



**FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report  
2022 – Revised Template**

Period covered: 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

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## 1. Basic Project Data

## General Information

<b>Region:</b>	Asia Pacific
<b>Country (ies):</b>	Mongolia
<b>Project Title:</b>	Promoting Dryland Sustainable Landscapes and Biodiversity Conservation in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia
<b>FAO Project Symbol:</b>	GCP/MON/018/GFF
<b>GEF ID:</b>	10249
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	- Biodiversity focal area Objective 2, "Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species" - Land Degradation focal area Objective 1, "Support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN". - Climate Change and its Objective 2, "Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts"
<b>GEF Implementing Agency(ies)</b>	UN FAO (lead), WWF GEF Agency (co-implementing agency)
<b>Project Executing Partners:</b>	Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), with limited execution support by FAO Mongolia and WWF Mongolia (as defined in the ProDoc)
<b>Project Duration (years):</b>	5 years
<b>Project coordinates:</b>	47.787688323356, 112.11433347843243

## Project Dates

<b>GEF CEO Endorsement Date:</b>	18 March 2021
<b>Project Implementation Start Date/EOD:</b>	01 April 2021
<b>Project Implementation End Date/NTE<sup>i</sup>:</b>	31 March 2026
<b>Revised project implementation end date (if approved) <sup>ii</sup></b>	N/A

## Funding

<b>GEF Grant Amount (USD):</b>	<b>\$5,354,586</b> FAO: \$2,677,293 WWF: \$2,677,293
<b>Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc<sup>iii</sup>:</b>	<b>\$50,945,000</b>
<b>Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2022 (USD)<sup>iv</sup>:</b>	<b>\$ in total: \$1,349,942</b> FAO: \$734,462 (as of June 30, 2022) WWF: \$615,480.35 (as of June 30, 2022)
<b>Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2022<sup>v</sup></b>	<b>\$ 873,592</b>

## M&amp;E Milestones

<b>Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:</b>	15 December 2021
<b>Expected Mid-term Review date<sup>vi</sup>:</b>	July 2023 after submitting 2nd PIR
<b>Actual Mid-term review date (when it is done):</b>	N/A

<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date<sup>vii</sup>:</b>	Q3 2025
<b>Tracking tools/Core indicators updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)</b>	YES

**Overall ratings**

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

**ESS risk classification**

<b>Current ESS Risk classification:</b>	<i>“High” risk by FAO Moderate risk or Category B by WWF</i>
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**Status**

<b>Implementation Status (1<sup>st</sup> PIR, 2<sup>nd</sup> PIR, etc. Final PIR):</b>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> PIR</i>
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**Project Contacts**

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**2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)**  
*(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)*

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators <sup>viii</sup>	Baseline	Mid term Target <sup>ix</sup>	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress <sup>x</sup> since project start as of 30 June 2022	Progress rating <sup>xi</sup>
<b>Objective-level indicators/GEBS</b>							
		<p><b>Core Indicator 1:</b> Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares)</p> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 1.2:</b> Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness</p>	There are six NRs in the target area, with total area of 1,189,866 ha (includes area of Toson Khulstai that is outside of the 9 target soums)	1,189,866 ha	1,189,866 ha  6 NRs have new or improved management plans.	<p><b>Sub-Indicator 1.2:</b> <i>In progress</i> Sub-Indicator 1.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 NRs (Toson Khulstai and Khar yamaat NR) have existing management plans – 520,619 ha</li> <li>- Development of management plans for 2 NRs (Bayantsagaanii tal and Ulz River head NR) is ongoing – 434,889 ha</li> <li>- Management plan for 2 NRs (Jaran Togoony A and B, Menen Tsagaan khooloi NR) developed by with co-financing by TNC Mongolia – 234,358 ha.</li> </ul> <p>Assessment on management effectiveness for target 6 NRs will be conducted in 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 852981.3 ha of Protected area (Khar Yamaat, Toson Khulstai, Bayantsagaanii tal NRs) officially established and the boundaries are set by the Parliament and Cabinet.</li> <li>- 336884.7 ha of Protected area (Jaran Togoony A and B, Menen Tsagaan khooloi NR and Ulz goliin ekh NRs) officially established by the Parliament but the boundaries are not set by the Cabinet.</li> </ul>	MS
		<p><b>Core Indicator 3:</b> Area of land restored (hectares)</p> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 3.2:</b> Area of forest and forest land restored</p> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 3.3:</b></p>	0	<p>Sub-Indicator 3.2: 50 ha</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 3.3: 49,765 ha (20% of end-of-project target)</p>	<p>Sub-Indicator 3.2: 200 ha</p> <p>Sub-Indicator 3.3: 248,827 ha</p>	<p><b>Sub-Indicator 3.2:</b> <i>In progress</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supported natural regeneration process in 10 ha of community managed boreal forest area in Norovlin soum</li> <li>- Supported establishment of wind break in adjacent to patch forest in Khar yamaat NR – 1 ha</li> <li>- In five tree nurseries, a total of 59000 pieces of willow cuttings (<i>Salix ledebouriana</i> and <i>Salix miyabeana</i>) and Populus (<i>Populus laurifolia</i>), and 6kg Elm tree seeds, (<i>Ulmus sp.</i>) were planted to be used for riparian restoration.</li> <li>- 1.25 ha of riparian forest in Khulunbuir, Bulgan, Bayan-Ovoo soums were fenced to protect from livestock footprint and support natural restoration.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 3.3:</b></p>	S

		Area of natural grass and shrublands restored				<i>In progress</i> - The two baghs (Bayan-Adarga and Matad soums) of critically degraded summer rangeland will be rested by the endorsement of Soum Citizen's Khural as part of soum's annual land-use plan 2022. However, achievement against the target can be verified by the end of the year.	
		<p><b>Core Indicator 4:</b> Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (hectares)</p> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 4.1:</b> Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity</p> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 4.3:</b> Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (sub-indicator may include agriculture, rangeland, and forests)</p>	0	<p><b>Sub-Indicator 4.1:</b> TBD*</p> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 4.3:</b> 2,826,660.5 ha (50% of end-of-project target)</p>	<p><b>Sub-Indicator 4.1:</b> TBD*</p> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 4.3:</b> 5,640,117 ha Within this area: (i) 4,000 ha of cropland under improved management (ii) 1,861,305 ha<sup>xii</sup> of rangeland under improved rangeland management plans (iii) 19,800 ha<sup>xiii</sup> of forest area under improved management</p>	<p><b>Sub-Indicator 4.1:</b> <i>In progress</i> - Habitat connectivity areas for Mongolian gazelle were identified - Study on habitat connectivity areas for iconic birds is ongoing.</p> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 4.3:</b> <i>In progress</i> Capacity development activities (demonstration training and provision of field tools) were conducted for photo monitoring of grazing impact at soum level.</p> <p>(i) <i>In progress</i> The project supported two crop companies in Bayan-Adarga soum to cultivate rapeseed and wheat as rotational crop using minimum tillage technology in 284 ha.</p> <p>(ii) <i>451,226.4 ha (24% against final target)</i> Two baghs in Bayan-Adarga (112,601.8 ha) and Matad soums (338,627.6 ha) adopted participatory bagh-based pasture management plan as part of annual soum land management plan and it is incorporated into the national land administration system. – 451,226.4 ha</p> <p>(iii) <i>Initiated</i> - Capacity building training and restoration assessment on riparian forest restoration was conducted. - Forest and steppe fire prevention tools and equipment and relative training were provided to 9 soums</p>	S
		d) <b>Core Indicator 6:</b> Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated	0	3,090,664,5 tons CO <sub>2</sub> e (Of which 2,415,664 direct, 675,000 indirect)	10,302,215 tons CO <sub>2</sub> e (of which 8,052,215 direct,	Calculations will be conducted before the mid-term review takes place.	

		Sub-indicator 6.1: Carbon sequestered, or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector			2,250,000 indirect)		
		<b>Core Indicator 11:</b> Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	Baseline: 0	(i) 12,420 people  (ii) 200 national and aimag stakeholders trained	(i) 24,841 people  (ii) 400 national and aimag stakeholders trained	i) 6211 people (52% male, 48% female) – attended project activities (25% achieved against final target) - 594 people (51% male, 49% female) – campaigns - 1172 people (50% male, 50% female) – surveys - 2388 people (45% male, 55% female) – trainings - 952 people (60% male, 40% female) – meetings - 839 people (51% male, 49% female) – conferences and workshops - 764 people (56% male, 44% female) – received project support (seeds, tools, feed, fire prevention equipment etc.) ii) 499 national and aimag stakeholders were trained (58% male, 42% female) on sustainable land management planning, sustainable rangeland management and NR management	S
		<b>Capacity development scores</b> (average of 3 aimags and 9 soums)	47% (21.1 points)	52.5% (23.6)	61.3% (27.6)	Capacity development assessment will be conducted before the mid-term review takes place.	
Component 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for the sustainable management of drylands in Mongolia							
	<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Strengthened policies and planning mechanisms for the sustainable management of drylands at national, aimag and soum levels.	Number of multi-stakeholders working groups established and operational.	0	13	1 national, 3 aimag-level working groups and 9 soum level working groups (in total 13)	8 working groups of multi-stakeholder representation established (61% achieved against final target) - 12 working groups were established, out of which 8 working groups had met criteria for multi-stakeholder criteria and 4 working groups are undergoing re-structuring process. - Training on improving integrated land management planning is conducted for working groups. Establishment of National level technical working group is under progress.	S
		Number of aimag and soum land management plans	0	12	3 aimag land management	In progress  Under the guidance and supervision of Working groups, the development of 3 aimag general land management plans and 9 soum territorial development plans is on-going with revised TORs and/or	S

		incorporating sustainable land use, landscape management and biodiversity conservation strategies and targets.			plans, 9 soum territorial development (mid-term land management) plans	guidelines incorporating SLM/LDN, climate change and biodiversity conservation considerations.		
		Number of improved monitoring systems and processes in place.	0	9 soum-level and 3 aimag-level land monitoring systems	9 soum-level and 3 aimag-level land monitoring systems	<p><i>In progress</i></p> <p>The sets of activities implemented during the reporting period are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supported demonstration of participatory monitoring of pastureland restoration</li> <li>- The methodology for national level land monitoring system based on remote sensing was developed and piloted to determine rangeland health and productivity on extended coverage in the target nine (9) soums. After the validation it will be applied nationwide through <a href="http://www.egazar.gov.mn">www.egazar.gov.mn</a> - online land monitoring sub-system.</li> </ul> <p>Draft guidelines on identification of degraded land and its rehabilitation based on remote sensing was developed and will be sent for approval in December 2022.</p>	S	
		Area under improved land management plans:	<a href="#">- See Core Indicator 4 above -</a>					S
		Number of revised policies, laws or resolutions drafted and submitted to Cabinet/local Khural	0	1	At least 3 revised policies, laws or resolutions drafted and submitted to Cabinet/local Khural	<p>1 <a href="#">regulation</a> on responsibilities for pasture use in Munkhkhaan was approved by the Ministry of Justice (<i>33% achieved against final target</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Law on Land cadaster was cleared by the Cabinet and submitted for deliberation to Parliament.</li> <li>- 2 draft pasture management regulations were submitted for endorsement to Citizen's representative Khural of Sukhbaatar soum and Matad soum.</li> </ul>	S	

Component 2: Scaling up sustainable dryland management in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia						S	
		Area under improved practices:	- <a href="#">See Core Indicator 4 above</a> -				
	2.1. Farmers/crop producers in target areas are applying more sustainable crop and fodder production practices through the introduction of improved/climate-smart technologies	Quantity of crops produced from sustainable and climate-smart practices.	0	375 ton	750 ton	<i>In progress</i> Two crop farming companies in Bayan-Adarga soum started cultivating rapeseed and wheat on 247 ha as new rotational crops under minimum tillage technology. Yield quantity will be verified after harvesting.	S
		Quantity of fodder produced from sustainable and climate-smart practices.	0	104 ton	208 ton	<i>In progress</i> - Crop company in Bayan-Adarga soum, Khentii aimag cultivated mixed grains as green fodder on 40 ha as rotational crop to prevent soil erosion. Yield quantity will be verified after harvesting. - 180 herder households in 9 soums planted oats as green fodder on their winter camps to build resilience to climate change.	S
		Number of farmers (women and men) participating in crop management activities	0	20 individual farmers (of which at least 40% women farmers, or households involving both spouses)	40 individual farmers (of which at least 40% women farmers, or households involving both spouses)	<i>In progress</i> 5 vegetable group established including 71 farmers (11 farmers are female-headed household) participated in the crop management/vegetable production activities. - 1 vegetable cooperative with 12 members, - 1 vegetable women group from 11 vulnerable households, - 3 vegetable farmer groups consist of 48 unemployed people - Out of 71 farmers, 3 farmers are people with special needs 121 individuals (46% male, 54% female) in 9 soums and 15 households (3 female headed household and 2 household have person with disability in Eco Street in Bayan-Ovoo soum participated in the crop management/vegetable production activities.	HS
	2.2. Local communities are applying sustainable management and restoration of rangelands, forest patches and riparian forests	Number of bagh-level rangeland management and/or rangeland use agreements adopted by local stakeholders.	0	6	13	<i>In progress</i> <i>2 baghs. (15% achieved against final target)</i> Rangeland management plans for 2 baghs in Bayan-Adarga and Matad soums got adopted as part of annual soum land management plan that encompassed restoration. They are registered in the national land management system.	S
		Area under restoration:	- <a href="#">See Core Indicator 3 above</a> -				S
		Area under improved practices:	- <a href="#">See Core Indicator 4 above</a> -				S
	2.3. Local communities benefit from	Number of people (women and	0	180	450 (average 50	<i>In progress</i> 1473 people (43% male, 57% female) participated in value chain development training as follows.	



	enhanced value chains, public-private partnerships, and access to markets in support of sustainable grazing practices	men) benefiting from enhanced value chains in support of sustainable grazing practices.			per soums )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 134 people (10% male, 90% female) on sustainable code of practices for sorting and grading cashmere</li> <li>- 601 people (46% male, 54% female) on promotion of agriculture cooperative governance and management</li> <li>- 423 people (49% male, 51% female) on sustainable livestock production and marketing</li> <li>- 87 people (33% male, 58% female) on Fruit and berry tree planting technology</li> <li>- 121 people (46% male, 54% female) on small scale fodder production</li> </ul> <p>107 people (41% male, 59% female) sustainable animal husbandry and value chain in 5 target soums.</p>		
		Number of herder groups/cooperatives that obtain certification on sustainable practices through projects.	0	3	9	<p><i>In progress</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 cooperatives in Munkhkhaan, Matad, Khulunbuir, Bayan-Ovoo and Bulgan soums undergone process for obtaining certification as sustainable fiber (cashmere) supplier/producers</li> <li>- 16 herders from 3 cooperatives obtained certification as qualified national wool shearer</li> </ul>	S	
		Additional or new income from value chain activities.	0	5%	10%	<p><i>In progress</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A cooperative in Matad soums earned 3.1% higher income compared to market price for supplying sustainably produced cashmere as a result of applying SFA standard.</li> </ul> <p>A cooperative in Munkhkhaan soum signed contract to supply 30-ton sheep wool to domestic wool processor and organic wool fertilizer (pellets) producer through partnership building meeting/ study visit.</p>	S	
<b>Component 3: Strengthening biodiversity conservation and landscape connectivity</b>								S
	Outcome 3.1: Management capacity of Nature Reserves (NRs) and Local Protected Areas (LPAs) in connectivity	Area of terrestrial PAs under improved management effectiveness	- <a href="#">See Core Indicator 1 above</a> -					
		Area of landscapes under improved local protection to benefit biodiversity	- <a href="#">See Core Indicator 4 above</a> (Sub-Indicator 4.1) –					S

