A	Rural Development Funds established for at least 30 pilot villages (1 rural development fund per pilot village)	100%	S
	<b>Outcome 2:</b> Status of forests and range improved, severity of wind erosion decreased, and natural resources managed sustainably on 75000 ha of land	Number of villages implementing VLP and WLP	Limited and dispersed	N/A	At least 30 pilot villages (20 in Rigan and 10 in Se Galeh) implementing the village level and watershed level plans	80%	S
		Surface of forest, range and under SLFM field interventions (including wind breaks, restoration of degraded land, improved water harvesting techniques, livestock management and sustainable agriculture)	Limited and dispersed	N/A	- 75% rehabilitated rangelands of the projected 19 400 ha in pilot sites	100%	S
		Number of sustainable alternative livelihoods	Limited and dispersed	N/A	At least 5 sustainable alternative livelihoods initiatives developed with demonstrated benefits to environmental services	100%	S
		Changes in the number of species of flora and fauna as measured by species composition and canopy cover, direct spot, pellet group counts and tracks in the identified	None	N/A	- One No- Hunting Area established in Rigan. -25% recovery in globally important wild species and species of importance to non-Wood Forest  - 50 % decrease in over-grazing and fuel wood harvest inside the forest	80%	S

		conservation and rehabilitation areas			boundaries defined for conservation activities		
		Forest areas for conservation and rehabilitation are identified and mapped.	Baseline YO	N/A	-Areas for conservation activities and rehabilitation are defined - One Non-Hunting Area established in Rigan.	100%	S
		Changes in the number of species of flora and fauna as measured by species composition and canopy cover, direct spot, pellet group counts and tracks in the identified conservation and rehabilitation areas	Baseline YO	N/A	-25% recovery in globally important wild species and species of importance to non-Wood Forest  - 50 % decrease in over-grazing and fuel wood harvest inside the forest boundaries defined for conservation activities	100%	S
	<b>Outcome 3:</b> Enhanced capacity at local and national levels to integrate Sustainable Land and Forest Management (SLFM) across different institutions and sectors	Increased inter and intra sectoral coordination	None	N/A	One Sustainable Land and Forest Management SLFM platform/ Inter-sectoral Coordination Mechanism established and operational at National level.	100%	S
		SLFM integrated into relevant sectoral policies	None	N/A	At least 5 policies revised to mainstream participatory SLFM	100%	S
			None	N/A	At least 5 departments in NRM Ministry working with inter and intra-departmental linkages and at least two linkages established between 2 ministries (DOE and FRWO) at provincial levels; at least one such linkage at the national level.	100%	
	<b>Outcome 4.a:</b>	Project data collection and Monitoring and	None	N/A	By Y 0.5	100%	S

	Project monitored and evaluated effectively, and lessons learnt and best practices disseminated widely with a view to their replication in other areas	Evaluation system established					
		Project progress and monitoring reports prepared, and mid-term and final evaluations conducted in a timely manner	None	N/A	By Y 0.5	100%	S
		Lessons learnt, publications and documentaries prepared and widely distributed	None	N/A	- Stakeholders beyond residents of the 45 pilot villages familiar with project approach and results through Y1-Y5. - Decision makers and Ministry professionals aware of project results	90%	S
		Project visit of FAOR, FRWO deputies and other provincial authorities organized	None	N/A	Project visit of FAOR, NRWO deputies and other provincial authorities organized	90%	S
	<b>Outcome 4.b:</b> Project managed effectively	Project management unit established	None	N/A		100%	S
		Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Committee established at national level	None	N/A		100%	S
		Provincial Project Offices and Project Planning Committees established in the Provincial level (one for each site) project sites.	None	N/A		100%	S



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

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
N/A			

### 3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs <sup>12</sup>		Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements <sup>13</sup> (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance <sup>14</sup> in delivering outputs
<b>Outcome 1: Strengthened capacity of local communities in 45 pilot villages, provincial and local institutions to plan, implement and evaluate participatory and integrated Sustainable Land and Forest Management (SLFM) initiatives.</b>	<b>Output 1.1:</b> At least 200 people of the population in each of the two watersheds and 70% of the provincial staff including men and women trained on SLFM	Workshop participants trained in participatory and integrated SLFM initiatives and are using their new skills on the ground.	At least 50 people of different villages in the pilot watersheds and 20% of the provincial staff in Kerman and South Khorasan including men and women trained/oriented on SLFM.	Rigan Site: No update reported in this period  Sarayan Site: Implementing two training courses on gemstone carving and leather crafting for 46 people Planning for implementation of training courses on towel weaving and dyeing Planning to have a training visit at provincial level in South Khorasan for 5 people/participants to visit cookie workshops and homemade bread as successful livelihood activities	
	<b>Output 1.2:</b> Six (6) participatory Village Resource Management councils established;	Participatory Village Resource Management Council (PVRMC) and Village Councils (VC)	Capacities of Two cooperative & 14 VRMDCs enhanced & supported	Rigan Site: 65 meetings including the meetings of Rural Resource Development Committees held on 25th of each month and the meetings held in cooperation with the SEPEHR Charity Foundation  Sarayan Site: Six meetings including the meetings of Rural Resource Development Committees	
	<b>Output 1.3:</b> Forty-five (45) village level plans	SLFM Village Level Plan (VLP) and	Fourteen Village Level Plans (VLPs)	Sarayan site:	

