



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

**2023 – Revised Template**

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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>Project Executing Partners:</b>	UN FAO (lead), WWF GEF Agency (co-implementing agency)
<b>Initial project duration (years):</b>	Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), with limited execution support by FAO Mongolia and WWF Mongolia (as defined in the ProDoc)
<b>Project coordinates:</b> <i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> a) Projects with 1st PIR; b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.	<i>[Projects in a) and b) categories should indicate YES here and provide the geocoded data in Annex 2]</i>

### Project Dates

<b>GEF CEO Endorsement Date:</b>	26 January 2021
<b>Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :</b>	01 April 2021
<b>Project Implementation End Date/NTE<sup>1</sup>:</b>	31 March 2026
<b>Revised project implementation End date (if approved) <sup>2</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 (USD)<sup>3</sup>:</b>	<b>\$50,945,000</b>
<b>Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):</b>	<b>\$ in total: \$2,374,215.4 (44%)</b> FAO: \$ 1,334,657 (as of June 30, 2023) (49%) WWF: \$ 1,044,772.40 (as of June 30, 2023) (39%)
<b>Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)<sup>4</sup>:</b>	<b>\$ 2,374, 215.4</b>
<b>Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023<sup>5</sup></b>	\$20,881,503

<sup>1</sup> As per FPMS

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

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

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

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

**M&E Milestones**

<b>Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:</b>	23 December 2022
<b>Expected Mid-term Review date<sup>6</sup>:</b>	May-Aug, 2023
<b>Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):</b>	May-Aug, 2023
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date<sup>7</sup>:</b>	Q3 2025
<b>Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)</b>	<a href="#">Tracking tool</a>

**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>	2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR
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**Project Contacts**

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Name, Title, Division/Institution</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>Project Coordinator (PC)</b>	T. Erdenejargal, National Project Manager, NPP/FAO	Erdenejargal.Tumurbaatar@fao.org
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<b>GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex-Technical FLO)</b>	Yurie Naito, GTO, FAO RAP	Yurie.Naito@fao.org
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<sup>6</sup> The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2<sup>nd</sup> PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

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

## 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>8</sup>	Baseline	Mid-term Target <sup>9</sup>	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress <sup>10</sup> since project start as of 01 July 2023	Progress rating <sup>11</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</p>	<p>6 NRs with total area of 1,189,866 ha</p> <p>MoMETT Score (by %):</p> <p>Ulz river – 15.6 Tosonkhulstai – 49.0 Menen Tsagaan Khooloi – 10.9 Bayantsagaan Tal – 15.6 Jaran togoon</p>	<p>1,189,866 ha</p> <p>MoMETT Score (by %):</p> <p>Ulz River – 29.3 Toson Khulstai – 54.4 Menen Tsagaan Khooloi – 24.5 Bayantsagaan tal – 27.2 Jaran togoon tal</p>	<p>1,189,866 ha</p> <p>6 NRs have new or improved management plans.</p> <p>MoMETT Score (by %):</p> <p>Ulz River – 34.0 Toson Khulstai – 57.1 Menen Tsagaan Tal – 29.3 Bayantsagaan tal – 30.6 Jaran togoon tal A and B – 27.2 Khar Yamaat – 64.8</p>	<p><b>In progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 852,981.3 ha were officially designated as state PA (Khar Yamaat, Toson Khulstai, Bayantsagaanii tal NRs).</li> <li>- 336,884.7 ha of PA (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> <p><b>Sub-Indicator 1.2:</b> Status of management plans for project target 6 NRs: 1 existing, 3 pending for approval, and 2 under development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Toson Khulstai NR has an existing management plan.</li> <li>- Khar Yamaat NR renewed its management plan for 10 years and submitted to local Parliament for approval in 2023.</li> <li>- Management plans for 2 NRs (Bayantsagaanii tal and Ulz goliin ekh NR) is being developed with the support of the project.</li> <li>- Management plans for 2 NRs (Jaran Togoony A and B, Menen Tsagaan khooloi NR) drafted with co-financing contribution by TNC Mongolia.</li> </ul> <p><b>MoMETT Score by %: (midterm targets achieved, except Toson khulstai NR)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ulz River – 19 <b>(increased by 3.4 from baseline)</b></li> <li>2. Toson Khulstai – 46.1 <b>(decreased by 2.9 from baseline)</b></li> <li>3. Menen Tsagaan Tal – 34.7 <b>(increased by 23.8 from baseline)</b></li> </ol>	MS

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

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

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

<sup>11</sup> Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**, **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