<p>areas is increased to support survival of Mongolian gazelle and other iconic species.</p>	<p>BD/species indicators:</p> <p>(i) Mongolian Gazelle: Number of individuals and number of days in which gazelles are observed in target NRs during relevant season</p> <p>(ii) White-naped Crane: Number of breeding pairs in target area; Nesting success<sup>xiv</sup></p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>(i) In Khar Yamaat NR – Mongolian gazelle – 2,500 individuals/40 days in 2019.</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="1205 133 1881 667"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Name of NRs (relevant season)</th> <th colspan="3">Mongolian gazelle count</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Feb 2021</th> <th>August 2021</th> <th>Dec 2021</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bayantsagaanii tal (summer)</td> <td>108</td> <td>961</td> <td>411</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jaran togoonii A (summer)</td> <td>46</td> <td>974</td> <td>916</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jaran togoonii B (summer)</td> <td>2589</td> <td>24316</td> <td>3890</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Menen Tsagaan khooloi (winter)</td> <td>68027</td> <td>0</td> <td>1257</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toson khulstai (summer)</td> <td>557</td> <td>77853</td> <td>246</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulz river head (winter)</td> <td>2300</td> <td>120</td> <td>3700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Khar Yamaat (winter)</td> <td colspan="3">200 heads of Mongolian gazelle observed all year</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Based on the above seasonal monitoring studies, justification for improving biodiversity monitoring method and data management (BIOSAN).</p>	Name of NRs (relevant season)	Mongolian gazelle count			Feb 2021	August 2021	Dec 2021	Bayantsagaanii tal (summer)	108	961	411	Jaran togoonii A (summer)	46	974	916	Jaran togoonii B (summer)	2589	24316	3890	Menen Tsagaan khooloi (winter)	68027	0	1257	Toson khulstai (summer)	557	77853	246	Ulz river head (winter)	2300	120	3700	Khar Yamaat (winter)	200 heads of Mongolian gazelle observed all year			
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<p><b>Component 4: Project coordination, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation</b></p>						<p>S</p>																																			
<p><b>Outcome 4.1:</b></p> <p>Project coordination, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation for the sustainable management of drylands in Mongolia.</p>	<p>Number of knowledge products (publications, leaflets, case studies, best practice documents, videos or other media content, etc.) developed and disseminated.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>1 knowledge product (15% achieved against final target)</p> <p>Report on Mongolian Gazelle connectivity analysis -1 to be published as first joint publication of FAO/WWF under the project.</p>	<p>S</p>																																			
<p>Number of people (women and men) at</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>25,000</p>	<p>50,000</p>	<p>50,000</p>	<p>- 6211 people (51% male, 49% female) engaged in project activities – (25% achieved against final target)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 594 people (51% male, 49% female) – attended campaigns</li> <li>• 1172 people (50% male, 50% female) – attended surveys</li> </ul>	<p>S</p>																																			

	national/aimag level reached by communications and knowledge management activities (social media posts, TV clips, workshops and seminars, etc.).				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2388 people (45% male, 55% female) – attended trainings</li> <li>• 952 people (60% male, 40% female) – attended meetings</li> <li>• 839 people (51% male, 49% female) – attended conferences and workshops</li> <li>- 6030 people - reached by project promotional printed materials</li> <li>- Social media posts – 628,526 people reached by social media channels run by <a href="#">FAO</a> and <a href="#">WWF Mongolia</a> and social media channels of national and local TV.</li> </ul>	
	M&E deliverables (reports, MTR, TE, etc. as outlined in the ProDoc) are submitted on time.			Yes	Yes Two project progress reports (PPRs) and one inception report were submitted on time.	S

Action Plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings N/A

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
<b>Sub- Indicator 1.2</b> <b>Approval for boundaries of 3 newly established NRs</b>	Organize lobbying activity for the Cabinet in collaboration with MET	PMU and MET	Fall 2022

### 3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs <sup>xv</sup>	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the AWP)	Main achievements <sup>xvi</sup> (Please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance <sup>xvii</sup> in delivering outputs
<b>Outcome 1.1</b>	Strengthened policies and planning mechanisms for the sustainable management of drylands at national, aimag and soum levels.			
<b>Output 1.1.1</b> Cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder working groups established at national and local levels to facilitate participatory, adaptive landscape planning and management in the existing land-use planning process.	<b>3 aimag-level working groups and 9 soum level working groups</b>	<b># Of consultations</b>	Project activities under this output were focused on strengthening cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration for integrated land management planning and monitoring. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 12 working groups were established by the orders of three Aimag Governors along with TORs. The chair of the aimag and soum working groups was mandated to ensure citizens' engagement and gender equality throughout the developing land management planning process. The composition of the working</li> <li>- groups were unconventional, including representatives of community-based organizations such as the Union of agriculture cooperatives, Union of natural resource management groups, and PAs administration. (<i>Annex 1. Order and Minutes of working group meetings</i>)</li> <li>- It was confirmed that 8 working groups had met the criteria for being multi-stakeholder while the 4 remaining working groups' composition needs to be extended through re-structuring. To ensure multi-stakeholder engagement, the groups were evaluated based on the following criteria.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to meet the objectives of the working group;</li> <li>- Comply with the functions of the state organization specified in the law;</li> <li>- Comply with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan of the project; and</li> <li>- Involved stakeholders with related interests.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Establishment of National level technical working group has been progressing through High level National Consultative meeting organized in April 2022. Justification and demand for integrated land management planning through strengthened cross sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration was explained. Key presentations covered updates on current policy reforms introduced at national and international levels.</li> <li>- Land management department of Sukhbaatar aimag welcomed an idea of creating similar working mechanism at aimag level and therefore it called first ever consultation meeting in May 2022 by the technical and financial support of our project and newly implemented GCF project.</li> </ul>	N/A

			<p>A follow-up meeting to formalize the national level cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder technical working group was held in June 2022. The meeting was chaired by the project director and attended by formally nominated candidates representing key sectors and stakeholders. Candidate-members of the national technical working group supported the proposal for establishing such a platform under the direct supervision of the National Committee on Land Reform in principle. Their generous comments and feedback on the proposed draft TOR of the national working group and its composition. This was helpful to improve the justification and TOR of the working group. The issue of formalizing the working group is expected to be discussed at the regular session of the Committee for Land reform.</p>	
<p><b>Output 1.1.2</b> Guidelines for science-based, integrated land management planning, assessment and monitoring developed and stakeholders trained.</p>	N/A	<p><b>2 guidelines and 1 training program</b></p>	<p>New methodological guidelines for integrated land management planning, assessment and monitoring in compliance with endorsed TORs are being developed in parallel with ongoing planning processes. Capacity building training was organized for professional land management entities delegated by 3 aimags to propose new tools on assessing land degradation and counting climate change and biodiversity considerations. (<i>Annex 2. Progress report on SLM guidelines and training program</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Debriefing on the progress of developing guidelines and training program for land degradation neutrality, sustainable land management planning and monitoring was held in May 2022, with participation of various stakeholders such as Aimag Land management Departments, soum land managers, WWF Mongolia, FAO Mongolia, land management professional entities and international project representatives. The first draft guidelines that propose tools and approaches to ensure landscape based integrated land management planning with introduced for comments and feedback.</li> <li>- An international consultant was also providing technical support in developing guidelines by sharing international best practices, policy and for integrated land management, LDN and sustainable land use. (<i>Annex 3. Inception report on land use planning, LDN targets and the management of protected areas network</i>)</li> </ul>	N/A
<p><b>Output 1.1.3</b> Aimag- and soum-level land management plans developed incorporating ecologically sensitive, participatory landscape management (grazing, forest and other natural resources), through local</p>	<p><b>Number of aimag and soum land management plans incorporating sustainable land use, landscape management and biodiversity conservation strategies and targets.</b></p>	<p><b>3 aimag land management plans, 9 soum territorial development (mid-term land</b></p>	<p>Activities implemented as part of aimag, and soum land management planning have been ranging from updating TOR for planning to be followed to capacity development for all stakeholders involved in land management planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formally established methodological guidelines for developing aimag and soum land management plans were updated as guiding TOR in which missing considerations for degradation neutrality (LDN), ecosystem/biodiversity conservation, climate change, tools such as LADA/WOCAT were incorporated.</li> <li>- The updated TOR was approved by ALAMGaC and Aimag Governors in January 2022 and was used as technical guidance to carry out planning process by delegated professional land management entities under supervision of Aimag and soum Working groups.</li> <li>- Debriefing on field survey findings and progress of planning was organized at the time of inception and progress reports submission for all stakeholders. (<i>Annex 4. Inception report of 3 aimag, 9 soum land management planning</i>)</li> </ul> <p>In total, 15 trainings and consultation meeting were organized involving 2337 participants (53% man and 47% women) national and local stakeholders on the main topics such as:</p>	N/A

consultations and ensuring gender equality and inclusiveness.		<b>management plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training on introduction to additional tasks incorporated in the TOR to aimag and soum stakeholders including professional land management entities and working groups;</li> <li>- Training on introduction to SLM/LDN principles and tools and international best practices on sustainable land use and integrated land management;</li> <li>- Training on incorporating water protection zones and habitat connectivity corridor for Mongolian gazelle, data sourcing from MET into planning;</li> <li>- Training on assessing impact of climate changes on land use by accounting carbon balance for the territory;</li> <li>- Consultation on the needs for developing land use mapping methodology within protected areas that resulted in the initiative for formulating a draft guideline;</li> <li>- Training on Trends Earth QGIS plugin proposed to map extent of land degradation and monitor land cover change using combination of desktop and cloud-based system;</li> <li>- Training on identification of ecological networks and ecological core areas;</li> <li>- Training on application of net loss concept for balancing land loss and gain through integrated land use planning as tool to mid and long-term national, aimag and sum development strategy;</li> <li>- Training on gender sensitive land management planning;</li> </ul>	
<b>Output 1.1.4</b> Regular monitoring of land use, land degradation and biodiversity in target soums conducted	<b>Number of improved monitoring systems and processes in place.</b>	<b>9 soum-level and 3 aimag-level land monitoring systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A guideline of new methodology to improve National land monitoring system based on remote sensing was developed and piloted in the target nine soums, which will be harmonized with existing regular photo monitoring. The piloted methodology will be scaled up as a subcategory of the online national land monitoring system at <a href="http://www.egazar.gov.mn">www.egazar.gov.mn</a> after its validation during the upcoming annual grazing impact - photo monitoring in August 2022. (<i>Annex 5. Final report by ALAMGaC</i>)</li> <li>- 9 consecutive training on the topics of remote sensing, Mongolian Data Cube, and NDVI were organized for 3 ALAMGaC officers (66% male, 34% female) who are responsible for land monitoring and spatial data processing, obtaining improved skills and knowledge. As a result of capacity-building activities, a land degradation map was developed using multiple conditional analysis methods.</li> <li>- To improve the technical capacity of national and local land management officials on land management planning, assessment and monitoring, a photo camera and GPS were provided to soum land managers based on the needs assessment. (<i>Annex 6. Training needs assessment report</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Output 1.1.5</b> National and/or aimag- level policies/laws and resolutions developed (or strengthened) to support sustainable land	<b>Number of revised policies, laws or resolutions drafted and submitted to Cabinet/local Khural.</b>	<b>At least 3 revised policies, laws or resolutions</b>	<p>Project provided support in strengthening current land reform processes by mobilizing consultancy in drafting law on Land cadaster, improving national land monitoring online system, and improving pasture and animal productivity related regulations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The law on cadaster is drafted with six chapters and 37 sections, including General provision, the Main requirement for cadastre, Legal cadastre, financial cadastre, and Resource cadastre. The main principles of VGGT include human dignity, non-discrimination, equity and justice, gender equality, participation, transparency and accountability adopted in the newly drafted law on cadastre. The draft law was cleared by the Cabinet and submitted for deliberation to Parliament. (<i>Annex 7. Final report on the review of draft Land Cadaster law</i>)</li> </ul>	<b>N/A</b>

<p>use and biodiversity conservation</p>		<p><b>drafted and submitted to Cabinet/ local Khural</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainable pasture management issues will be regulated including grazing fee by the citizen with livestock.</li> <li>- Herders who are organized into community, can use their traditional winter/ spring rangeland by long term conditional agreement.</li> <li>- A system to provide recommendations to improve degraded land to aimag and soum governors and officials based on the monitoring and assessment of the land character and quality.</li> <li>- Protected areas (PAs) shall have land management planning so that it feeds into the integrated land management that incorporates LDN/SLM, climate change and biodiversity conservation. Previously the PAs were considered as uniform land use type and had no land management planning.</li> <li>- The comparative analysis on complementarity between draft Law on Land and draft Law on Protected Area was conducted. As a result, recommendation to resolve identified conflicts on the legitimate mandate between Land authority and Ministry of Environment on the issues of designating a special protected area, duplication of sections related to the land use rights and accessing to land tenure in the protected area were proposed.</li> <li>- Training on “The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests” was conducted for 8 working groups of drafting the Land Law package and highlighted the importance of reflecting these principles into respective legislation and working code of practices of aimag and soum land officers.</li> <li>- Pasture management regulation of Munkhkhaan soum, Sukhbaatar aimag was endorsed by Soum Citizen’s Khural and approved by Ministry of Justice while draft regulation of Matad and Sukhbaatar soum are submitted to Soum Citizen’s Khurals for further deliberation.</li> <li>- Law on Livestock number tax became effective from 2021 resulting in the collection of taxes in the project soums. Upon the discussions with stakeholders, the tax has not (yet) served as an incentive to reduce livestock numbers. However, a positive impact was made by disbursing collected tax in improving animal health and productivity, pasture restoration through improvement of rural water supply as co-financing contributions of local authorities.</li> <li>- In support of enforcement of animal genetics law, a draft regulation on lease of superior breeding animals was developed and submitted to soum Governor’s office under project’s technical guidance.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Outcome 2.1</u></b></p>	<p><b>Farmers/crop producers in target areas are applying more sustainable crop and fodder production practices through the introduction of improved/climate smart technologies</b></p>			
<p><b><u>Output 2.1.1</u></b> Farmers (women and men), private companies and local government officers in target areas are trained in environmentally</p>	<p><b>Quantity of crops produced from sustainable and climate-smart practices.</b></p>		<p>Two rounds of consultation meetings were held between project team, WWF Mongolia, Plant and Crop Science research institute, Agriculture Department of Khentii aimag, two selected partnering crop farming companies namely “Ider-Onon” and “Munkhiin duurlig” LLCs in Bayan-Adraga soum, Khentii aimag to discuss details of application of sustainable crop farming technologies for 284 ha. The meetings resulted in mutual understanding on the location, co-financing support and complying with ECOP and ESMF, especially with standardized pesticide types with legally permitted amounts and fencing design that allows free migration of Mongolian gazelle. It is found that the location of selected croplands overlaps with run-off generating areas of Ulz River Basin where the regime for special protection zone is enforced and farming activities are prohibited.</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>

friendly, climate-smart crop and fodder production techniques.			<p>But these croplands have been used for the last 30 years with the permission of the Aimag Governor in line with the aimag land management plan and are in the agricultural zone set by the Government in 2018. Thus, there is a legal basis to have cropland activity in the above two croplands. Therefore, the parties agreed to monitor the use of pesticides and fertilizer regularly against the permitted dose as per approved by the joint order of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Minister of Health, and Minister of Environment and Tourism.</p> <p>As of now, two companies have invested MNT 8,1 million as their co-financing commitment for building fences by supplied materials from project, sowing of wheat, rapeseed and green fodder at the selected site. Plant and crop science institute delivered seeds of short maturing and high yield, superior elite wheat variety known as "Darkhan 160", which was cultivated at 31 ha cropland and provided bio fertilizers as its co-financing contribution. Transportation costs for delivering fencing materials were also co-shared between the project and the company in a ratio of 70% and 30%. Cropland fencing was favored by the herders in the crop farming area as it was seen as only way for herders to avoid paying fines when their animals destroy crops.</p>	
<p><b>Output 2.1.2</b> Support provided to farmers in target areas to apply environmentally friendly, climate-smart crop and fodder production practices within overall landscape management.</p>	<p><b>Quantity of fodder produced from sustainable and climate-smart practices.</b></p>		<p>Fodder production has been identified as a key supporting service for promoting meat value chain development. Therefore, green fodder was cultivated on 40 ha by one of the selected crop companies as a new rotational crop and as new business development for feedlots.</p> <p>Project conducted demonstration training to herders on cultivation of fodder crops small scale plots at the winter camping site. As a result, 180 people (46% male, 54% female) cultivated fodder of native species as climate smart practice for resilience building.</p>	N/A
<p>friendly, climate-smart crop and fodder production techniques.</p>	<p><b>Number of farmers (women and men) participating in crop management activities</b></p>	10	<p>A total of 71 households (11 female-headed household) in the target 9 soums received capacity building training and small farming inputs for growing vegetables in greenhouse and open field. Every single beneficiary engaged in vegetable farming showed a strong commitment to mobilize their own financial resources either from the earnings from cashmere harvest or other sources. Abandoned farming land of 1-8 ha in size was allocated by soum authorities for promoting collective farming practices as group and cooperative on commercial scale rather than subsistence farming. Newly initiated movement of President of Mongolia for boosting domestic food supply and production, MOFALI's policy for subsidy allocation and soaring price of vegetable in the market were also served as catalyst to engage in vegetable farming.</p> <p>Totally, MNT 76.5 million in cash and in-kind was invested as co-financing of vegetable related activities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A total of 2 ha of land was allocated to newly formed vegetable groups in Tumentsogt by the soum. The group themselves invested MNT 28,0 million for rehabilitation of a borehole and covering transportation for equipment and tool delivery. The group mobilized their goat cashmere income to grow vegetables for the purpose of reducing their owned livestock and intention to shift in vegetable farming businesses.</li> <li>- Vegetable grower group consisting of vulnerable women invested MNT1,0 million in the form of labor force, buying potato seed and materials for maintaining the irrigation channel.</li> <li>- Vegetable cooperative in Sukhbaatar invested MNT12 million</li> </ul>	N/A