<sup>12</sup> Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

<sup>13</sup> 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)

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

	and (two) 2 watershed level plans formulated	Watershed Level Plan (WLP) developed for the pilot villages and village clusters respectively.	and (two) 2 watershed level plans formulated	Planning and consulting for the implementation of 3 cases of rural development and construction activities, including 2 cases of improving rural monasteries in Bostaaq and Doostabad and 1 case of green space improvement (6 hectares) in Se-Ghale with the cooperation of executive bodies and the participation of local communities	
	<b>Output 1.4:</b> Rural Development Funds established for at least 30 pilot villages (1 rural development fund per pilot village) - Delivered	Rural Development Funds established in pilot villages.	Delivered	<p>Rigan Site:</p> <p>Number of fund groups: 16 groups – Sepehr Cultural Heritage and Charitable Foundation</p> <p>Number Of members of the funds: 502 people (male: 0 and females: 502 - Sepehr Cultural Heritage and Charitable Foundation)</p> <p>Total number of households members of rural funds: 92 households - Total number of households members of rural funds: 17 households</p> <p>Total amount of capital of sustainable development funds of local communities: 1 845 million Rials from RFLDL Funds and 4000 million Rials from Sepehr Cultural Heritage and Charitable Foundation</p> <p>Saving of local communities: 900 million Rials from RFLDL Funds and 4 930 million Rials from other Funds related to Sepehr Cultural Heritage and Charitable Foundation</p> <p>Number of facilities provided from the credit of rural funds: 111 cases (male: 60 and female: 51)</p> <p>Sarayan Site:</p> <p>Number of fund groups: 3 groups</p> <p>Total members of the funds: 102 people (male: 46 and female: 56)</p> <p>Total number of households members of rural funds: 17 households</p> <p>Total amount of capital of sustainable development funds of local communities: 7 640 million Rials (Savings of local communities: 4 407 million Rials (male: 1 813 Million Rials - female: 2 594 Million Rials))</p>	

				<p>Other: 3 233 million Rials (loan fee, bank interest, etc.)</p> <p>Number of facilities provided from the credit of rural funds: 178 cases (male: 69 and female: 109)</p> <p>Amount of facilities from rural funds: 7 952 million rials</p> <p>Holding 6 sessions to review the progress of committees, funds and rural cooperatives</p>	
<b>Outcome 2: Status of forests and range improved, severity of wind erosion decreased and natural resources managed sustainably on 75,000 ha of land</b>	<b>Output 2.1:</b> At least 30 pilot villages (20 in Rigan and 10 in Se Galeh) implementing the village level and watershed level plans;	Number of villages Implementing VLP and WLP	implementing 19 Environmental and developmental projects at village and sub watershed levels & initiation for implementation of VLPs & WLPS	Sarayan site: Planning and consulting for the implementation of 3 cases of rural development and construction activities, including 2 improvements of rural monasteries in Bostaaq and Doostabad and 1 green space improvement (6 hectares) in Se-Ghale with the cooperation of executive bodies and the participation of local communities	
	<b>Output 2.2:</b> 30% decrease in wind erosion in pilot villages	Surface of forest, range and under SLFM field interventions (including wind breaks, restoration of degraded land, improved water harvesting techniques, livestock management and sustainable agriculture)	Wind erosion monitoring in Kerman & South Khorasan Provinces	No update reported in this period	
	<b>Output 2.3:</b> 75% of Rangelands rehabilitated of projected 19,100 ha in pilot sites	Percentage of biodiversity and forest recovery	9100 ha of rangelands in pilot sites rehabilitated with participatory approach	No update reported in this period	
	<b>Output 2.4:</b> 2,250 hectares of farm and rangeland in selected villages restored with drought and salinity resistant plants;	Forest areas for conservation and rehabilitation are Identified and mapped. Changes in the number of species of flora and	3 hectares of farm and rangeland in selected villages restored with drought and salinity resistant plants.	<p>Rigan Site: Implementing 100 Hectares of Annual irrigation, 1650 Hectares were planted with species that can be irrigated by the wastewater.</p> <p>Sarayan Site: Implementing 50 Hectares of Annual irrigation</p>	

		fauna as measured by species composition and canopy cover, direct spot, pellet group counts and tracks in the identified conservation and rehabilitation areas			
	<b>Output 2.5.</b> 25% recovery in globally important wild species and species of importance/used as Non Wood Forest Products (baseline to be established in year 1)		Survey and environment protection activities implemented	No update reported in this period	
	<b>Output 2.6.</b> At least 5 sustainable alternative livelihood initiatives are developed with demonstrated benefits to environmental services	Number of sustainable alternative livelihoods	Planning & establishment of sustainable livelihood activities	<p>Rigan site: 750 Gas ovens and 500 stoves procured and delivered to the site. Equipment for the bakery workshop and livestock feed procured and delivered to the site.</p> <p>Sarayan site: Utilities for a Saffron packaging workshop procured and delivered to Sarayan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 units of Saffron Dryer Machine</li> <li>- 5 units of Laboratory Scale</li> <li>- 5 units of Manual Plastic Bag Heat-Sealer</li> <li>- 5 units of Handheld inkjet printers</li> </ul> <p>200 Gas ovens delivered to the site.</p> <p>Nine petrol engine sprayers procured and delivered to NRW in Tehran to be delivered to both Rigan and Sarayan pilot sites.</p>	
<b>Outcome 3: Enhanced capacity at local and national levels to integrate SLFM across different institutions and sectors.2.1</b>	<b>Output 3.1:</b> SLFM platform/inter-sectoral coordination mechanism established and operational at national level	Increased inter and intrasectoral coordination	Implementation of intersectoral coordination and cooperation approach for SLFM in district level	No update reported in this period	