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women vegetable group of Matad soum invested MNT16 million, out of which the soum governor office granted MNT0.8 million for fencing land for vegetable planting.</li> <li>- Women vegetable groups of Munkhkhaan and Matad soums that consisted of unemployed or single mothers were supported in gender sensitive manner. Supply of farming inputs from the project included greenhouse, hand seeder, irrigation system etc. that eased hard labor work.</li> <li>- The different types of vegetables, sorts and varieties were introduced by the project to be grown in each soums in consideration of its soil type, climate and water and market access. For instance: Open field cucumbers for pickling were found to be suitable in Matad soum in consideration of high heat balance and remoteness from main market. Therefore, training for pickling, post harvesting and storing is planned</li> <li>- In each soum, a leading grower with advanced knowledge on vegetable farming was trained as trainers to provide advice and extension support to other newcomers.</li> <li>- Project stepped in re-organizing “Eco-Street” of Bayan-Ovoo soum initiated by local authority and supported by WWF Mongolia, where only few bushes of berries were grown. In total, 15 households from 3 streets were selected as beneficiaries to receive trainings and farming inputs at 54.9 million MNT (58% from Local government, 42% from project, 4.5% from beneficiaries) for constructing a deep well, supplying greenhouses, water pipes, seeds, seedlings, hand tools and fencing materials to produce various types of vegetables for additional income generation and household food supply.</li> </ul>	
<b>Outcome 2.2</b>	<b>Local communities are applying sustainable management and restoration of rangelands, forest patches and riparian forests in the target area</b>			
<b>Output 2.2.1</b> Guidelines and training program for local decision makers and stakeholders (herders, private sector, CBOs6) on sustainable pasture management and the conservation/rest oration of critical ecosystems developed and implemented.	<b>Number of bagh-level rangeland management and/or rangeland use agreements adopted by local stakeholders.</b>	<u>3</u>	<p>To facilitate the process of implementing bagh-level rangeland management plan and adoption of soum specific rangeland use regulations/agreement, 8 virtual and 16 in-person workshops/training, 3 field consultations on sustainable rangeland management plan based on photo monitoring results and participatory approach were conducted to 1236 stakeholders (52% male, 48% female) including soum and bagh governors, khural representatives, rangeland and livestock specialists and land managers, and herders in 9 soums.</p> <p>As a result, the decision was made to rest 12,504 ha of critically degraded summer rangeland and it was approved by the Citizen’s Representative Khural as part of soum annual land-use plan in 2022 for Saikhan bagh in Bayan-Adraga soum (total area 112,601.8 ha), Khentii and Jargalant bagh in Matad soum (total area 338627.66 ha), Dornod province. A regulation on the responsibility of pasture use of Mukhkhaan soum was approved by the Citizen’s Representative Khural and accepted by the Ministry of Justice to be followed by the public. This regulation stipulates that income from livestock tax can be used for conservation and restoration of pastures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project interventions in the form of training and workshops, conducting participatory demonstration training and on-site assistance for all stakeholders (local officials and herder representatives) to take decisive actions on ‘resting’ heavily degraded rangeland in the respective baghs of three other soums.</li> <li>- To support the sustainability of herder’s institutions and enforcement of the rangeland agreement signed by soum governor under previous projects such as Green Gold and IFAD, the trainings</li> </ul>	<b>N/A</b>

			<p>and technical assistance on improvement of rangeland regulation and soum rangeland management plan were conducted as follow up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 pasture user groups (PUGs) in Bulgan, Hulunbuir, Tumentsogt and Sukhbaatar soums signed the long-term agreement with soum authorities that is officially registered in the state land management database was approached to fulfill their obligation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 2.2.2</b> Local rangeland management and restoration plans and/or agreements established by local herder groups/institutions and implementation started as a part of landscape management.</p>	<p><b>Area of rangeland under improved rangeland management plans</b></p>	<p><b>1,295,281 ha</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Selected rangeland up to 1 ha in size was fenced in 6 project soums such as Bayan-Ovoo, Tumentsogt, Khulunbuir, Bulgan, Sukhbaatar, and Munkhkhaan soums as a demo site to conduct a participatory experiment on dynamics of the vegetation recovery and regeneration.</li> <li>- An extension trial for this year is also expected to facilitate collective decision-making to revive traditional rotational grazing practices against rangeland carrying capacity in consideration of vegetation growth stages.</li> <li>- Soil sampling and vegetation studies are ongoing to define the ecological potential and were carried out at the 6 experimental fenced plots including soil geomorphology, structure, and composition of vegetation. The results of this study will be used i) as a baseline in the future to define optimal use of rangeland against carrying capacity and ii) technical back up for scenarios of the management recommendations that will be offered to herders. The importance of photo monitoring of the vegetation inside and outside the experimental fence that is linked with phenological phases is clearly explained on site.</li> <li>- Respective officials of 9 soums are working on drafting their soum specific rangeland management regulations at the technical support of project livestock, rangeland specialists and lawyer of ESS consultancy team for review and feedback. Sukhbaatar soum's rangeland regulation draft was deliberated and discussed at the Herders Conference in May 2022.</li> <li>- By the initiative of Sukhbaatar soum, first ever inter-soum authority meeting was held in May 2022 between Khulunbuir, Sukhbaatar soums on monitoring spring and summer pastures and study visit for learning decimal system of Bayan-Ovoo soum was organized.</li> </ul>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>
<p><b>Output 2.2.3</b> Support mechanisms for climate resilient rangeland and livestock management that secures sustainable livelihoods implemented as a part of landscape management.</p>			<p>In the reporting period, the following activities were organized in the concept of reducing livestock numbers with no impact on herders' livelihoods as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conducted training on animal breeding service development, advised the officials and experts of 9 soums to supervise breeding unit operation.</li> <li>- Provided draft guidelines to operate animal breeding services and a business plan template for the breeding units.</li> <li>- 4 breeding units in Tumentsogt, Bayan-Ovoo, Bayan-Adarga and Munkhkhaan soums developed their business plans and signed on the tripartite agreement with soum Governor and head of aimag food and agriculture department. 3 more breeding units in Khulunbuir, Matad and Sukhbaatar soums are developing their business plans.</li> <li>- The above 7 soum's animal breeding units will receive portable fencing and measurement equipment and superior breeding ram lambs and bucklings from the project.</li> <li>- Training on beef and dairy cattle farming technology was organized in 9 soums and 350 cows in Bulgan, Norovlin, Khulunbuir, Tumentsogt and Sukhbaatar soums were inseminated by frozen semen of dual-purpose cattle breeds to increase dairy and beef production.</li> </ul>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 121 herders, farmers and local specialists from 9 soums attended field demonstration for small scale fodder production for herders to learn about fodder production at household level and reduce their risks. 180 herder households provided seeds and planted themselves on their winter camps.</li> <li>- A training and e-handbook were provided for lamb feeding to herders in 9 soums. As a result, 12 herder households voluntarily fed their 1800 heads of lambs out of which 900 male lambs will receive bloodless castration practice for lamb production in July 2022.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 2.2.4</b> Conservation and sustainable management of forest patches and riparian forests implemented as a part of landscape management.</p>	<p><b>Area of forest area under improved management</b></p>		<p>Theoretical and practical trainings and professional consultations were organized in Chinggis city and riparian area to support the management of riparian forests in collaboration with 32 (60% male, 40% female) representatives from Departments of Environment and Tourism in project target aimags, Kherlen river basin authority and Soum Governments along the Kherlen River. The parties agreed to implement joint protection actions in riparian forests as “one” river system. They decided to establish tree nurseries to support restoration of riparian forests and celebrate a joint riparian Forest Protection Day in the three eastern aimags and organize public events to improve knowledge on values of riparian forests of local herders. Moreover, they expressed their commitment to reduce the impact of livestock on riparian forests.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Emergency Offices and Department of Environment and Tourism (DET) in eastern 3 provinces, training on fire management was organized in April 2022. Over 560 (85% male, 15% female) people from CBOs, forestry professional organizations, rangers, volunteer rangers, and herder families in 9 soums of 3 provinces attended and were trained in techniques in forest-steppe fire suppression and combating and proper use of fire extinguishers and other devices. Moreover, necessary equipment for fire prevention and firefighting were provided to Rapid Fire Protection teams in project target 9 soums to strengthen firefighting capabilities.</p>	N/A
	<p><b>Area of forest and forest land restored</b></p>		<p>Within the above collaboration the following activities were organized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support restoration of riparian forest, 3 tree nurseries were established and operational in Bayan-Ovoo, Norovlin, Khulunbuir soums with cofinancing from local authorities and 59,000 willow cuttings (<i>Salix ledebouriana</i> and <i>Salix miyabeana</i>) and 6 kg seeds of Elm tree (<i>Ulmus sp.</i>) were planted.</li> <li>- Effective management model of integrated tree nursery and vegetable farm was introduced in Munkhkhaan soum to ensure overall sustainability.</li> <li>- 1.25 ha of riparian forest along The Kherlen River in Khulunbuir, Bulgan, Bayan-Ovoo, Tumentsogt soums were fenced to showcase natural restoration without livestock footprint.</li> <li>- To promote value of forest and motivate residents to create green environment in their soum, 1000 tree seedlings in total of 9 native species were planted with the active participation of 642 local stakeholders (47% male, 53% female), such as eco clubs’ students, local authorities, NGOs, kindergartens, schools, and individual households. Moreover, national, and local TVs in eastern 3 provinces worked together and released the <a href="#">joint TV program</a> on the campaign activities to raise awareness.</li> <li>- Experience sharing meeting between 10 representatives of eco club children (20% male, 80% female) of Norovlin and Dadal soums was organized. Children from Dadal soum collected the</li> </ul>	N/A

			<p>hard seeds of bird-cherry (<i>Padus asiaticus</i>) from the fruits they ate in the previous summer and prepared seeds and seedlings. They gave 500 seedlings and 600 grams of seeds as a gift to ecoclub children of Norovlin soum and planted them together in a newly built children's eco-summer camp in Norovlin soum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In collaboration with the Binder-Oi inter soum-forest unit, soum government and a FUG, seeds and seedlings of pine tree (<i>Pinus Siberica</i>) were planted in 10 ha of community managed forest area in Norovlin soum.</li> <li>- Under the sub-campaign "Let's make every household a fruit farmer", 90 households planted 900 seedlings of 5 native fruit shrubs in their compound and provided them instructions on planting and caring for trees.</li> <li>- In collaboration with Departments of Environment and Emergency Agency of 3 aimags, training on fire prevention was organized for 112 people (85% male, 15% female) and fire prevention tools were supplied soum emergency units to fight against steppe and forest fires and.</li> </ul> <p>The "Billion Tree" national movement initiated by the President of Mongolia aimed at reserving land degradation and desertification through massive forest restoration and tree plantation was launched in October 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In November 2021, consultation meeting for follow up activities of the national movement to be implemented in Dornod province. Discussions were held to identify possible actions to rehabilitate and promote natural regeneration of the riparian forest along the Kherlen River with 130 local stakeholders (57.4% male, 42.6% female) from Dornod aimag's Department of Environment and Tourism, Food and Agriculture Department, soum authorities, inter-soum forest units, forest consulting engineers and representatives of local tree growers, private sector, and professional NGOs. Local government decided to increase the required funding to 1 billion MNT by 2022. This is 5 times more than funding for reforestation in 2021.</li> </ul>	
<b>Outcome 2.3</b>	Local communities benefit from enhanced value chains, public-private partnerships and access to markets in support of sustainable grazing practices			
<p><b>Output 2.3.1</b></p> <p>Partnerships established and implemented between herder groups/farmers/cooperatives, local government and private sector to develop value chains for sustainably</p>	<p>a) Number of people (women and men) benefiting from enhanced value chains in support of sustainable grazing practices.</p>	<p>180 (average 20 per soum), of which at least 50% women Annual</p>	<p>During the reporting period, value chain related activities were advanced through organizing training and partnership building events based on rapid assessment and value chain mapping. Priority project interventions to enhance dairy, meat, sheep wool, vegetable and honey value chains in the target soums were identified. In total, 1473 persons (43% male, 57% female) participated in value chain development activities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In collaboration with SFA training on livestock welfare and rangeland stewardship code of practices to comply with sustainable fiber standard was organized for existing agriculture cooperative members in 7 target soums. As a result, Davsan Ukhua cooperative in Matad got certified as sustainable cashmere producer and sold 7000 kg of cashmere to Sor Cashmere at premium price for export. (<i>Annex 7. SFA Inception report</i>)</li> <li>- "Sheep wool value chain stakeholders' partnership meeting", a market linkage meeting was organized in April 2022 in collaboration with SME agency, the Light Industry department of MOFALI, Agricultural Commodity Exchange and the private sector. Mon-pellets LLC as an</li> </ul>	<b>N/A</b>

<p>produced agricultural products.</p>		<p>targets will be defined with stake holders in Year 1.</p>	<p>organic fertilizer exporter, and Khanbogd Cashmere LLC were put in direct market linkages with agriculture cooperatives from the project target soums. As a result of the meeting, 5 cooperatives were directly linked with “Khanbogd cashmere” LLC to supply 100 tons of cashmere next year. Also, “Ashid Bayan Munkh” cooperative signed cooperation agreement with Mon Pellets LLC to supply 30-50 tons of sheep wool in 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To enhance the sheep wool value chain, the project is facilitating market linkages between herder cooperatives and processors by organizing the first <a href="#">“Wool market day event”</a> in the Dornod and Sukhbaatar aimags. For increasing productivity on wool value chain, technological training to introduce modern technology on sheep wool shearing and provided equipment including electric scissors and electric tools to 4 soums’ cooperatives as beneficiaries of target locations. As a result of the market linkage meeting as wool VC partnership meeting and wool market day event, Ashid Bayan Munkh cooperative signed an agreement for wool supply to Mon-Pellets LLC. Aslo, Esgii Dulaalga, Davsan Ukhaa cooperatives of Bulgan and Matad soums of Dornod aimag agreed to supply wool to Mon-Pellets LLC this year.</li> <li>- 2 level trainings on promoting cooperative movement, improving cooperative governance, strengthening production and marketing based collective actions to boost herder households’ income and diversifying to non-livestock businesses were conducted in collaboration with National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC) and in total, 601 people (45% male, 54% female) participated. As a result of training, 2 new agriculture cooperatives were established in Bayan-Ovoo and Hulunbuir soums. (<i>Annex 8. NAMAC training report</i>)</li> <li>- Animal breeding and artificial insemination related activities, which are implemented and initiated under output 2.2 were well complemented with output 2.3 as supporting service to boost sustainably produced meat, dairy, and cashmeres.</li> <li>- Herders applying lamb feeding practices were linked with a lamb meat exporter company in the Sukhbaatar aimag and a meat processor company in Ulaanbaatar city.</li> <li>- The project identified fruit and berry value chain as potential business opportunities to promote sustainable grazing and non-livestock income opportunity. A rapid assessment on the fruit and berry value chain development combined with technology training was carried out in 7 project soums and in Sukhbaatar aimag center in May 2022 in collaboration with Mongolian Fruit and Berry National Association. Result of rapid assessment showed that agro-forestry development has high potential in Dornod and Sukhbaatar aimags. It was recommended to support two extension centers in Dornod and Sukhbaatar through supply of high-quality cuttings of natural orchid and berry sorts and varieties in support of new and additional income under “Billion Tree” National Movement.</li> <li>- For the coordination of projects, the “Responsible Herder” national standard is introduced to herder communities in the project target soums and non-overlapping the location of GCF funded “ADAPT” project, which is implemented by the UNDP and MET.</li> </ul>	
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			- The project is actively engaged in the Sustainable Cashmere Platform meeting which is facilitated by UNDP and FAO by providing feedback and information on project activities.	
	Number of herder groups/cooperatives that obtain certification on sustainable practices through project (e.g., SFA codes of practice for cashmere, traceability standards for meat)	3 herder groups/cooperatives (of which at least 1 women-led)	<p>- 134 members of the agriculture cooperatives in the 7 target soums received skill development training to apply sustainable code of practices for cashmere sorting and grading under LoA between FAO and SFA in March 2022.</p> <p>- An independent assessment of the skill and capacity of trained cooperative members was conducted by the certified inspector delegated by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.</p> <p>- 2 cooperatives (1 women-led) sold cashmere under SFA traceability system for export was considered as certified while 3 cooperatives assessed as eligible to obtain certificates by SFA in the future.</p>	N/A
	Additional or new income from value chain activities (% increase).	3%	<p>2 cooperatives of Bayan-Ovoo, Matad soums sold 8,253 kilograms of sustainably produced cashmere (total sales: 439,0 thousand \$, and there is 3.1% higher income as premium price compared to regular market price).</p> <p>To promote green business in the NRs, theoretical and practical training for small beekeepers was conducted for 35 people (60% Male, 40% Female), including technical advice to strengthen the capacity of the beekeepers of Bayan-Ovoo, Bayan-Adraga, Norovlin and Tumentsogt soums.</p> <p>Based on Bee honey value chain rapid assessment, the project is supporting the expansion of bee farming as cluster-based eco business model in the buffer zone of Khar yamaat and Ulz River NRs. A grant for an advanced beekeeper at Khar Yamaat NR buffer zone was awarded to expand her business by another 7 hives, to establish independent beekeeping to produce ecologically clean products, enhance opportunity to provide honey to the local people and travelers, improve the livelihoods by increasing the number of employees, produce local branded products, ensure sustainable operation, and create an appropriate form of beekeeping in the buffer zone of Khar Yamaat NR. This activity is linked with Component 3.1.3.</p>	N/A
<b><u>Outcome 3.1</u></b>	<b>Strengthening biodiversity conservation and landscape connectivity</b>			
<b><u>Output 3.1.1</u></b>	BD/species indicators:	TBD*	<b>Habitat connectivity analysis for Mongolian gazelle</b> in the Eastern Steppe was conducted using a combination of circuit theory and least-cost corridors modeling approaches.	N/A

<p>Assessment to enhance landscape connectivity and management of globally important biodiversity in the target landscape conducted and incorporated into local plans.</p>	<p>(i) Mongolian Gazelle: Number of individuals and number of days in which gazelles are observed in target NRs during relevant season</p> <p>(ii) White-naped Crane: Number of breeding pairs in target area; Nesting success Monitored annually starting from Year 2 of the project.</p>		<p>It was confirmed that habitat of Mongolian gazelles in the Eastern Steppe is still interconnected as the most at least cost corridors between protected areas or core habitats are wide and overlapped among them. Across the Eastern steppe, there are a total of 62 (with aggregated length of 5,793 km) and 157 (6,260 km) linkages or least cost corridors (LCPs) connecting protected areas (PAs) and core habitats (CHs) of gazelles were identified from the connectivity analyses. According to the centrality analyses, Toson Khulstai, Jaran Togoo “A”, Jaran Togoo “B”, Bayartsagaan Tal, and Yakhi Nuur NRs are critically important protected areas keeping the entire landscape interconnected allowing permeability for the gazelle movements. With finite land, increasing human population, burgeoning livestock numbers, and economic demands to build and expand mining and associated infrastructures, there is tremendous pressure for converting the grasslands to other uses. Maintaining movement pathways for wildlife in such a human-dominated landscape is a challenging task, but connectivity maps can be an effective tool to aid conservation and management decisions. (<i>Annex 10. Gazelle connectivity report</i>)</p> <p><b>Bird habitat connectivity study</b> (“White-naped Crane (<i>Antigone vipio</i>) and Great Bustard (<i>Otis tarda dybowskii</i>)) is ongoing. The study covers all 9 soums to identify the distribution of the target species, important migratory stopover sites and breeding habitats. Threats such as conflict with farmers and power line disturbance were assessed based on the discussion with local stakeholders and field surveys. The report will be finalized in July 2022.</p> <p>An integrated digital data base (BIOSAN) was created in 2009 for State PAs of Mongolia but its practical application is still not sufficient. To identify effective way to implement biodiversity monitoring, joint monitoring survey of Mongolian gazelle was conducted 3 times (February, August and December 2021) in close collaboration with MET and PA administrations in Eastern Mongolia. In total, 31 specialists and rangers (94% male, 6% female) from the 7 PA administrations participated.</p> <p>After the joint monitoring surveys, the participants discussed about field monitoring methods, analysis of BIOSAN data, application of its results for PA management plan, selection of keystone species as conservation targets, and the challenges and issues for using BIOSAN. Under the leadership of MET, parties agreed to upgrade BIOSAN.</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.1.2</b> Management plans for NRs developed or updated in a participatory process involving local governments and stakeholders ensuring</p>	<p>Area of terrestrial PAs under improved management effectiveness: See Core Indicator 1.</p>	<p>1,189,866 ha 6 NRs have new or improved management plan.</p>	<p>To assess and monitor long term climate change and identify environmental degradation and its contributing factors in Khar Yamaat NR and identify baseline condition of biodiversity in Ulz goliin ekh, Tosonkhulstai, Jaran Togoonii tal, Menengiin Tsagaan khooloi and Bayantsagaanii tal NRs, biodiversity monitoring/survey was conducted from July through September 2021. Survey team consisted of teachers, bachelor and master program students at National University of Mongolia (NUM), State University of Life science and University of Education and researchers from the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. The survey results have been compiled and being used to develop management plans and implement the conservation measures in target NRs, such as determining of pasture carrying capacity, developing recommendations, conducting trainings and public awareness campaigns.</p> <p>To improve the knowledge of the local stakeholders, capacity building training was conducted online, in April 2022 and attended by 61 people (60% male, 40% female) from Local Governments</p>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>

<p>landscape level management.</p>			<p>and Parliaments in 14 soums of eastern 3 provinces and improved knowledge on PA management and its funding opportunity. Two level participatory and multi-stakeholder consultations for developing the management plans of Ulz goliin ekh and Bayantsagaanii tal NRs were organized in January, April, and May 2022. A total of 90 people (60% male, 40% female) participated representing respective soum governor offices and Department of Environment and Tourism and Department of Development Policy of each aimag. Based on the consultative meetings/discussion and survey results, the conservation targets and their threats for each NRs were identified and assessed. Determination of strategies and key interventions for reducing the threats is ongoing.</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.1.3</b>  Priority interventions implemented in target NRs in line with management plans.</p>			<p>Summary of activities implemented as priority interventions in the target NRs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Two springs in Khar Yamaat NR and 4 critical feeding sources of Ulz goliin ekh NR were protected with active participation of soum authority, herders, and Onon-Ulz River Basin Authority and a mining company. The following actions were taken to address ESS concerns. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fencing materials were chosen to unharmed sensitive peatland ecosystem.</li> <li>- Fencing design was developed based on consultations with soum and bagh authorities and herders. Traditional fencing method of Buryat ethnics was selected to be flexible in movement during freezing and thawing.</li> </ul> <p>Local herders agreed to ensure the integrity of the fence and they will be responsible for maintenance and repair of fences, while the River Basin Administrations will conduct monthly monitoring of water flow rate and length of protected springs.</p> </li> <li>2. In 2021 and 2022, a total of 101 Siberian marmots were released at the same location in NR to establish a long-gone Siberian marmot population. The subsequent monitoring results show that at least 18 winter bores are created by released marmots at 2 nearby locations, indicating successful winter hibernation is ongoing.</li> <li>3. Since 2016, 6 volunteer rangers are actively participating in biodiversity monitoring and natural resource restoration in the Khar Yamaat NR. In May 2022, a meeting was held to discuss the joint work results and in addition to 3 rangers of NR and 6 volunteer rangers (100% male), 3 young herders voluntarily participated in the meeting and applied to work as volunteer rangers. One of them is a young female herder who decided to work as a volunteer ranger to increase her knowledge on environmental conservation. During the meeting, volunteer rangers discussed that protection/fencing of 3 natural springs and Khulstai Lake and <a href="#">the increase in wildlife populations due to improved protection</a> were the most effective activity in the last 4 years. They agreed to continue to strengthen these achievements and create initiatives to restore and protect the natural resource together with herders.</li> <li>4. To motivate and engage youth for environmental conservation, a nature photography training was organized in May 2022, for 20 young people interested in photography from Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimags. They received inspirational, hands-on training in the art of photography and were able to advance their photography skills. To promote beautiful landscape of Yamaat NR by photos taken by the participants were promoted through social media and reached over 36,000 people. To foster young biologists and ecologists, promote experience exchange between post</li> </ol>	<p>N/A</p>



			<p>graduate students, the fifth Research Conference “Young Researcher Students-2021” was organized on 18 December 2021 in collaboration with the NUM. In total, 23 students (33% Male, 67% Female) from 4 national universities presented the results of their field research work. The conference was live streamed by Zoom and <a href="#">Facebook page</a> “Research student” and reached 3,225 people. During the conference, photo and essay contests for students were organized and received 6 essays and 59 photos for the competition and selected the best 2 submissions.</p> <p>5. The annual campaign "Steppe beauty" successfully organized at two stages, at soum and regional level to protect the Mongolian gazelle in cooperation with eco-club children and local decision makers. Ecoclubs of 17 soums organized promotional and educational activities such as social media campaign, joint meeting with local decision makers to raise awareness on Mongolian gazelle conservation in their soums. At regional level, “Gazelle conservation through our eyes” joint meeting in Chinggis city, Khentii was organized on November 25, 2021. The participants of the joint meeting were 32 children representing from 10 eco-clubs, and 19 representatives of Departments of Education, Environment and Tourism, Ecological Polices and local authorities from 3 provinces. During the meeting, students introduced their activities on Mongolian gazelle conservation to the authorities and raised their voice for potential solutions to problems on gazelle conservation. As a result of the meeting, Khentii aimag authorities promised to organize a campaign and protect three springs in core habitat of Mongolian gazelle; Dornod and Sukhbaatar provinces’ authorities promised that May 22 will be declared as Mongolian Gazelle Conservation Day. Within the campaign, an art competition named “Steppe, gazelle and me” among schools of Khentii, Dornod and Sukhbaatar provinces was organized. We received 274 submissions from children and the best 9 participants were selected.</p> <p>6. In collaboration with the NUM, a program known as “Young Researchers” for eco-club children in buffer zone soums of Khar Yamaat NR was implemented to inspire their active participation into scientific studies. 6 school children voluntarily joined three day-field studies organized in Khar Yamaat NR in August 2021. During the fieldwork, students learned the basic methods to identify rare and threatened plant species, to prepare herbarium, and the methods to have measurements of small rodents. Another training program held for children was also implemented in Khar Yamaat NR in March 2022. A total of 6 school children voluntarily participated during school break and learned about the biodiversity of NR. The school children were presented with the main daily tasks of PA rangers such as how patrolling was done, how wildlife was observed and their records were kept, and the importance of protection of heads of natural springs. They made presentations about their learnings and shared them with their classmates and parents.</p> <p>7. In collaboration with “Big brother's trip” TV series for children’s environmental education, produced by MNB-Mongolian National Broadcasting, field visit was organized involving 4 Eco-Club students of Bayan-Adarga soum in Ulz river head and Khar yamaat NR. The field visit activities were recorded for a TV program series for children to promote target NRs and biodiversity conservation activities. Within this collaboration, 5-6 series of TV program will be produced and will be broadcasted in October 2022.</p>	
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			<p>8. To assess Knowledge-Attitude-Practice (KAP) of residents in Eastern aimags on illegal hunting of Mongolian Gazelle and plan target communication activities for gazelle conservation, KAP survey was conducted from the 947 local stakeholders (49.7% male, 50.3% female) who live in the 18 soums of Khentii, Dornod, Sukhbaatar. The survey results show that 54.3% of respondents think that illegal hunting of gazelle is high, 39.7% said that the local family hunt 1-6 Mongolian gazelle every year. 5.3% of the respondents said that they hunted gazelle, and most of them have low income and low education status and hunted without permission. 63.6-67.6 percent of respondents answered that the main reason for hunting gazelle is to prepare winter food. 43% of the respondents believe that the number of gazelles has decreased due to illegal hunting.</p> <p>9. As baseline, KAP questionnaire survey on value of target NRs was conducted involving 424 (49.7% male, 50.3% female) people. According to the survey results, 45.1% people do not have knowledge about the NRs, 49.6% of the respondents think pasture degradation is the main threat to NRs. 65.1% of the respondents said that they did not know about the protection zones and boundaries of NRs. (Annex 11. KAP survey report).</p> <p>In 2019 Parliament of Mongolia issued a decision to establish Ulz goliin ekh, Jaran togoonii tal, Menengiin tsagaan khooloi NRs. According to the law, Government of Mongolia shall approve boundaries of NRs based on the above decision. As the boundaries of these 3 NRs are still not approved yet, it was challenging to organize ground level activities.</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.1.4</b> Community-centred conservation interventions implemented in LPAs in connectivity areas and other critical patch ecosystems to secure connectivity of ecosystems and key migratory species.</p>	<p>Area of landscapes under improved local protection to benefit biodiversity</p>		<p>Not yet started. Will be started after identification of connectivity areas for migratory species.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Output 3.1.5</b> Sustainable financing mechanisms for the implementation of the management plans developed and implemented.</p>			<p>A knowledge sharing event was organized for respective officials of Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimags to learn success stories of establishing "Baigal" NR administration, locally owned enterprise of Dornod aimag in 2019. Main purpose of this event was to learn financial and organizational arrangement to explore the sustainable financial mechanism and management structure for the establishment of local PA administrations to manage NRs and nature monuments (NMs) in provinces. A total of 31 representatives of Local parliament, Governor's office and Department of Environment and Tourism of Khentii, Dornod and Sukhbaatar provinces participated in the experience sharing meeting. Successes and lessons learnt were shared to choose management model for NRs in Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimags.</p> <p>Key stakeholders engaged in Khar yamaat NR management agreed that establishment of new unit for NR management under oversight of Department of Environment and Tourism of Khentii aimag is a potential option to enforce the law and implement management activities in the NRs. Due to the economic crisis and budget constraints related to COVID-19, a decision is pending.</p>	