	<b>Output 3.2:</b> At least 5 policies revised to mainstream participatory SLFM	SLFM integrated into relevant sectoral policies	Review governmental budgeting mechanism to mainstream participatory SLFM	No update reported in this period	
	<b>Output 3.3:</b> At least 5 departments related to natural resources management working with inter- and intra-departmental linkages and at least two linkages established between 2 (Department of Environment (DOE) and Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization (FRWO) at provincial levels; at least one such linkage at the national level.	Increased inter and intrasectoral coordination	Develop Inter-linkages to conduct joint activities	No update reported in this period	
<b>Outcome 4a: Project monitored and evaluated effectively and best practices and lessons learnt disseminated widely with a view to their replication in other areas.</b>	<b>Output 4a.1:</b> Project data collection and Monitoring and Evaluation system established;	Project data collection and Monitoring and Evaluation system established	Monitoring and Evaluation system established	<p>A national Sand and Dust Storm expert recruited to analyse the impact assessment on SDS on agriculture sector</p> <p>National Socioeconomic and DRR consultants are going to be recruited to analyse agricultural vulnerability assessment against SDS assessing impacts of project on mitigating the risk</p> <p>A technical report will be produced on how the project activities contributed to monitoring and evaluation system for SDS established and hotspots will be identified for potential restoration activities in the selected landscapes</p>	
	<b>Output 4a.2:</b> Project progress and monitoring reports prepared and midterm and final evaluations conducted in a timely manner	Project progress and monitoring reports prepared and mid-term and final evaluations conducted in a timely manner	Annual and quarterly reports prepared	No update reported in this period	

	<p><b>Output 4a.3:</b> Lessons learnt, publications and documentaries prepared and widely distributed</p>	<p>Lessons learnt, publications and documentaries prepared and widely distributed</p>	<p>Various publications and documentaries prepared and widely distributed</p>	<p>E-Learning: FAO – Committee on Forestry Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems (COFO WG) initiated and launched an e-learning platform on sustainable dryland management Transforming Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems. In collaboration with the project, this e-learning designed through five online lessons to strengthen the capacities of practitioners and decision-makers on how to plan for and assess transformational change in dryland production systems taking the social, economic, and environmental sustainability pillars into consideration.</p> <p>In this regard, a high-level opening ceremony was held on 29 March 2023 for official launch of this e-learning. Webinar link: <a href="https://fao.zoom.us/j/99984805332?tk=AtChvnyj0QPk4hwZ2aJKitmciAXzcNAizK0aolmnnE.DQMAAAAXR48N1BZIVGwzcC0yWVNVMkhYWHBZWlBodlpnAAAAAAAAAAAA&amp;uuiid=WN_aBReo19bRhOxhkLouXPAhg">https://fao.zoom.us/j/99984805332?tk=AtChvnyj0QPk4hwZ2aJKitmciAXzcNAizK0aolmnnE.DQMAAAAXR48N1BZIVGwzcC0yWVNVMkhYWHBZWlBodlpnAAAAAAAAAAAA&amp;uuiid=WN_aBReo19bRhOxhkLouXPAhg</a> Course: <a href="https://www.fao.org/agrosilvopastoral-systems/">Course: Transforming dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems (fao.org)</a></p> <p>Iranian Media coverage for “official launch of FAO e-Learning course on sustainable dryland management” held on 29 March 2023”:</p> <p>English-language media:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483434/FAO-Iran-launch-e-learning-course-on-dryland-management">https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483434/FAO-Iran-launch-e-learning-course-on-dryland-management</a></li> </ol>	<p>The position of communication and reporting specialist has been vacant for multiple months now and a new specialist has been recruited in March. Therefore, during this PIR period, the office was facing adversaries and shortcomings to produce promotional materials and raise the visibility of achievements.</p>