			The minimum cost for effective implementation of the NR management against the above proposed structure was estimated for Khar yamaat NR at MNT98 million per year. It was introduced to co-management council of Khar yamaat NR and members of Citizen's Representative Khural of Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimag for their consideration on budget allocation. ( <i>Annex 12. Khar yamaat financial projection report</i> )	
<b>Outcome 4.1</b>	Project coordination, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation for the sustainable management of drylands in Mongolia.			
<b>Output 4.1.1</b> Effective project coordination and monitoring and evaluation.	N/A	2 PSC meetings 2 reflection meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PMU was established and became fully operational from July 01, 2021. Both FAO and WWF conducted induction sessions and training for PMU staff on their respective procedures for operations, financial reporting, procurement, communication, and Standard Operating procedures for joint implementation of the project.</li> <li>- Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established by the order of Minister of Environment and Tourism. PSC meeting was organized three times, firstly to discuss and approve Annual workplan and budget 2021 in July 2021; secondly, to endorse an annual budget increase due to unforeseen budget allocation as co-financing commitment by 3 aimags in October 2021, and; lastly, to approve the AWPB 2022 in December 2021.</li> <li>- Following the project inception, PMU team members made a field visit to target nine soums and 3 aimags in August, 2021, during which reflection workshop was also held to learn about ProDoc, its related annexes and SOP adopted by FAO and WWF Mongolia. The team took this opportunity to learn about local needs and baseline conditions. PMU team had a chance to exchange views with 124 key and primary stakeholders (54% male and 46% female). Meetings and discussions were held with local stakeholders including aimag and soum authorities, officials, herders, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, FAO and other project team operating in the target areas implemented by IFAD, Greengold, TNC and international organizations. The second reflection workshop of the PMU team was held in December 2021. The extensive discussion on training on the topics of WWF respective rules and compliance of Environmental and Social Safeguard framework were delivered in participatory manner. All the comments from the project stakeholders were discussed and incorporated into the AWPB 2022. The project gender action plan and environmental and social management framework were discussed and reviewed during the workshop. The comments and recommendations on the review of AWPB 2021 and AWPB 2022 by Environmental and Social safeguard consultants was incorporated into the project and taking a gender-sensitive approach when planning and implementing the project activities for 2022.</li> <li>- The joint project Taskforce of UN-FAO and WWF was established, and two meetings were held virtually in September 2021 and Feb 2022 to orient further the project and provide updates on progress. Taskforce members, LTO and FLO paid visits to the project sites in the Eastern aimags. Thanks to the timely technical support of the Taskforce members, the PMU ensured effective project implementation.</li> </ul>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Throughout the inception phase, the PMU worked with all stakeholders involved at the local, national, and international levels to develop partnerships. Several meetings and workshops were undertaken with the culmination of the Inception Workshop on 1-5 July 2021. During the inception workshop, the project team met with key stakeholders both physically and virtually, including MET, MOFALI, ALAMGAC officials, the provincial and soum government, international and national NGOs, representatives of local herder groups, and other donor-funded projects operating in the target area. The representatives of the stakeholders as mentioned above in total of 280 (out of which 157 from target area; Khentii, Dornod and Sukhbaatar aimags) (66% male, 34% female) attended the inception workshop which was held on July 1, 2021.</li> <li>- In collaboration with the Monitoring expert of the DSL-IP Global project, the project monitoring dashboard was developed. It is updated regularly based on the approved project reports. The Mongolia monitoring dashboard was introduced at the FAO "Second Session of the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems" meeting in Nov 2021.</li> <li>- The knowledge management and M&amp;E specialist is participating in the training on the Making Every Voice Count for Adaptive Management (MEV-CAM) initiative and participatory video (PV) training conducted by Global Knowledge management project. Training will take place throughout 2022. Initial video footage was prepared.</li> </ul> <p>The footage of different project interventions such as fencing of river source, crop farm plots, rangeland restoration efforts based on baghs, vegetable and animal breeding, value chain lamb feeding and biodiversity conservation etc. were made for the purpose of being shared as knowledge management and MONCAT promotion through WOCAT network.</p>	
<p><b>Output 4.1.2</b> Systematic creation, documentation and sharing of knowledge on sustainable dryland management and biodiversity conservation through national and global IP platforms.</p>	<p>Number of knowledge products</p> <p>Number of people (women and men) at national/aimag level reached by communications and knowledge management activities.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7500</p>	<p>Special attention was paid to implementing the project communication strategy as visibility of the project during reporting period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As the first publication of the project, the Connectivity report on the Mongolian gazelle is developed and is under review.</li> <li>- Promotional materials for sustainable rangeland management and landscapes and biodiversity conservation critical ecosystems and project visibility materials were developed and disseminated to 628,526 people by social media channels run by <a href="#">FAO</a> and <a href="#">WWF Mongolia</a> and social media channels of national and local TV. (<i>Annex 13. List of communication outreach activities</i>)</li> <li>- A TV program of 20 minutes and a news content of 3 minutes on the forest campaign was broadcasted on Mongolian National Broadcasting Channel and the forest campaign in Dornod and Sukhbaatar aimags were broadcasted on respective local TV channels and reached 28,948 people in total through their social media channels.</li> <li>- The project activities were featured in Oct-Dec, Jun-Sep 2021 and Jan-Mar 2022 editions of the WWF Amur Heilong Ecoregion Complex newsletter which is distributed through WWF China, WWF Russia and WWF Mongolia. Also, project information was shared via newsletters and social media pages of ALAMGAC, aimag Land management departments.</li> </ul>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An <a href="#">article</a> on ecosystem restoration featuring FAO-GEF Projects was published by FAO Stories with regards to the upcoming flagship event on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration at the UN Environment Assembly.</li> <li>- The SFA's international virtual <a href="#">conference</a> took place September 14-16, 2021 and attended by international fashion brands, manufacturers, processors, herders, NGOs invested in the space as well as government officials. The project set up a booth in the conference and presented the project information.</li> </ul> <p>Knowledge sharing activities among stakeholders in the target areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Responsible livestock sector' <a href="#">Facebook open group</a> was created to share project activities on sustainable rangeland management which has 346 members and 1442 views.</li> <li>- Facebook group for vegetable growers was created for 9 soums to share technical and practical consultation on open field and greenhouse vegetable planting.</li> <li>- Authorities from Sukhbaatar, Munkhkhaan and Tumentsogt soums visited Bayan-Ovoo soum and learnt about their "decimal system" (division of soum territory into clusters of 10-12 households) and rangeland management activities. As a result, Sukhbaatar soum adopted the decimal system into its baghs.</li> <li>- Officials from Department of Environment and Tourism of Sukhbaatar and Khentii aimag visited Dornod Protected Area Administration and learnt about their best practices on local PA management as it is pioneer to establish PA administration to manage all locally protected areas in Dornod province and provide integrated management and planning.</li> <li>- The representatives from 5 cooperatives of Munkhkhaan, Matad, Khulunbuir, Bayan-Ovoo and Bulgan soums visited Cashmere Holding LLC's cashmere processing plant, Evseg brand wool and cashmere store and got acquainted with the operation of the processing plant of wool compost from Mongolian sheep wool. As a result of the meeting, the parties agreed to cooperate and conclude a long-term partnership to supply wool and sheepskin through a herder cooperative.</li> <li>- Simple video-based lesson on guideline for integrated land management planning was prepared and shared with the professional entities who are developing land management plan. Online video lesson on international best practices of Integrated land management planning for achieving LDN/SLM targets were developed and will be shared to public.</li> <li>- A <a href="#">joint meeting</a> in support of the establishment of the DSL-IP Regional Exchange Mechanism (REM) for Central Asia was organized in May 2022 and representatives from FAO HQ, IUCN, CACILM and DSL-IP Kazakhstan and Mongolia participated. During the meeting, DSL-IP, its components and core themes, IUCN Implementation Structure and regional core themes, Background on CACILM-2 programme, DSL-IP Core Themes Central Asia, Communities of Practices were presented. It is agreed that IUCN will lead the REM Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Mongolia), leveraging on past and existing initiatives in the region – including the Central Asia Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM), harvesting on evident good practices for addressing common challenges of regional scope. Each executing partner will provide support according to its identified areas of expertise vis-à-vis the child projects' needs.</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>Output 4.1.3</b> LDN target monitoring and reporting mechanism strengthened, and relevant information shared through national and global IP platforms.</p>	<p>M&amp;E deliverables</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>In the frame of the “Consultancy on contributing in achieving land degradation neutrality through regular assessment and monitoring by using integrated approaches for the applied survey and remote sensing” of the project, a draft regulation is being prepared for the “Identification of degraded land and its rehabilitation” to enable monitoring and reporting and measuring the achievement of LDN biophysical indicators and targets as well as project core indicators for reducing/restoring land degradation and mitigating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by ALAMGaC. The preliminary assessment on WOCAT tools and techniques was conducted in Sukhbaatar soum and Bayantumen soum to register them to the international platform. The inputs shall be uploaded to the network soon. Organized training on land degradation and WOCAT for the PMU team.</p> <p>For the celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17, 2022, in collaboration with the MET, <a href="#">several activities</a> were organized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scientific conference was organized on 17th June 2022 and information on desertification and mitigation and adaptation measures. 9 researchers presented their studies on land degradation, land restoration and reforestation.</li> <li>- A discussion was organized to introduce the importance of desertification control activities and to inform the public about technologies to eliminate desertification and land degradation, and to present good practices.</li> <li>- Posters and short videos were produced and broadcasted through MET facebook page and outdoor TV screen of TDB bank near Chinggis square.</li> </ul>	
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#### 4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcome of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR.

##### Summary on Project progress

Significant and steady progress was made by the project over the entire year of implementation within the approved workplan and budget summarized as below.

**Under Outcome 1:** Tangible progress was made towards achieving outcome 1 by putting all the mechanisms/platforms for cross sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration at aimag and soum level in place, financial resources available for co-financing in the form of cash by Aimags for developing aimag and soum land management plans, land management planning process is happening under the supervision and guidance of both International/National short-term consultants on SLM/LDN additional tasks and revised guidelines followed in the process, legal framework improvement for achieving sustainable land management is under deliberation.

**Under Outcome 2.1:** Activities implemented upon the recruitment of the National Agriculture Specialist in December 2021 included rapid surveys on the training and inputs needs that outlines specific intervention in the crop and vegetable production, four rounds of activities in all 9 target soums in the form of training, demonstration and extension advises starting from February, 2022 on nursery and seedling preparation, transplanting, maintenance of different crops during various vegetation period, greenhouse building, introduction of innovative farming practices such as soil mulching, tunnel farming, water saving technologies including drip irrigation, spray hose irrigation tab use and installation etc to local dwellers and farmers were all contributed to achieve described Outcome. As a result of the project capacity building activities and farming inputs, the interest of working collectively as a group or cooperative is growing and positive feedback on the introduction of innovative farming practices was made at the grassroot level.

**Under Outcome 2.2:** As a result of trainings, technical supervision and advice, local decision makers and herders became actively engaged in processes aimed at improving governance frameworks for sustainably managing rangeland, piloting of new practices such as lamb feeding, fodder growing at winter camping site, to improve rangeland related legislation decision-makers on the importance of national photo monitoring of rangeland, and the development of participatory rangeland management plans at the bagh level, drafts of new or revised rangeland use regulations have been developed in all soums and Munkhkhaan's regulation was approved by soum khural in May 2022. Bayan-Adarga soum has included rangeland management plan in the soum land management plan 2022 (see more detailed in [www.egazar.gov.mn](http://www.egazar.gov.mn)), and is implementing its plan to rest 11,504 ha of summer rangeland in Saikhan bagh. Although not included in the 2022 land management plan, rangeland resting in two baghs in Sukhbaatar and Matad soums is being initiated by herders and bagh governors. In addition, from 2023, bagh and soum plans have been developed and proposals and actions have been taken to reduce rangeland degradation.

Work on capacity building of private livestock breeding units' partnership with soum administration and aimag department of food and agriculture to develop animal breeding service in soum level (for animal productivity) and create opportunities to increase product yield and output in line with land carrying capacity and market potential. So, private livestock breeding units in Bayan-Adarga and Bayan-Ovoo of Khentii, Tumentsogt, Munkhkhaan and Sukhbaatar of Sukhbaatar, Matad and Khulunbuir of Dornod aimag have taken equipment for small ruminants grading and

coming autumn will receive 330 ram lambs and 270 bucklings. Also, all soums are provided draft regulations for animal breeding services, and some of them created working groups to adapt it to their own soum.

**Under Outcome 2.3:** The rapid value chain assessments with mapping on meat, dairy, wool, vegetable, and bee honey was conducted for identifying the project interventions within the project goals and objectives. The project is implementing a value chain development approach for contributing outcome achievements in the target locations. Capacity building, market and value chain development activities are contributing to achieve outcome for making local communities benefit from enhanced value chains, public-private partnerships, and access to markets in support of sustainable grazing practices. All results of the activities of the project other components are coordinated in the value chain section and incomes of the beneficiaries will come from the value chain development activities.

Wool market stakeholder partnership meeting and Wool market day event were new initiatives from the project for improving market access and linkages between herder communities and buyers as wool processor. And introducing new and modern technology for sheep wool shearing with electric scissors is improving productivity of wool production and shifting fully new wool shearing practices in the rural Mongolia.

Strengthening livestock breeding and artificial insemination services in the target locations are improving the quality of livestock outputs and productivity in meat, dairy, cashmere, and wool value chain enhancement within the project components integration. And fodder plantation at herders' winter shelters and feeding lambs are new interventions to improving sustainable grazing and profitability of livestock turnover.

**Under Outcome 3:** Thanks to the long presence and program implementation of WWF Mongolia in the Eastern Steppe, project activities could be organized in short period of time through its close coordination and networking with Environmental Department of 3 aimags, River basin Authorities, Local protected areas administration, aimag and soum Governor's offices. Habitat connectivity analysis and study on key migratory species in the Eastern Steppe were conducted and the results will be used to aid conservation and management decisions. Biodiversity monitoring surveys were organized for target NRs, including Mongolian gazelle and reintroduction of Marmots. Two level participatory and multi-stakeholder consultations for developing the management plans of Ulz goliin ekh and Bayantsagaanii tal NRs were organized and the conservation targets and their threats for each NRs were identified and assessed. Set of activities were successfully organized as priority interventions in the target NRs such as protection of springs, promotional activities for NR value and biodiversity conservation, capacity building activity for school children and youth, KAP survey from eastern region etc. A knowledge sharing event was organized for respective officials of Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimags to choose management model for NRs in Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimags.

**Under Outcome 4:** Project Steering Committee meetings organized three times in July, October, December 2021 made it possible to implement activities as approved in the workplan and budget for the last half of FY2021 and the first half of 2022 for progressing target indicators against the result framework.

Recommendations related to ESMF were given by the ESS consultant team recruited for short-term assignment and discussed with the joint FAO-WWF GEF Agency Project Task Force, GRM was established, and Knowledge management, communication strategies and M&E plan were developed. Knowledge sharing and outreach communication activities are happening through the posting of short news and stories through FAO and WWF social media pages, a project-initiated Facebook groups for beneficiaries of different project activities such as vegetable farming and sustainable livestock farming, promotion materials, reports, photos, and videos. The project is sharing updates and actively participating in the session by DSL-IP program. In collaboration with the MET World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was celebrated on June 17, 2022, scientific conference and workshop were organized successfully.

**Summary of lessons learnt:**



- It was proven that local decision makers tend to set highest tax rates to horses and goats versus lowest to sheep and cattle and camels normally exempted from tax. However, tax rates were calculated with no justification, as horses eat grasses seven times higher than small ruminants. Therefore, based on the example of a specific soum, develop a recommendation to set and spend livestock footprint tax (pasture carrying capacity, animal type, age, sex, location, herding technology, etc.) and submit to the local parliament, local authorities and organize a wide range of introductory trainings. In addition, it is necessary to pay attention to livestock tax revenue expenditure.
- Coordination and consultation meetings and access to information /channel, flows/ were also helpful to identify specific project interventions based on beneficiaries' needs and demands in line with project outputs.
- Risk-considered, adaptive time management and teamwork in procurement is important.
- Time management and team building during the pandemic period is important.
- Capacity building for staff and key partners is very important. Especially, on PPMS, ESSF policies, including Mongolian Laws and Policies in order to mitigate or avoid risks, staff needed to be able to adapt to changes. Professional knowledge or knowledge on management tools is important for adaptive management /capacity building/.