				<p>2. <a href="https://newspaper.irandaily.ir/7264/6/842">https://newspaper.irandaily.ir/7264/6/842</a></p> <p>3. <a href="https://en.mehrnews.com/news/199193/FAO-Iran-launch-course-to-transform-dryland-management">https://en.mehrnews.com/news/199193/FAO-Iran-launch-course-to-transform-dryland-management</a></p> <p>4. <a href="https://en.isna.ir/news/1402011908849/FAO-Iran-launch-e-Learning-course-to-transform-dryland-management">https://en.isna.ir/news/1402011908849/FAO-Iran-launch-e-Learning-course-to-transform-dryland-management</a></p> <p>Persian-language media:</p> <p>1. <a href="http://irna.ir">اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های خشک - ایرنا (irna.ir)</a></p> <p>2. <a href="http://mehrnews.com">اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت مناطق خشک - خبرگزاری مهر   اخبار ایران و جهان   Mehr News Agency</a></p> <p>3. <a href="http://iribnews.ir">اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک ایران   خبرگزاری صدا و سیما (iribnews.ir)</a></p> <p>4. <a href="http://borna.news">اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک ایران (borna.news)</a></p> <p>5. <a href="http://baeghtesad.com">اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک ایران (baeghtesad.com)</a></p> <p>6. <a href="http://agriculture-na.ir">اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک - مجله خبری کشاورزی (agriculture-na.ir)</a></p> <p>7. <a href="http://keshavarziyandehjahan.ir">اخبار کشاورزی: طی همکاری مشترک با ایران انجام شد: اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک (keshavarziyandehjahan.ir)</a></p>	
--	--	--	--	---	--



				<p>Drylands Summer School: First summer school of FAO – Committee on Forestry Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral System (COFO WG) will be held on 12-15 September 2023 in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This session will explore transformative approaches to building climate dryland systems. Participants will graduate the course as experts on integrating better socio-economic and sustainable practices in dryland management.</p> <p><a href="#">COFO WG Summer School   Dryland Forestry   Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (fao.org)</a></p> <p>A National consultant along with a Making Every Voice Count for Adaptive Management (Mev-CaM) coordinator and a knowledge Management Specialist in HQ's NFOD will extract project's two best practices.</p>	
	<b>Output 4a.4:</b> Decision makers and ministry professionals aware of project results.		Project visit of FAOR, NRW deputies and other provincial authorities organized	Arrangements have been made with FAO-RAP and FAO-China for visiting GEF successful project sites in China or Central Asia in late July/August or September	
<b><u>Outcome 4b: Project managed effectively</u></b>	<b>Output 4b.1:</b> Project management unit established	Project management unit established	Necessary staffs are recruited and equipments for effective office management are purchased	No update reported in this period	
	<b>Output 4b.2:</b> Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Committee (TC) established at the national level	Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Committee established at national level	Regular meetings of PSC & TC arranged.	Following the extension of project for one last year, several meetings were conducted between FAIRA and NRW on 9 August 2022, 19 February, and 18 April 2023 to discuss the remaining activities to be conducted by the new NTE date being end of October 2023.	

	<p><b>Output 4b.3:</b> Two Project Planning Committees (PPC) and Two Project Offices are established at provincial level (one in each province)</p>	<p>Provincial Project Offices and Project Planning Committees established in the Provincial level (one for each site) project sites.</p> <p>Activities implemented on time within available budget.</p>	<p>PPC meetings in both provinces regularly held</p>	<p>No update reported in this period</p>	
--	---	---	--	--	--

## 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)**

During this PIR period, the FAO Representation had no resident FAOR. The 2 a.i. FAORs were based in Bangkok. This particularly impacted the organization of site visits in Kerman and south Khorasan provinces. The project progress is listed below:

### Outcome 1:

- Output 1.1: Rigan Site has not reported any update under this output and the Sarayan Site implemented two training courses on gemstone carving and leather crafting for 46 people. Implementation of training courses on towel weaving and dyeing has been planned together with planning for a training visit at provincial level in South Khorasan for 5 people/participants to visit cookie workshops and homemade bread as successful livelihood activities.
- Output 1.2: Rigan Site conducted 65 capacity building meetings including the meetings of Rural Resource Development Committees held on the 25th of each month. The meetings were held in cooperation with the SEPEHR Charity Foundation. Sarayan site conducted 6 meetings including the meetings of Rural Resource Development Committees.
- Output 1.3: Three new VLPs are under formulation in Sarayan site including improvement of 2 rural monasteries in Bostaaq and Doostabad and 1 green space improvement (6 hectares) in Se-Ghale with the cooperation of executive bodies and the participation of local communities.
- Output 1.4: Rigan site reports launching 16 new funds including a total of 502 members, 92 households and a total 1,845 million Rials from RFLDL Funds (equivalent USD 4,933 based on June 2023 exchange rate) and 4000 million Rials from Sepehr Cultural Heritage and Charitable Foundation (equivalent to USD 10,694.93 based on June 2023 exchange rate).
  - Sarayan site reports launching three new funds with a total of 102 members, 17 households and a fund of 7,640 million Rials (equivalent to USD 20,427 based on June 2023 exchange rate).

### Outcome 2:

- Output 2.1: Sarayan Site has planned and implemented 3 rural development and construction activities, fully funded by the Government, including 2 rural monasteries improvements in Bostaaq and Doostabad and 1 green space improvement (6 hectares) in Se-Ghale with the cooperation of executive bodies and the participation of local communities.

- Output 2.4: Rigan Site has implemented 100 Hectares of Annual irrigation, and 1650 Hectares has been included in wastewater management with species that can be irrigated by the wastewater. Sarayan site has implemented 50 Hectares of Annual irrigation.
- Output 2.6: 750 Gas ovens and 500 stoves together with equipment for the bakery workshop and livestock feed procured by FAO-Iran and delivered to Rigan site. 200 Gas ovens delivered to Sarayan site together with equipment for Saffron workshop including:
  1. 10 units of Saffron Dryer Machine
  2. 5 units of Laboratory Scale
  3. 5 units of Manual Plastic Bag Heat-Sealer
  4. 5 units of Handheld inkjet printers

Nine petrol engine sprayers procured and delivered to NRW in Tehran to be delivered to both Rigan and Sarayan pilot sites.