Workplan adaptation and improvement of comprehensive reporting and monitoring system including data management is needed.

#### **Summary of challenges:**

The COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions inside the country, border closure, FMD, scarcity of fuel had an impact in the early stage of project implementation. Therefore, PMU team was trying its best to implement adaptive management to best respond to the challenges.

With regards to Component 1: Challenges and risks include 1) risk of changing current concept of draft Law complemented with draft law on Protected areas, regulatory framework for natural resource use fee during deliberation process at the Parliament level, on Land and draft law on Protected area. 2) Land management plan development process is being done in parallel with the process of revision of guidelines, development of training and monitoring program; 3) staff turnover of soum and aimag land managers trained or provided with supply of equipment due to poor working conditions and low remuneration.

With regards to Component 2: On sustainable rangeland management, main challenges encountered were: 1) loss of traditional rotational usage of seasonal pasture against its carrying capacity; 2) lack of an adequate legislative framework/ legal environment with regards to rangeland use fee that prevent public rangeland be used and managed in sustainable manner; 3) weak governance capacity to enforce available legal tools reluctance to work together on implementing collective rangeland management even though everyone is aware of the current status of publicly shared rangeland degradation; 3) reluctance to reduce livestock numbers even though livestock population is seven (7) times higher than actual carrying capacity of rangeland due to misperception that would result in significant reduction in their income and earnings; the newly introduced law on Livestock number tax on the other hand is not that effective as it was expected; 4) although Government is promoting agriculture cooperative movement through newly enforced law, low trust level and reluctance of working together due to lack of understanding on the benefit causes some difficulty especially on supporting sustainable value chain activities. Another challenge is the recent FMD outbreak and related livestock movement restrictions, which pose threats both to the rangeland management (e.g., rotational grazing) as well as to the critically needed improvement in Mongolia's ability to export meat to reducing livestock numbers. Inter-aimag migration has also been noted as a challenge by herders, although this is not a new challenge.

With regards to Component 3: Main challenges include: a) Pending decision of the Cabinet on setting boundaries of Ulz goliin ekh, Jaran togoonii tal, Menengiin tsagaan khooloi NRs. Management plan is under preparation, b) strict budget saving policy of the Government might cause some problems with the hand-over of Khar-Yamaat management to Khentii and Sukhbaatar co-management arrangement.

With regards to Component 4: On knowledge management, main challenges were lack of understanding of knowledge management and knowledge management tools which may be a bit complex for team members to comprehend. It can prove challenging to get everyone on board when it comes to storing and sharing data and knowledge sharing.

**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.

	FY2022 Development Objective rating <sup>1</sup>	FY2022 Implementation Progress rating <sup>2</sup>	Comments/reasons <sup>3</sup> justifying the ratings for FY2022 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
<b>Project Manager / Coordinator</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<p><i>Overall, activities of the project for this reporting period mainly targeted the implementation of priority activities in consideration of expected outcomes under each component.</i></p> <p><i>Under Outcome 1, funding commitment for making co-financing contributions available under FY2022 budget urged all the activities planned to move in a parallel, faster and coordinated manner. Close coordination and working relations maintained between ALAMGaC, aimag level land offices was key to make key achievement through mobilization of necessary expertise, implementation of capacity building, consultancy supports, meetings and established platforms.</i></p> <p><i>Under Outcome 2, project is striving to implement planned activities in a circular or integrated manner like any crop farming activities through application of sustainable and climate smart practices or value chain development activities were implemented in support of sustainable rangeland management. Fodder cultivation, animal breeding activities are planned and implemented as supporting services to value chain development for meat and dairy. Vegetable production, eco street promotion, tree nursery station related activities were complementing each other to make good use of these opportunities for sustainable and profitable businesses.</i></p> <p><i>Maintaining close working relations with MOFALI, aimag and soum agriculture officials, soum and bagh authorities, NGOs, CBOs and other projects was key to coordinating efforts without duplication. Under Outcome 3, significant progress is being made to determine baseline figure, monitoring criteria through various surveys, studies and implementation of priority activities under NR management plans such as small works, public events.</i></p> <p><i>By end of June 2022, the overall delivery rate of the project was 52%. Delivery of Outcome 1 was 82%, Outcome 2 - 72% and Outcome 3 - 83% and Outcome 4 – 83% against AWP 2022 (please refer to separate Excel sheet in Annex). Based on the above, the project implementation progress during the reporting period is rated as “Satisfactory”.</i></p>

<sup>1</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>3</sup> Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

<b>FAO Budget Holder</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<i>Ratings/comments</i> <i>As above and as discussed with the Project Task Force.</i>
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<i>Ratings/comments</i> <i>The draft PIR was shared with the National Project Director from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for clearance, who agreed with the Satisfactory rating.</i>
<b>FAO Lead Technical Officer<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<p><i>1. Ratings/comments</i></p> <p><i>Development objective: Satisfactory.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges outlined above, project activities at all levels (national, aimag, soum, bagh) are progressing well. The project has and will continue to build close collaboration with government and local stakeholders to build up the necessary evidence base (e.g., such as via relevant project and government monitoring and evaluation systems) and project impact record; ensure adaptive project management and responses, and; ensure that all the project activities and interventions implemented continue to contribute towards achieving the overall objective of reducing land degradation in Mongolia.</i></p> <p><i>Project ownership, its theory of change, relevance, assumptions and even its eventual legacy and exit strategy should continue to be discussed and reviewed.</i></p> <p><i>Implementation progress: Satisfactory</i></p> <p><i>The project is progressing well. Government and other stakeholders are already demonstrating high levels of appreciation for the project and their commitments to its realization--which are among other means--well reflected in project sponsored draft policy and legal frameworks; its organization and willingness to trial at multiple levels new cross sectoral planning and land management modalities, and within the co-financing and support government and stakeholders provide to each activity.</i></p>

<sup>3</sup> Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

<sup>4</sup> In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

<sup>5</sup> The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

<b>FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<p><i>Ratings/comments</i></p> <p><i>Development Objective: The project outcomes are on track and are expected to be realized as anticipated. Nevertheless, some potential challenges to achieving global environmental benefits exist, including the recent FMD outbreak and continued increase in livestock numbers. It is recommended that the Theory of Change and its assumptions be revisited during the annual stakeholder reflection workshop.</i></p> <p><i>Implementation progress: The project implementation is on track in line with original work plan, despite challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is therefore rated satisfactory.</i></p>
<b>GEF Co- implementin g agency supervision (WWF GEF Agency)</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Moderately Satisfactory</b>	<p><i>Ratings/comments</i></p> <p><i>Development Objective: The project outcomes have been achieved during this implementation year. The project should continue to evaluate its assumptions that the identified activities reduce the pressure on the grassland from livestock grazing and further evaluate measures to reduce pasture degradation.</i></p> <p><i>Implementation progress. With 77% of the workplan targets achieved, implementation progress is being rated moderately satisfactory. It has to be acknowledged that the project showed very impressive implementation of activities despite delays due to the COVID pandemic.</i></p>

### 5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

*Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)*

Please describe the progress made complying 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. Add new ESS risks if any risks have emerged during this FY.

#### Implementation arrangement:

The PMU implemented ESMF with the technical support by the ESS consultant team (A consultancy report by the ESS consultant team is provided in Annex 13. ESS Consultant report).

- All project activities in AWP 2021 and 2022 were screened against the ESMF and provided guidance to each PMU staff.
- Training on project ESMF was organized in-person for PMU staff in December 2021.
- ESS related clauses have been added to all types of contract templates and TORs. Contracting parties are also informed about this.
- ESS checklist was updated to serve as the key screening tool for identifying ESS related risks and vulnerabilities.
- Procedure for Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) was developed based on the ESMF. GRM related information and contact details to receive complaints were put at all soum information boards.
- Participant list form for the activities updated and integrated data sheet created.
- WWF-Mongolia Child safeguard policy was well enforced for eco club activities.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
<b>FAO ESS 1: Natural Resource Management</b>				
Inadequate/ uncoordinated planning could lead to more problems to degradation of natural resources and local community livelihoods in project areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish mechanism and permanent information channels for citizens to comment on the land plans.</li> <li>- It is required for working groups to work with professional companies and train these companies prior to the planning process.</li> <li>- Adopt a decision-making system based on consultations of land management changes and amendments beginning from the bagh citizens' meeting (BCM).</li> <li>- Aimag, capital city, soum and district Governors need to approve a procedure for appointing a working group to develop a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A total of 48 people from the selected companies and ALAMGAC, Departments of Land relations in 3 provinces and Land management officers from target soums attended the training. During the training, provided an understanding on basic concepts of the ESSF to the participants and in addition, potential risks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish mechanism and permanent information channels for citizens to comment on the land plans;</li> <li>- MCUD, MET and MOFALI will establish joint Professional Working Group (PWG) by their resolution. PWG will develop guideline in cooperation with ALAMGAC and the</li> </ul>	Land management specialist, PMU

	<p>land management plan and then, in that procedure, assign to the working group to ensure citizens engagement and gender equality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Within the project framework, it is necessary to approve and enforce the procedures that make the process as clear as possible;</li> <li>- The minority positions and opinions shall be considered in further decisions and solved accordingly in a framework of project;</li> <li>- MCUD, MET and MOFALI will establish joint Professional Working Group (PWG) by their resolution. PWG will develop guideline in cooperation with ALAMGAC and the guideline shall be correlated with existing guidelines of ALAMGAC. Eventually, it shall get approval as normative act.</li> </ul>	<p>related to standards on Involuntary Resettlement and Restriction of Access, and Protection of Natural Habitat and issues that may lead to conflicts related to agriculture were highlighted in the recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Terms of References (TORs) for development of aimag and soum land management plans incorporated principle of participatory landscape management while ensuring gender equality and social group inclusiveness.</li> <li>- Establishment of PWG is in progress.</li> </ul>	<p>guideline shall be correlated with existing guidelines of ALAMGAC. Eventually, it shall get approval as normative act.</p>	
<p>Fertile topsoil and water resources depletion could be caused by unmanaged and unregulated farming activities;</p>	<p>The project shall not implement activities in farmland in the water protection zones;</p>	<p>Onon Ulz River Basin Authority confirmed that the location of two selected croplands do not overlap with the water protection zone.</p> <p>Discussions with Khentii aimag agriculture department and crop companies were informed about the permitted use of pesticides.</p>	<p>Selected cropland companies shall use standardized pesticide types with legally permitted amount and areas.</p>	<p>Agricultural specialist, PMU</p>
<p>The project might unintentionally finance environmentally unsustainable</p>	<p>Restrictions shall be applied as a condition to community groups or individuals who are willing to get project assistance.</p>	<p>Regular ESS monitoring is conducted for all project activities.</p>	<p>Continue regular ESS monitoring for all project activities.</p>	<p>PMU</p>

practices that might result environmental degradation and social conflicts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop the restricted activities list;</li> <li>- The selection committee shall consider the restricted activities list;</li> <li>- Describe the terms and conditions of the funding and have it approved by the stakeholders;</li> <li>- Sign a contract with the beneficiaries, and specify their rights and obligations</li> </ul> <p>No activities shall be financed that would have a negative environmental impact.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop the beneficiary selection guideline including restricted activities list for selection committee and provide training to stakeholders;</li> </ul>	
Failure of reduce herding in forest area could undermine other intervention results	Fence new and young trees particularly in riparian forest area shall well deserve special attention of the project. It shall be put as a condition present for the FUGs.	1.25 ha of riparian forest was fenced to support natural regeneration and prevent livestock footprint.	Organize advocacy activities for stakeholders to protect and restore forest area	PMU
<b>FAO ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats / WWF Policy on Protection of Natural Habitats</b>				
Potential negative environmental impacts from small civil works (primarily from small-scale infrastructure in NRs under Output 3.1.3), if not carried out properly	The ESMF includes measures to mitigate and manage any environmental impacts of the proposed activities, such as through an Environmental Code of Practice for small civil works.	Safety instructions were provided before conducting the small civil works such as fencing etc. The ESMF checklist was developed to be included in the project activity TORs.	The Environmental Code of practice for small civil works will be introduced prior to such activities.  Continue to monitor the impact of fencing on wildlife	PMU
Potential risk for the fencing of crop fields to restrict the free movement of the Mongolian gazelle		The wildlife friendly fencing (no barb) design was introduced and applied. Fenced areas were against connectivity corridors based on the connectivity studies of migratory species		
<b>FAO ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
Alien plant (seed) invasion risk	Invasive plants/vegetation growth or introduction shall not be supported by the project as it might trigger the safeguards policies.	PMU provided seeds/plant material that is already locally available.	Invasive plants/vegetation growth or introduction shall not be supported by the project.	PMU



<b>FAO ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
n/a				
<b>FAO ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management / WWF Standard on Pest Management</b>				
As noted in the ESMF, the project does not fund nor include the promotion or usage of pesticides. On the contrary, it aims to reduce the number of chemical fertilizers and pesticides used through strengthening of farmer capacity on the proper use of chemicals/non-chemical alternatives for pest management (e.g., integrated pest management and good agriculture practice). Thus, this standard is not triggered by the project. Nevertheless, some potential risks were identified during the joint FAO-WWF GEF Agency supervision mission in June 2022 and are to be addressed going forward.	In cooperation with local authorities, the project shall control the permitted types and amount of pesticide use, if the crop companies will be supported. PMU shall have thorough monitoring system for seeds.	Assessment to be conducted by the project team on the planned use of pesticides/herbicides in the cropland activities, those in Ulz River watershed. Mitigation measures to be put in place following the assessment. Continuous monitoring to be carried out.  Potential use of rodenticide associated with the vegetable growing activities are also to be monitored and, if significant, mitigation measures are to be put in place.	Cropland companies shall use standardized pesticide types with legally permitted amount and areas. The project will provide support to monitoring of pesticides	PMU
<b>FAO ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement / WWF Policy on Involuntary Resettlement</b>				
<u>Access Restrictions / Economic Displacement</u> The Project will help define and thereby potentially restrict access to natural resources and livelihoods activities. Economic displacement or restriction to livelihoods or access to natural resources may occur, e.g., as a result of negotiating through highly participatory consultations the establishment of collaborative management arrangements for	The project does not finance any activities that would lead to physical displacement and voluntary or involuntary relocation.  The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has established a process to ensure that any access restrictions only occur with the consent of the affected people and following a decision made with all required information at hand.  This has been applied in the project activities by organizing participatory consultations, e.g., for the fencing of Ulz River water source	Project activities are screened against ESMF, and the project does not finance or support access restrictions that are not being made in consultation and agreement with all affected people.  Community consultations and implementation of the Process Framework (Annex 1 of the ESMF) are to be properly documented as	The document or records of relevant consultations and competed consent to avoid relocations amongst parties shall be provided to the ESS Consultant team for review.  Moreover, the ESS Consultant team can participate in such meetings especially critical ones.	PMU, FAO and WWF

rangeland and/or other natural resource sustainability parameters.	as well as the development of rangeland management plans.	part of the ESMF implementation report.		
<b>FAO ESS 7: Decent Work / WWF Standard on Community Health, Safety and Security</b>				
Health and safety risk related to small machinery, equipment and tools;	Health and safety risk related to small machinery, equipment and tools:  i) Technical and safety instructions must be provided when handing over the equipment; ii) The signed agreement must require the beneficiary to strictly follow the safety instructions of the equipment; iii) It must also state that the equipment must not be accessible to or used by children; iv) Wildfire safety requirements should be implemented specially machinery shall have a spark arrestor.	Technical and safety instructions were provided when handing over the fire prevention equipment. The signed agreement required the beneficiary to strictly follow the safety instructions of the equipment	All the ESS measure indicated in ESMF shall be adequately informed to the project beneficiaries or targeted instructive training can be conducted.  The project can revise and improve the agreement with these beneficiaries including health and safety as well as child labor issues etcetera.	
<b>FAO ESS 8: Gender Equality</b>				
There is no moderate or high Environmental and Social Risk related to gender according to the approved ESM plan and no new gender related risk emerged during the reporting period, either.	N/A (Gender Action Plan is being implemented by the project)	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>FAO ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage / WWF Policy on Indigenous Peoples</b>				
<u>Indigenous Peoples</u> The target project areas include among others khalkh, buryad, barga, uzemchin and dariganga people. As a precautionary approach, the project therefore considers that indigenous peoples are present in the project site.	The ESMF has established an Ethnic Groups Planning Framework and a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process	The project team has been sensitized on this issue and is putting emphasis on delivering information and reaching target beneficiaries without specifically targeting specific ethnic groups.		PMU
<b>New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY</b>				

Two croplands in Bayan-Adarga are in the water catchment zone of Ulz River.	- No use of chemicals			
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**In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social (ESS) Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.**

<b>Initial ESS Risk classification</b> (At project submission)	<b>Current ESS risk classification</b> Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid <sup>6</sup> . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
<b>High risk by FAO</b>	Remains “high” risk due to working in/adjacent protected areas, and potential adverse impacts resulting from access restrictions of Indigenous Peoples/local communities and to ensure continued oversight of these issues in implementation and monitoring of the environmental and social safeguards measures as outlined in this ESMF.
<b>Moderate risk or Category B by WWF</b>	Remains “moderate” risk (Category B)

<b>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.</b>
In the reporting period, no grievances were received. GRM procedure and contact information to file a complaint were posted on each soum information boards.