#### Outcome 4:

- Output 4a.1: A national Sand and Dust Storm expert recruited by FAO-Iran to analyse the impact assessment on SDS on agriculture sector. In addition, National Socioeconomic and DRR consultants are going to be recruited to analyse agricultural vulnerability assessment against SDS assessing impacts of project on mitigating the risk. In this regard, a technical report will be produced on how the project activities contributed to monitoring and evaluation system for SDS established and hotspots will be identified for potential restoration activities in the selected landscapes.
- Output 4a.3: FAO – COFO WG e-learning platform on sustainable dryland management Transforming Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems launched to strengthen the capacities of practitioners and decision-makers on how to plan for and assess transformational change in dryland production systems taking the social, economic, and environmental sustainability pillars into consideration.

[Course: Transforming dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/course/transforming-dryland-forests-and-agrosilvopastoral-systems)

First summer school of FAO – Committee on Forestry Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral System (COFO WG) (to be held on 12-15 September 2023 in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) will explore transformative approaches to building climate dryland systems. Participants will graduate the course as experts on integrating better socio-economic and sustainable practices in dryland management.

[COFO WG Summer School | Dryland Forestry | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/course/transforming-dryland-forests-and-agrosilvopastoral-systems)

Below Iranian Media coverage published in English-language media and Farsi-language media for “official launch of FAO e-Learning course on sustainable dryland management Transforming Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems” to increase the visibility of project achievements and results:

1. <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483434/FAO-Iran-launch-e-learning-course-on-dryland-management>
2. <https://newspaper.irandaily.ir/7264/6/842>
3. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/199193/FAO-Iran-launch-course-to-transform-dryland-management>

4. <https://en.isna.ir/news/1402011908849/FAO-Iran-launch-e-Learning-course-to-transform-dryland-management>
5. [اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک - ایرنا \(irna.ir\)](#)
6. [اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت مناطق خشک - خبرگزاری مهر | اخبار ایران و جهان Mehr News Agency](#)
7. [اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک ایران | خبرگزاری صدا و سیما \(iribnews.ir\)](#)
8. [اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک ایران \(borna.news\)](#)
9. [اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک ایران \(baeghtesad.com\)](#)
10. [اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک - مجله خبری کشاورزی \(agriculture-na.ir\)](#)
11. [اخبار کشاورزی: طی همکاری مشترک با ایران انجام شد: اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک \(keshavarziyandehjahan.ir\)](#)

Making Every Voice Count for Adaptive Management (Mev-CaM) coordinator and a knowledge Management Specialist recruited in HQ's NFOD to extract project's two best practices. A national consultant will be recruited to document and give visibility to the project's achievements.

- Output 4a.4: Following the extension of the project, arrangements have been made with FAO-RAP and FAO-China to organize a study visit in China or Central Asia in September.
- Output 4b.2: Following the extension of the project for one year, several meetings were conducted between FAIRA and NRW on 9 August 2022, 19 February, and 18 April 2023 to discuss the remaining activities to be conducted by the new NTE date being end of October 2023

### ***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.

	<b>FY2023 Development Objective rating<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>FY2023 Implementation Progress rating<sup>16</sup></b>	<b>Comments/reasons<sup>17</sup> justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period</b>
<b>Project Manager / Coordinator</b>	MS	MS	<i>During this PIR period, FAO representation have had no resident FAOR and two FAORs (ad interim) based in RAP – Bangkok assigned for this period, hence, office was facing adversaries regarding arranging the mission for FAOR a.i. for visiting Iran and the project sites in Kerman and south Khorasan provinces. However, despite all obstacles the project has managed to follow-up on its activities and has attracted the satisfaction of its national counterpart.</i>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	S	S	<i>During this PIR period, FAO representation have had no resident FAOR and two FAORs (ad interim) based in RAP – Bangkok assigned for this period, hence, office was facing adversaries regarding arranging the mission for FAOR a.i. for visiting Iran and the project sites in Kerman and south Khorasan provinces. However, despite all obstacles the project has managed to follow-up on its activities and has attracted the satisfaction of its national counterpart.</i>
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point<sup>18</sup></b>			<i>Ratings/comments</i>
<b>Lead Technical Officer<sup>19</sup></b>	S	S	<i>Despite that the project design was too ambitious and faced a lot of delays, this PIR period re-shaped the activities to strengthen the management capacities and monitoring toward an effective exist strategy for example, the project focused on enhancing partnerships and disseminating lessons learned beyond the project sites. Moreover, active engagements were emphasised on supporting the local communities and strengthen their village committees.</i>

<sup>15</sup> **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.

<sup>16</sup> **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.

<sup>17</sup> Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

<sup>18</sup> In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

<sup>19</sup> The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

<b>GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>MS</b>	<p><i>Also during this reporting period, the project coordination unit was faced with high turn-over rates and administrative challenges. Nevertheless, this was a productive year with the organisation and launching of the FAO e-Learning Academy hosted SLM training. This training has been highly successful. It is therefore an excellent opportunity to give visibility to the project achievements, and perpetuate some of the knowledge that was produced during the long implementation period.</i></p> <p><i>This is the last PIR, and the terminal evaluation was conducted and shared. There are yet 2 important events in the pipeline for September (Summer School and a SSTC study visit to China). These will conclude the project, which was long and challenged, but which did leverage satisfactory results, including community mobilisation, ownership and engagement of villagers and CSOs, dialogue, investment and awareness. Some results were achieved several years ago, and could be maintained throughout the years, thanks to the community support and the stewardship of the authorities.</i></p>
--	----------	-----------	---

## 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
<b>ESS 1: Natural Resource Management</b>				
Consequences of prolonged drought and climate change on the country's already vulnerable rangelands, watersheds and other natural resources	Emphasis to be placed on providing sustainable livelihood opportunities and increased adoption of sustainable agriculture practices by the project aiming to empower rural households by building their capacity to plan for the sustainable management of their local ecosystem resources, on which their livelihoods depend and enable them to respond and cope with prolonged drought and climate change events.	Supporting the communities by providing equipment required for establishing alternate sources of income and livelihood activities, has continued to decrease the reliance of beneficiaries on the natural resources and the drought and climate change impacting them.	N/A	N/A
<b>ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats</b>				
Potential negative impacts of project implementation on biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitat	Biodiversity and ecosystem sensitivities were factored during implementation of	Biodiversity and ecosystem sensitivities were factored during	N/A	N/A



	the project activities. Given the nature of the project, most of the activities were towards nature resources and ecosystem rehabilitation.	implementation of the project activities. Given the nature of the project, most of the activities were towards nature resources and ecosystem rehabilitation.		
<b>ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
<b>ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
<b>ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management</b>				
<b>ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement</b>				
<b>ESS 7: Decent Work</b>				
<b>ESS 8: Gender Equality</b>				
	Ensuring that both men and women had equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from project activities in an equitable manner during project implementation	Project has continued to engage women side by side of men in livelihood and rehabilitation activities. Workshops and trainings have been conducted to establish sustainable businesses especially in handicraft related areas. Furthermore, women remain active in PVRMDC meetings as executive committee members, regular participants and benefit from loan facilities.	N/A	N/A

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 <sup>20</sup> . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	M

<i>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.</i>
No grievance was experienced in this period.

<sup>20</sup> **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit ([Esm-unit@fao.org](mailto: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 <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Lack of coordination among Province Project Offices and Tehran Project Office	Medium	Y	Holding Regular monthly Technical Committees.	Reportedly, regular meetings are still being held with Central and provincial NRW on monthly basis.	N/A
2	Delayed submission of reports and required information	High	N	If day-to-day follow-up does not work, to escalate the issue to the Bureau of International Affairs and Specialized Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad.	The potential of National Project Coordinator is utilized on this way to follow up on reports and required information from provinces	N/A

---

<sup>21</sup> 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 <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
3	Local community loosing sense of ownership	Medium	N	Visits to the pilot sites by the FAOIR/PTF	FAO is following up the smooth implementation of project's activities by regular weekly follow ups and conducting monthly coordination meetings with project's NPD and NPC. FAO also following up for a field visit and the project team tried to engage local community through contacting local focal points, and prioritizing activities which directly target local community, e.g. distribution of equipment for alternative livelihood strategies, enabling them to have access to sustainable livelihoods while protecting the environment and reducing the risks affecting the landscapes surrounding the rural population.	N/A

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
4	Market instability and fluctuation of prices troubling procurement of goods through local market (as A to Z of procurement process takes time, the local bidders might face change increase and not be able to keep up with their offer)	High	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faster handling of procurement by FAO(IR)</li> <li>- Applying for a waiver to accept shorter price validity</li> </ul>	Three procurement activities has been conducted and finalized despite the challenges for price fluctuation.	N/A
5	Limited project visibility	High	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updating Communication Strategy</li> <li>- Regular visit by FAOIR communication with the Technical Committee or filed visit to the target areas</li> <li>- Arranging visits for the national/local authorities to the target areas.</li> </ul>	A communication specialist has been recently hired in this PIR period and covered the latest achievements of the project.	N/A

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
6	Prolonged drought and climate change	High	Y	<p>Whereas such risks cannot be totally avoided, the emphasis the following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- providing sustainable livelihood opportunities</li> <li>- Adoption of climate smart agriculture practices to empower rural households by building their capacity to plan for the sustainable management of their local ecosystem resources.</li> <li>- seeking out traditional coping strategies which make the communities better able to deal with changing rainfall/drought patterns. The project would build on these traditional coping strategies and assist communities to identify and adopt locally appropriate water harvesting, soil moisture and nutrient conservation practices with potential to mitigate the effects of low rainfall and drought.</li> </ul>	<p>Reportedly in this PIR period, new sustainable livelihood opportunities are continuously introduced and followed by local communities. Management of drainage water have been in the agenda. Annual irrigation of wind breakers planted in previous years have been conducted. Sand traps planted in previous years have been implemented.</p>	N/A