<sup>6</sup> **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

## 6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and also reflects any new risks identified in the course of 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>7</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
<i>Risks identified in ProDoc</i>						
1	Local government and communities have limited implementation capacity due to a large number of donor-funded projects, leading to slow project implementation or delay.	Moderate	Y	The project operates through soum coordinators, who work closely with local government officers. This allows for involvement of local government without overburdening them. In addition, the project directly supports priorities of local government (such as the land management planning, rangeland management). The activities are closely coordinated with and build on local baseline activities.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	
2	Shift in government priorities at national or aimag level due to 2020 elections and/or due to COVID-19.	Low	Y	This risk has not materialized but will continue to be monitored.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	

<sup>7</sup> Risk ratings means a rating of assesses 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>7</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	Risks related to COVID-19.  Decision-makers could not decide related to work that requires a budget during the pandemic	Low	Y	Will continue to be monitored and adaptive measures taken if needed.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	Decision makers of Khentii province are planning to establish a locally owned state organization to manage the NRs including Khar Yamaat NR, but no formal decision has yet been made due to the economic difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic.
4	Local government does not allocate sufficient budget for the development of the land management plans.	Low	Y	This risk has not materialized. The project will continue to discuss and monitor the allocation of budget for the implementation of the land management plans, once approved.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	
5	Failure to incorporate land degradation and biodiversity considerations into land management plans due to conflicting interests at the local level.	Moderate	Y	The priorities of the project are well aligned with the objectives of the current land management planning process, as well as sectoral (MET, MOFALI) and local government priorities. Broad consultations are being held in order to ensure that all interests are considered and trade-offs reconciled where possible.	Land degradation and biodiversity considerations have been well reflected in the land management planning process. Continue to monitor.	

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>7</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	Livestock numbers increase despite project interventions. Goat numbers increase due to enhanced value chains for cashmere.	Moderate-high	Y	The project links value chain interventions with mechanisms to incentivize a reduction in stocking density, as well as with national and local enabling environment (legal framework and land management planning). It will also promote a balanced herd composition in order to avoid an increase in the number of goats. It will promote value chains of several livestock products (including meat and wool), not only cashmere. It will bring different actors and organizations together to address the issue of overgrazing. Livestock numbers in the target soums and aimags will be closely monitored and corrective action taken if required.	Started implementation. Continue to monitor.	
7	Insufficient local market capacities to absorb domestically produced goods from improved value chains.	Moderate-high	Y	To address this risk, the project will focus on developing value chains of export oriented agricultural products. In particular, in collaboration with the World Bank project, MOFALI and FAO, the GEF-7 project will strive to put in place the necessary enabling conditions for promoting meat exports.	Additional actions are required due to the recent FMD outbreak, which has hampered efforts to promote meat exports, in collaboration with partner initiatives.	

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>7</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
8	Risks of leakage (negative offsite effects) beyond the project area: There is a risk that target communities will shift activities such as the harvesting of timber, grazing, etc. to areas outside the project area.	Moderate	Y	This risk is considered low as the project activities are not aimed at introducing restrictions, but rather improved management practices that are agreed upon by the communities themselves. The project will monitor any unintended consequences and potential shifts to areas outside the project soums.	Continue to monitor.	
9	Extreme weather events (such as dzud or drought) negatively affect the project interventions.	Moderate	Y	in the first year of the project. Sufficient rainfall has been beneficial to the project implementation.	Continue to monitor.	
10	Long-term climate change impacts cancel out positive impacts of the project and lead to increased conflict among herders and increasing threats to biodiversity.	Moderate	Y	Will strengthen local capacity for planning and adaption to climate change, including about biodiversity and protected areas. It will also introduce climate-smart crop production practices that address soil erosion and soil fertility loss. However, any future climate and demographic changes will need to be monitored and considered during project implementation and beyond.	Continue to monitor.	

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>7</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
<i>New risks identified</i>						
1	Scarcity and soaring price of materials and inputs on the domestic market due to border closure	Substantial	N	seeking alternative sources to purchase locally available materials urgently, increase co-financing commitment of local authorities to share burden	Maintain close coordination and cooperation with local and national stakeholders to make co-financing contribution from local budget such as Billion tree movement	
2	Limitation of bank transaction of foreign currency impact	Moderate	N	Will continue to be monitored and adaptive measures taken if needed.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	
3	Fuel price increase and scarcity	Moderate	N	Took an action to get regular updates from local counterparts by ensuring access to fuel from local stations with the support of Aimag and Soum counterparts	Mitigation action was effective causing no delay in planned trips	
4	Soaring inflation in MNT due to emerging global issues	Substantial	N	To revise DSA, meal and coffee break rate in the SOP	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	Inflation caused the increase of prices in food and hotels is making existing rates not sufficient to cover expenses.
5	Outbreak of highly infectious animal disease	Substantial	N	Seeking guidance from MOFALI and State veterinary agency and provide it to the project beneficiaries for awareness and following guidance in a case.	Continue to monitor.	



	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>7</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	Export ban imposed by two neighboring countries for food, agriculture, light industrial produce, machinery and equipment	High	N	Conducted a survey on potentials suppliers and tried to organize procurement at the earliest possible in consideration of delay in supply	Procurement is moving slowly but constantly, taking preparedness actions such as ordering early	
7	Meat export ban by the Mongolian government related with the recent meat hygiene scandal	High	N	Will continue to be monitored and adaptive measures taken if needed.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	
8	Importing countries banned meat from Mongolia due to FMD	Substantial	N	Will continue to be monitored and adaptive measures taken if needed.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	
9	Staff turnover-lack of qualified and experienced personals in land management, agriculture, and environmental division at soum level	Substantial	N	To bring issues to the attention of ALAMGac, Aimag Governor to create favorable improve working environment, conditions and salaries	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	

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

FY2021 rating	FY2022 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2022 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Moderate	Moderate	As project making progress in accordance with Annual work plan and budget FY 2021 and FY2022 with financial delivery of \$ cent makes justification for the rating as "Moderate".

**7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission**

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. **N/A**

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
Recommendation 1:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation 4:	

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please describe	
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### 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>8</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	N/A		
Components and cost	N/A		
Institutional and implementation arrangements	N/A		
Financial management	N/A		
Implementation schedule	N/A		
Executing Entity	N/A		
Executing Entity Category	N/A		
Minor project objective change	N/A		
Safeguards	N/A		
Risk analysis	N/A		
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	N/A		
Co-financing	N/A		
Location of project activity	N/A		
Other			

<sup>8</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>			
Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Lead Executing Agency.	Regular meetings held with Vice Minister as Chair of Project Steering Committee, Director of Department of Protected Areas Administrations as Project director and other officials from Forest, Green development, State Administration. Participation in workshops, discussions on LoA results, PSC meetings; Guidance on sustainable management structure for Khar Yamaat NR and Toson Khulstai NR and small infrastructure support to Khar Yamaat NR and Baigali PAA.	None
Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Playing a co-leading role in implementing Component 2 (sustainable cropland and rangeland management and value chains).	Activities are well discussed and supported by MOFALI through policy support in VC, crop and livestock and supply of seeds at a concessional price. Discussions for productive collaboration in the field of rangeland management related legislation, agroforestry, fruit and berry production, crop and vegetable production, animal health, breeding, livestock traceability system development through pilot activities in the project target soums, Value chain related activities are taking place. Participation in workshops, discussions on LoA results, PSC meetings;	None
Respective departments of the Governor's office of Dornod, Khentii Sukhbaatar aimag	Lead and support implementation of aimag-level activities such as aimag land management planning, crop, livestock and fruit production, VC related activities	Close coordination and collaboration are maintained between project and Department to plan and implement respective activities in consideration of overall sustainability and ownership as well co-financing for maximizing impact.	None
National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM)  Information and Research Institute of	NAMEM and IRIMHE will play a role in the implementation of Output 1.1.4 on monitoring. The project will aim to strengthen and build on their monitoring	Close coordination and collaboration are maintained between the project and NAMEM and IRIMHE to plan and implement respective activities in consideration of overall sustainability and ownership. The project is collaborating with the organization on improving land monitoring systems.	None

Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (IRIMHE)	capacity for pastureland.		
Food and agriculture department of Khentii, Dornod and Sukhbaatar aimags	Lead and support implementation of aimag and soum level activities such as pasture management and value chain activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>implement respective activities in consideration of overall sustainability and ownership as well co-financing for maximizing impact.</li> <li>Collaborated in Wool Market Day in Sukhbaatar and Dornod aimag</li> <li>Tripartite agreement with soum government and breeding units for improving livestock productivity</li> <li>Cooperated for fruit and berry nursery centers in Sukhbaatar aimag</li> <li>Collaborated for tree nursery and fruit and berry seedling assessment</li> </ul>	
Environment and Tourism Departments of Khentii, Dornod and Sukhbaatar aimags,	Lead and support implementation of aimag and soum level activities such as environment, protected areas, biodiversity conservation and riparian forest restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close coordination and collaboration are maintained between project and Department to plan and implement respective activities in consideration of overall sustainability and ownership as well co-financing for maximizing impact.</li> <li>Co-organized fire prevention training</li> </ul>	None
Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography (ALAMGAC)	An important project partner co-leading role in implementing Component 1 (land management planning process and monitoring), in collaboration with aimag and soum-level land agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in workshops, discussions on LoA results, PSC meetings;</li> <li>Plan and implement respective activities in support of integrated land management planning, SLM/LDN in consideration of overall sustainability and ownership as well co-financing for maximizing impact.</li> <li>Data provision for land monitoring</li> <li>Development of land monitoring methodology</li> </ul>	None
The National Committee on Gender Equality (NCGE) led by the Prime Minister	NCGE will be informed and involved to ensure incorporation of gender issues.	NCGE was informed and consulted about the gender inclusive and gender sensitive project implementation.	None
General Agency for Veterinary	Lead and support veterinary and food safety, and animal traceability system	Due to the outbreak of highly infectious animal disease as FMD and others, GAV took leadership of a restructuring working Group consisting of representatives from Veterinary and Wildlife conservation organizations and development partners as formal working mechanisms. One of the top priority agenda items discussed at the platform is collective response to combat highly infectious animal disease by linking MAHIS, animal health and traceability system and	Frequent turnover of officials in charge of running the working mechanism caused a delay in the actions.

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		SMART, database collection open source in wildlife conservation to share timely information to detect cases.	
Local gender committees	Involved in the implementation of local-level activities, related to the Gender Action Plan.	Local gender committees of 3 aimags were consulted and the project organized capacity building training for them.	None
3 aimag department of land affairs, construction and urban development	Coordinate land management plans and aimag and soum level working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in workshops, discussions on LoA results, TWG and PSC meetings;</li> <li>• Collaborating for Land management planning</li> <li>• Establishing and organizing training for Working group for LMP</li> <li>• Participated project trainings</li> <li>• Providing data for land monitoring</li> </ul>	None
Soum governments (Including Soum Governor, agriculture officers, livestock/ veterinary officers, environmental officers, etc.)	Lead and support implementation of soum-level activities in collaboration with the local Soum Coordinators.	Soum governments are regularly informed and consulted on the project activities. They are actively engaged in the project activities in sustainable pasture management	None
9 soum land managers	Coordinate land management plans and soum level working group	Soum land managers actively engaged in the project activities such as capacity building training, land management plan and soum territorial development planning processes. The project provided necessary equipment to land managers.	Frequent turnover of land officials caused a delay in the actions
Bagh Governors	Lead and support implementation of bagh-level activities in collaboration with the local Soum Coordinators.	Bagh governors are actively engaged in the project activities. They are leading and supporting implementation of bagh-level activities in collaboration with the local Soum Coordinators.	None
Citizens Representative Khurals (aimag and soum level)	Will be involved for the adoption of aimag- and soum-level plans, policies and regulations.	Project organize meetings and consultations with aimag and soum Citizen Representative Khurals (CRKh). In collaboration with 3 eastern aimag CRKhs, Mongolian Gazelle conservation activities were organized. CRKh members are also consulted on management of NRs.	None
River Basin Administrations (RBAs)	Will be kept informed during project implementation, and synergies explored.	Kherlen River Basin Authority and Onon Ulz River Basin Authority were consulted and collaborated on riparian forest restoration and spring protection activities. They provided data for land management planning. Member of working group for development of land management planning.	None
Rangers in soums	Will be involved in the implementation	Rangers and volunteer rangers in soums were involved in the project activities for biodiversity monitoring. They participated in the capacity building training.	Frequent turnover of rangers in soums caused a

	of Component 3, for capacity building and implementation of management plans.		delay in the actions
PA Administrations (PAAs) in Eastern Mongolia	Will be kept informed during project implementation. And will be partners in connectivity conservation management.	PAA were involved in the project activities for biodiversity monitoring. They participated in the capacity building training. Experience sharing meetings were organized by the project.	None
<b>Community based Organizations (CBOs)</b>			
National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC)	Lead and support agriculture cooperative development and governance	Conducted the Establishment of cooperative training, and Cooperatives Governance training in accordance with deliverables described in LoA.	None
Aimag branches of NAMAC	Partner for supporting cooperative development and strengthening in governance and collective action	Supported registration of newly established cooperative under the project in Bayan-Ovoo soum	None
<b>Non-Government organizations (NGOs)</b>			
WWF Mongolia	Executing partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational support for procurement, finance and HR.</li> <li>Ground level coordination for management of Khar Yamaat NR and forest related activities.</li> <li>Water protection zone in Sukhbaatar aimag.</li> <li>Data access for Mongolian Gazelle, biodiversity monitoring</li> <li>Technical support for ESMF implementation</li> <li>Member of Task Force</li> <li>Support to project planning, reporting and M&amp;E system, communication</li> </ul>	None
Sustainable Fiber Alliance	Key partner leading and supporting the activities for complying sustainable cashmere standard and Code of Practices to the herder cooperatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-Participated in the international conference on sustainable fibre alliance</li> </ul>	None
Mongolian Bird Conservation Center (MBCC)	Will be consulted and informed during project implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MBCC is consulted for bird conservation activities.</li> <li>Data provision for bird habitat survey.</li> </ul>	None