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
7	Financial resources transfer to Iran	Medium	Y	Difficulties may be experienced in transferring project resources to Iran, which could affect the smooth and effective implementation of the project. FAO will monitor the situation carefully, and any impediments that could delay or adversely affect project implementation will be brought to the attention of the Government of Iran and the GEF Secretariat	FAO is regularly monitoring its financial channels and is in contact with CSF and FAO treasury to ensure alternative paths for the delivery of on-going projects	N/A
8	Deteriorated Political situation	Medium	N	- Following UNDSS advisory notes; Minimizing international missions.	During this PIR, the project faced with the recent political and social unrest situation in Iran. UNDSS advisory notes are distributed regularly and are followed, including the ones related to the recent unrest which minimizes some International and national missions.	N/A

**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
Medium	Medium	





## 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:	The project team emphasized on creation of alternative livelihoods for rural population, particularly household women to ensure community-based approach in environmental protection of forests and landscapes in the targeted provinces.
Recommendation 2:	The project team organized more technical and brainstorming sessions for the Government counterparts at local level to ensure that the project objectives are well disseminated at province level as well as in Tehran.
Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize	NO

## 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 Guidelines<sup>22</sup>. 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	None		
Components and cost	None		
Institutional and implementation arrangements	None		
Financial management	None		
Implementation schedule	<p>The work plan was updated at the time of project extension</p> <p>In June 2023, a last 1-month extension was granted to accommodate the study visit and summer school.</p>	December 2022 and June 2023	LTO, BH, GTO, FLO
Executing Entity	None		
Executing Entity Category	None		
Minor project objective change	None		
Safeguards	None		
Risk analysis	None		
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	None		
Co-financing	None		
Location of project activity	None		
Other minor project amendment (define)			

<sup>22</sup> 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	Role in project execution	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
<b>Government Institutions</b>			
Natural Resources offices	Key stakeholder Government	At local, provincial and national levels, it continues to coordinate environmental protection and national development objectives in its actions. Also, fully engage and make the greatest efforts to decision making.	Occasional delay in providing the requested information and data to FAO
Environmental offices	Key stakeholder	Having duty and role in preserving biodiversity & protected areas	None reported in this period
Ministry of Agriculture Jahad	Key stakeholders	The main occupation of people is agriculture and animal husbandry - influence on activities (water & soil resources)	Occasional delay in providing the requested information and data to FAO
VRMDCs (Village Resources and Management Development committees)	Key stakeholders Local Communities	Elected by the people, familiar with area problem, transfer the comments to public Having benefit in rehabilitating of rangelands - flood control – preventing damage to agriculture - animal husbandry - reducing wind erosion – Creating jobs – improving agriculture	None reported in this period
Technical and vocational office	Primary stakeholder	Having role and benefit in educating people and implement project activities especially alternative livelihoods	None reported in this period
Welfare	Primary stakeholder	Having role & benefit in supporting vulnerable people	None reported in this period
Relief committee	Primary stakeholder	Having role and benefit in support of vulnerable and poor people	None reported in this period
Education office	Primary stakeholder	Impact on public awareness and creating motivation – introduce needy people to training	None reported in this period

Research Institute for Forest and Rangelands (RIFR)	Primary stakeholder	Have a significant role in promoting awareness of integrated natural resources management, especially in project sites and in developing linkages both to human welfare and to sustainable resources, ecosystem and environmental management. Keep these people or organization adequately informed and talk to them to ensure that no major issues are arising.	None reported in this period
Nomadic Affairs	Secondary stakeholder	Most of the people are nomads and have benefits in project implementation	None reported in this period
<b>Non-Government organizations (NGOs)</b>			
NGOs	Primary stakeholder		
<b>Private sector entities</b>			
Private sector (vendors, implementers and suppliers) Primary stakeholder	Primary stakeholder	Private sector (vendors, implementers, and suppliers) from all around the country have been consulted extensively during this period for advice on Technical Specifications of the equipment under procurement for Alternative Livelihood Strategies and Alternative Energy Sources. A diverse range of role players in private sector were engaged in this process, including wholesalers, workshop owners, implementers, manufacturers, and retailers.	None reported in this period
<b>Others[1]</b>			
Islamic Council	Secondary stakeholder dependent on government	Interface between locals and authorities	None reported in this period
<b>New stakeholders identified/engaged</b>			
SEPEHR Cultural Heritage and Charitable Foundation	Primary stakeholder	Has an active role in conducting meeting, workshops and trainings	None reported in this period

[1] 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.

## 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.	No	None in this reporting period
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	From late 2022 and the beginning of 2023, project team has handed over 950 Gas Ovens, 500 Stoves, and equipment for Bakery and Saffron Workshop (10 Saffron Dryer Machines, 5 laboratory scales, 5 Manual Plastic Bag Heat-sealers and 5 Handheld inkjet printers) in line with the efforts to support alternate livelihood activities. These supplies will mainly empower women in project target areas to establish businesses that can be managed by women. The project created several alternative livelihoods for women households including by equipping them with equipment important for their home businesses.
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	No	None in this reporting period
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	The local women are the significant users of the items procured by FAO and national project offices. Namely saffron workshops and towel weaving workshops are example of business that utilize the services of women and create sustainable sources of income for them. This as a result contributes to gender equality and improves women's participation and decision making, also removes the obligation from beneficiaries to harm the natural resources and environment for making a living.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Women still hold their determinant role in managing the local funds. They also have a much stronger capacity in income generating activities.

		Totally, 502 women in Rigan and 52 in Sarayan received fund in this PIR period.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	No	None in this reporting period
Staff with gender expertise	No	None in this reporting period
Any other good practices on gender	No	None in this reporting period

## 11. Knowledge Management Activities

**Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, during this reporting period.**

<p>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.</p>	<p>FAO – COFO WG in close collaboration with Iran’s Ministry of Agriculture Jihad and NRW developed an e-learning platform on sustainable dryland management Transforming Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems to strengthen the capacities of practitioners and decision-makers on how to plan for and assess transformational change in dryland production systems taking the social, economic, and environmental sustainability pillars into consideration.</p> <p><a href="#">Course: Transforming dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems (fao.org)</a></p> <p>COFO summer school aims to train practitioners on key transformational approaches for dryland resilient systems and build upon their capacities to do so. The aims are two-fold: the first is to commune with 20-25 dryland planners and practitioners to assess the contribution of their current and planned actions in drylands, as well as rangelands, and to steer them towards long-term sustainability and transformation; the second is to effectively train participants to create contextual solutions to address the core issues in transforming agrosilvopastoral systems and to clearly define cross-cutting indicators of their progress. Iran Case study will be featured and used as training material. This activity will contribute to create a cadre of champions to support the International Year of Range Land and Pastoralists 2026</p> <p><a href="#">COFO WG Summer School   Dryland Forestry   Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (fao.org)</a></p>
<p>Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges <b>this year</b>.</p>	<p>The project developed a communication and visibility strategy in 2017 which was finalized based on inputs provided by the FAO communication experts at Headquarters. The project implemented this strategy in course of communicating its objectives, progress, achieved results and success stories with key messages effectively.</p> <p>The main challenge with communications and visibility of the project in this period, has been the unrest situation in the country that minimize the permission for conducting site visits, and the absence of an effective communications and reporting specialist at FAO which has recently joined the team.</p>

<p>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.</p>	
<p>Please provide links to related website, social media account</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483434/FAO-Iran-launch-e-learning-course-on-dryland-management">https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/483434/FAO-Iran-launch-e-learning-course-on-dryland-management</a></li> <li>2. <a href="https://newspaper.irandaily.ir/7264/6/842">https://newspaper.irandaily.ir/7264/6/842</a></li> <li>3. <a href="https://en.mehrnews.com/news/199193/FAO-Iran-launch-course-to-transform-dryland-management">https://en.mehrnews.com/news/199193/FAO-Iran-launch-course-to-transform-dryland-management</a></li> <li>4. <a href="https://en.isna.ir/news/1402011908849/FAO-Iran-launch-e-Learning-course-to-transform-dryland-management">https://en.isna.ir/news/1402011908849/FAO-Iran-launch-e-Learning-course-to-transform-dryland-management</a></li> <li>5. <a href="http://irna.ir">irna.ir</a> اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک - ایرنا</li> <li>6. <a href="http://mehrnews.com">mehrnews.com</a> اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت مناطق خشک - خبرگزاری مهر   اخبار ایران و جهان   Mehr News Agency</li> <li>7. <a href="http://iribnews.ir">iribnews.ir</a> اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک ایران   خبرگزاری صدا و سیما</li> <li>8. <a href="http://borna.news">borna.news</a> اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک ایران</li> <li>9. <a href="http://baeghtesad.com">baeghtesad.com</a> اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک ایران</li> <li>10. <a href="http://agriculture-na.ir">agriculture-na.ir</a> اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک - مجله خبری کشاورزی</li> <li>11. <a href="http://keshavarziyandehjahan.ir">keshavarziyandehjahan.ir</a> اخبار کشاورزی: طی همکاری مشترک با ایران انجام شد: اقدام فائو برای تحول مدیریت جنگل‌های مناطق خشک</li> </ol>
<p>Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.</p>	
<p>Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details</p>	<p>Faranak Bakhtiari, Communication and Reporting Specialist (<a href="mailto:faranak.bakhtiari@fao.org">faranak.bakhtiari@fao.org</a>)</p>



## 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.

Not applicable for the context in Iran

### 13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing <sup>23</sup>	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	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
National Government	Government	Grant	USD 5,000,000	USD 5,003,280	USD 4,006,535	USD 5,000,000
National Government	Government	In-kind	USD 3,340,000	USD 3,335,554	USD 7,993,465	USD 3,340,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	USD 8,340,000	USD 8,338,834	USD 12,000,000	USD 8,340,000

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

According to the advice of the national counterpart, no further amount of financing has been allocated by the government since the beginning of 2023.

<sup>23</sup> Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

## Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

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

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

<b>Risk rating</b> 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:	
<b>High Risk (H)</b>	There is a probability of greater than <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
<b>Substantial Risk (S)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>51%</b> and <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
<b>Moderate Risk (M)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>26%</b> and <b>50%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
<b>Low Risk (L)</b>	There is a probability of up to <b>25%</b> 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
Sarayan, South Khorasan	33.859331	58.514857		
Rigan, Kerman	28.708088	58.655576		

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