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Will be engaged during implementation under the Sustainable Cashmere Platform, among others.	Experience sharing on introduction of SMART and connectivity conservation management.	None
National Association of Mongolian women farmers	Partner in knowledge sharing in tree and vegetable growing	Video training and field extension support in tree nursery growing and plantation was provided by the qualified trainer of the Association.	None
National Federation of Rangeland User Groups (NFPUG)	Will be kept informed during project implementation, and synergies explored.	Consultation and coordination are made with the Federation on development of soum rangeland management regulation and plan.	None
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	closely involved in activities related to Toson Khulstai NR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TNC provided funding and technical support to develop the management plans of Toson Khulstai, Menen Tsagaan hooloi and Jaran togoonii A and B NRs.</li> <li>• Capacity building for co-management council of Toson Khulstai NR and Baigali PAA in Dornod aimag.</li> <li>• Training for volunteer rangers in Toson Khulstai NR.</li> </ul>	None
<b>Local communities</b>			
Local farmers, herders (women and men, vulnerable groups)	Beneficiaries of project interventions	Total of 1200 (53% male, 48% female) herders and farmers benefited from project intervention such as training, meetings and campaigns.	None
Disadvantaged or vulnerable groups/ individuals, such as assistant herders/ helpers, poorer households with fewer livestock, unemployed.	Will be consulted and involved in project implementation. The project will ensure that vulnerable groups will have equal opportunities to benefit from project activities and participate in training.	Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups (assistant herders, and people with disabilities) were involved in the project activities such as vegetable farming and herders' training.	None
Herder organizations, herder groups, Pasture User Groups (PUGs), Forest User Groups (FUGs)	Beneficiaries of project interventions and partners for the implementation of Outcome 2.2 on sustainable pasture management and related	They were actively involved in project activities such as sustainable pasture management, biodiversity conservation, value chain and development of land management planning.	None



	capacity development.		
Women's group, women's cooperatives	Beneficiaries of project interventions and key organizations for the implementation of Outcome 2.3 on value chains and related capacity development.	They were actively involved in project activities such as value chain, vegetable farming and development of land management planning.	None
<b>Private sector entities</b>			
Cooperatives	Beneficiaries of project interventions and key organizations for the implementation of Outcome 2.3 on value chains and related capacity development.	Cooperatives in 9 soums are involved in the project training and capacity building activities. 5 Cooperatives are engaged in the SFA certification process under the project.	None
Ider-Onon LLC	Direct beneficiary in crop farming activity	Implementation of sustainable and climate smart farming practices is progressing under agreed cooperation arrangement between company, project, MOFALI, Agriculture department of Khentii aimag and	None
Munkhiin duurlig	Direct beneficiary in crop farming activity		None
Mon Pellet LLC	Partner in sheep Wool value chain	Partnership was built between the company and the agricultural cooperatives to supply sheep wool for supporting wool organic fertilizers for export to Germany and USA. Support of Government agencies such as MOFALI and SME department, Agricultural Commodity exchange is ensured.	None
Bayan tal LLC	Partner in meat value chain	Partnership was built to sell lambs fed by the project supplied pellets to get accessed local and export markets by September	None
Dariganga Khuns LLC	Partner in meat value chain	The company was identified as one of the potential partners in the meat value chain as it has already built its own branding to supply high quality fresh meat at UB market over the last three years. Regular meetings were held to discuss the details of the company's overall business plan, which is more focused on establishing its own slaughterhouse in Sukhbaatar soum, Sukhbaatar aimag.	The challenge is not because of the partner, it is more on the issue of hygiene and sanitary practice of currently operating slaughterhouses in the soum.
Mankhat Bayan-Uul LLC	Partner in peri-urban milk processing and production	A productive partnership with the company was built to support their current economies of scale by providing milk processing equipment and technical support in animal nutrition and feeding, and artificial insemination. Co-financing arrangements are applied in partnership development.	None

Deedsiin sureg LLC	Partner in rural dairy value chain	Preliminary discussion was held to sell and market milk produced by dairy farmers in the two project soums on sustainable manner	None
<b><i>xviii Academia/research institutions</i></b>			
Mongolian University of Life Sciences (MULS)	Will be involved in certain project activities, in particular the training program on the land management planning process, monitoring.	MULS was involved in certain project activities, in particular the training program on the land management planning process, monitoring.	None
National University of Mongolia (NUM)	Will be involved in certain project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUM was involved in the biodiversity monitoring in target NRs.</li> <li>• Organization of Young research students.</li> </ul>	None
<b><i>New stakeholders identified/engaged</i></b>			
Elite Food LCC	Provider of facilities for animal breeding private units and soum agricultural units	Supplied 10 portable small ruminant fences, 20 electronic weighing, 20 strip meters and 90 ear tag pliers	None
Bayalag Feed LCC	Provider pellet for lambs	1800 lambs were put under feeding trials in 3 soums to demonstrate potential raising practices to production	None
San Beis LLC	Service contractor on the improvement for livestock productivity	Selecting and rearing ram lambs and bucklings to supply private breeding units in 3 soums	None
Terguun sureg cooperative	Service contractor on the improvement for livestock productivity	Implementing artificial insemination of cattle in 5 soums	None
Biluut Usukh cooperative	Service contractor on the improvement for livestock productivity	Selecting and rearing ram lambs and bucklings to supply for private breeding units in 6 soums	None
“Vector map” land management professional entity	Engaged in the land management planning related activities	Developing Khentii aimag and 3 soum`s land management planning	Planning is being conducted in parallel with the development of a revised guideline
“Gazar Delkhii” land management professional entity	Engaged in the land management planning related activities	Developing Sukhbaatar aimag land management planning	Planning is being conducted in parallel with the development of a revised guideline
“Land owner” land management professional entity	Engaged in the land management planning related activities	Developing 3 soum`s of Sukhbaatar aimag land management planning	Planning is being conducted in parallel with the development of a revised guideline
“Geobotanic” and “APPT”	Engaged in the land	Developing Dornod aimag and 3 soum`s land management planning	Planning is being conducted in

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land management professional entities partnership	management planning related activities		parallel with the development of a revised guideline
Share Mongolia	Closely involved in activities related to wool processing	Organized wool shearing trainings and provided electrical shearing machine from Share Mongolia.	None
Mongolian National Broadcasting Channel	Collaborated for promotion of NR values	Collaborated to develop TV programs to promote NR values	None

## 10. Gender Mainstreaming

<b>Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) <u>during this reporting period.</u></b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Yes /No</b>	<b>Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period</b>
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	Social and Gender Analysis on Project Target Areas (current situation, challenges, opportunities, potential interventions) was carried out in January 2020 as part of PPG work.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	<p>The project Gender Action Plan (GAP), a roadmap that provides a time-bound framework for ensuring gender equality, is well considered in the implementation of annual work plans. During the reporting period, (in the first year of the project), the project achieved the most of the annual targets of the GAP such as organizing national and aimag-level consultation meetings covering gender issues, developing GAP checklist, incorporating gender aspects in the TORs for land management planning, delivering training sessions on gender for the stakeholders as well as the project staff, reviewing survey questions, documents, rules and regulations, implementing activities to empower women socio-economically, and providing training and technical supports for project beneficiaries that ensured equal participation of men and women as well as different social groups.</p> <p>In some meetings, most of the participants were men as positions at decision making level and some professions are dominated and occupied by men. Also, there is still a lack of capacity of the stakeholders to mainstream gender into their current practices and policies. Nevertheless, these challenges can be addressed by actively encouraging partners to include female representatives (mid-level managers or relevant female staff) and through regular training and technical support. All in all, the GAP implementation in the reporting period has been satisfactory as solid foundations have been laid to ensure gender equality and mainstream gender in any project activities. A detailed report (GAP implementation report) is in the Annex 15.</p>
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
1. closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	N/A	
2. generating socio-economic benefits or	Yes	During the reporting period, a total of 1074 women participated in the training and workshop on beekeeping, greenhouse, vegetable farming and so on.

services for women		
3. improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Women's participation is prioritized in all activities to make their voices in the decision-making.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	The project team collects and compiles gender-disaggregated data for each project activity for monitoring and evaluation purposes as part of M&E system.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	Highly qualified short-term consultant/National Gender Specialist was hired from February until July 2022. Training sessions on Gender (Gender analysis and gender mainstreaming) for PMU, all soum project coordinators, soum governors, aimag and soum working group members on land management planning represented by different sectors and stakeholders including government officials, NGOs, private sectors. Training on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse was conducted for PMU staff.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	This is only the first year of the project. Several initiatives to promote gender equality and empowering women have started such as supporting women vegetable group to provide gender-sensitive inputs supply to ease hard labor work in the Munkhkhaan soum, Sukhbaatar aimag and to provide water access to household women to water not only vegetable they grow in the backyard but also to ease their manual labor for carrying water Eco- Street of Bayan-Ovoo soum, Khentii aimag.

## 11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval <u>during this reporting period.</u>	
Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.	Yes. Project has its own knowledge management strategy. Good practices for instance: - Spring protection in Ulz River that ensured ESMF (ecosystem consideration and engagement of diverse stakeholders)
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.	Yes. It will be updated based on the lessons learnt from this year. Successes: - The project information has reached around 628,000 people so far through FAO Mongolia and WWF Mongolia officials pages, - Successfully organized several campaigns to promote training, and workshops. Challenges: - As the project is not permitted to have its own facebook page, it is difficult to get the project information from one place. Even though the project shares information through FAO and WWF social media pages, it does not reach the target beneficiaries in the target soums. Therefore, we use soum facebook groups to deliver and promote our project information.
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.	Please see <i>Annex 16. Human interest story</i> Story of Oyungerel, greenhouse farmer of Munkhkhaan soum. Oyungerel is one of the project beneficiaries who received training and small tools and equipment for her greenhouse. Before participating in the project, she used to plant her seedlings early in spring as it requires a long time to fully grow. Moreover, she had to cover and uncover her seedlings with several layers of heavy blankets to keep them in favorable condition. It is a tiresome process and takes a lot of manual work by her. By participating in the project training, she learnt an environmentally friendly approach to her vegetable growing method. With the help of the heated tunnels and plastic covers provided by the project, her seedlings can grow in warm conditions without covering/uncovering with the heavy blankets several times a day. So, she can have more seedlings in a short period of time with less time for manual work. Instead, she spends time with her grandchildren and teaches them the importance of a healthy diet.
Please provide links to related websites, social media account	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/FAOMongolia">https://www.facebook.com/FAOMongolia</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/wwfmongolia">https://www.facebook.com/wwfmongolia</a>
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	Please see Annex 4. Social media outreach
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's Name and contact details	Javzansuren Norvanchig javzansuren@wwf.mn

**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.

In line with the project’s ESMF and Ethnic Groups Planning Framework, a formal FPIC process is not required. However, consultations shall be conducted on all soums and baghs, where ethnic people live in, prior to the Project Implementation, when the project site-specific plan has been developed. The extent of consultations shall include: (i) informing about the project activity prior to its implementation, (ii) asking for local communities’ views on the planned activity, and (iii) ensuring that they will not be affected adversely during project implementation. Participation of ethnic groups that are considered as a minority within the soum and bagh, shall be assured in the consultations.

Project team is putting effort in conducting the necessary consultations, as described above, before implementing key activities on rangeland management, conservation activities or crop farming activities by encouraging active participation of local communities including aimag, soum, bagh authorities, respective officials in charge of development policy, land administration, agriculture, environment, social and gender issues, officials of local protected areas administration, agricultural cooperatives, forest and vegetable groups at planning and implementation stages. Community involvement was ensured during the reporting period in developing protected areas management plan and aimag and soum land management plans during the baseline and field survey stages.

Ethnic groups including khalkh, buryad, barga of local ethics and durvud- ethnic group people, immigrated from Western Mongolia are well informed about the project activities and even actively volunteering for small works for building fences to protect rivers sources on voluntary or organized manners by Bagh authorities in Norovlin soum of Khentii aimag.

## 13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing <sup>xix</sup>	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2022	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET)	In-kind	\$10,000,000			
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI), including USD 6 million in World Bank / IFAD financing	In-kind	\$13,000,000			
Recipient Country Government	Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography (ALAMGAC)	In-kind	\$3,000,000	\$ 84,744		
Recipient Country Government	Sukhbaatar aimag Governor`s office and Tumentsogt, Sukhbaatar, Munkhkhaan soum Governors` office	In-kind	\$5,000,000	\$92,637 (cash for Land management planning)		
Recipient Country Government	Khentii aimag Governor`s office and Bayan-Adraga, Bayan-Ovoo, Norovlin soum Governors` office	In-kind	\$5,000,000	\$72,401 (cash for Land management planning)		
Recipient Country Government	Dornod aimag Governor`s office and Bulgan, Matad, Khulunbuir soum Governors` office	In-kind	\$5,000,000	\$95,946 (cash for Land management planning)		
UNDP/GCF	Adapt project	In-kind		\$1,667 (cash for Sukhbaatar Land)		



				Administration and management workshop)		
UN-FAO/EU	STREAM project	In-kind		\$667 (cash for National cross-sectoral consultation meeting)		
Civil Society Organization	WWF Mongolia	In-kind	\$1,300,000	\$155,000		
Civil Society Organization	TNC Mongolia (for Toson Khulstai Nature Reserve)	In-kind	\$300,000	\$30000		
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	In-kind	\$1,600,000			
GEF Agency	World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF)	In-kind	\$345,000			
Private Sector	Crop production company (Ider Onon LLC)	Grant	\$500,000	\$4,434		
Private Sector	Crop production company (Munkhiin Duurlig LLC)	Grant	\$500,000	\$7,134		
Private Sector	Others include vegetable farmers and herders	Cash		\$114,908		
NGO	Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA)	Grant	\$5,400,000			
		<b>TOTAL</b>	\$50,945,000	\$873,592		

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

**N/A**

**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 major 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 relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve <b>some</b> 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 of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only <b>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 some 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 most 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 none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

<b>Risk rating.</b> It should 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.

#### 14. List of attached documents and report [2022PIR MON 018](#)

- Annex 1. Order and meeting minutes of working group meetings (Mon)
- Annex 2. Progress report on Developing guideline and training program for LDN and SLM planning and monitoring (Eng)
- Annex 3. Inception report (Comparative Analysis, Key Findings) (Eng)
- Annex 4. Inception reports of 3 aimag, 9 soum land management planning (Mon)
- Annex 5. Final report by ALAMGAC on “Consultancy on contributing to achieving land degradation neutrality through regular assessment and monitoring by using integrated approaches for applied survey and remote sensing”
- Annex 6. Training needs assessment report (Eng)
- Annex 7. Final report on Cadaster law amendment in Mongolian and summary in English
- Annex 8. Sustainable Fiber Alliance Inception report (Eng)
- Annex 9. NAMAC training report (Mon)
- Annex 10. Mongolian Gazelle connectivity report (Eng)
- Annex 11. Khar yamaat NR financial projection report (Eng)
- Annex 12. KAP survey report (Mon)
- Annex 13. List of communication outreach activities
- Annex 14. ESMF compliance report (Eng)
- Annex 15. GAP implementation report (Eng)
- Annex 16. Human-interest story (Eng)

<sup>i</sup> As per FPMIS

<sup>ii</sup> If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF CU.

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

<sup>iv</sup> For DEX projects, the GEF Coordination Unit will confirm the final amount with the Finance Division in HQ. For OPIM projects, the disbursement amount should be provided by Execution Partners.

<sup>v</sup> Please refer to the section 12 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

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

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

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

<sup>xi</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).

<sup>xii</sup> Estimate calculated as 33% of total 5,640,117 ha. See Outcome 2.2, Indicator d), 33% of baghs have improved bagh-level rangeland management plans.

<sup>xiii</sup> Total forest area in the nine soums is 109,872.7 ha. Project interventions are anticipated to cover approximately 20,000 ha of forest area, of which 200 ha of forest restoration.

<sup>xiv</sup> Target area will be determined as part of Output 3.1.1. Nesting success can be assessed by monitoring the number of nesting cranes when the chicks are visible in July. Nesting success is determined by at least one chick successfully fledged from the nest site.

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

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

<sup>xviii</sup> [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.

<sup>xix</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.