		managem ent effectiven ess	Tal A and B – 12.2 Khar Yamaat – 61.6	A and B – 20.4  Khar Yamaat – 62.9		4. Bayantsagaan tal – 34.0 ( <i>increased by 18.4 from baseline</i> ) 5. Jaran togoon tal A and B – 33.3 ( <i>increased by 21.1 from baseline</i> ) 6. Khar yamaat –69.6 ( <i>increased by 7.6 from baseline</i> )	
		<b>Core Indicator 3:</b> Area of land restored (hectares)  <b>Sub-Indicator 3.2:</b> Area of forest and forest land restored.  <b>Sub-Indicator 3.3:</b> Area of natural grass and shrublands restored	0	Sub-Indicator 3.2: 50 ha  Sub-Indicator 3.3: 49,765 ha (20% of end-of-project target)	Sub-Indicator 3.2: 200 ha  Sub-Indicator 3.3: 248,827 ha	<b>Sub-Indicator 3.2:</b> <i>In progress – 21.25 ha</i> - Reforestation in 1.1 ha of riparian forest in Tumentsogt soum. - Afforestation in 6 ha in Khar yamaat NR. - Creating greenery areas in 2.7 ha in Bayan-Adraga, Munkhkhaan and Matad soums. - Supported natural regeneration in 10 ha of community managed forest area in Norovlin soum. - 1.25 ha of riparian forest is protected to show livestock impact on riparian area.  <b>Sub-Indicator 3.3:</b> <i>292,265 ha (achieved Midterm targets)</i> - A total of 292,265 ha of pastureland was improved in Sukhbaatar (231,556 ha) and Tumentsogt (60,709 ha) soums of Sukhbaatar aimag in 2022 because of resting and verified by the result of National grazing impact photo monitoring. - Attempts for resting degraded riparian pasture in Batkhaan bagh of Hulunbuir and Sumber bagh of Bayan-Ovoo soums were made. No improvement was confirmed or observed in the map uploaded because of annual photo monitoring on grazing impact in accordance with pasture recovery class (refer to www.egazar.gov.mn for details).	MS
		<b>Core Indicator 4:</b> Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (hectares)  <b>Sub-Indicator</b>	0	<b>Sub-Indicator 4.1:</b> 579,669 ha  <b>Sub-Indicator 4.3:</b> 2,826,660.5 ha (50% of end-of-project target)	<b>Sub-Indicator 4.1:</b> 579,669 ha  <b>Sub-Indicator 4.3:</b> 5,640,117 ha Within this area: (i) 4,000 ha of cropland under improved management	<b>Sub-Indicator 4.1:</b> <i>In progress</i> <b>6,717,393.75 ha</b> - connectivity areas for Mongolian gazelle in the Eastern Mongolia and 14 critical habitats for White-naped crane in project target nine soums identified and reflected in the aimag and soum land management plans and discussed through bagh meetings.  <b>Based on the above study results and other social criteria, 579,669 ha priority connectivity areas (including critical habitat for white-naped crane) were selected to improve management to benefit biodiversity in 4 project target soums (Norovlin, Khulunbuir, Bulgan, Bayan-Ovoo). Out of which 145,838 ha is under local protection.</b>	S

		<p><b>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>		<p>(i) 2,000 ha of cropland under improved management</p> <p>(ii) 930,652.5 ha of rangeland under improved rangeland management plans</p> <p>(iii) 9,900 ha of forest area under improved management</p>	<p>(ii) 1,861,305 ha<sup>12</sup> of rangeland under improved rangeland management plans</p> <p>(iii) 19,800 ha<sup>13</sup> of forest area under improved management</p>	<p><b>Sub-Indicator 4.3:</b> <b>7,394,280 ha (excluding protected area) of Sukhbaatar aimag is under sustainable land management through upgraded land management planning.</b></p> <p><b>2,804,807 ha (excluding protected area) (98.6% achieved against midterm target)</b> of landscapes under adopted aimag and soum land management plans of 6 soums (Munkhkhaan, Sukhbaatar, Tumentsogt soums of Sukhbaatar aimag and Bayan-Adarga, Bayan-Ovoo, Norovlin soums` of Khentii aimag) which incorporated results of the study of the habitat connectivity and calving areas of Mongolian gazelles (<i>Procapra gutturosa</i>) and critical habitats of White-Naped Cranes (<i>Antigone vipio</i>), benefiting biodiversity were have met prerequisite to implement sustainable land management in the target areas.</p> <p><b>(i) 1,696 ha of crop land under improved management (84.8% achieved against midterm target)</b> out of which 717 ha improved farming/intercropping practices under no tillage; 250 ha with super elite wheat seed replication; 714 ha for oats planted by crop farmers and herders for fodder; 12 ha vegetable/greenhouse production under application of sustainable crop and fodder production practices through the introduction of improved/climate-smart technologies. <b>(397 ha in project soums using no tillage method)</b></p> <p><b>(ii) 711,330 ha (76.4% achieved against midterm target)</b> under improved pasture management plans covering only pastureland and hay making areas of Bayan-Adarga, Bayan-Ovoo and Khulunbuir soum.</p> <p><b>(iii) In progress</b> <b>Activities to improve 20,450.4 ha forest management are ongoing.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved capacity on riparian forest management for stakeholders of 5 soums.</li> <li>- Improved forest and steppe fire management by organizing early warning activities, supply of for fire prevention tools/equipment for PAs and Department of Environment in eastern 3 aimags, and capacity building training on the use of tool and equipment conducted in Dornod aimag.</li> </ul>	
		d)Core Indicator 6: Greenhous	0	3,090,664, 5 tons CO2e	10,302,215 tons CO2e (of which 8,052,215 direct, 2,250,000 indirect)	<u>6,067,548 tons CO2e</u> (direct) mitigated. <b>(exceeded against midterm target)</b>	HS

<sup>12</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>13</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.

		e Gas Emissions Mitigated Sub-indicator 6.1: Carbon sequestered, or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector		(Of which 2,415,664 direct, 675,000 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	<b>15,220 people (51% male, 49% female) – attended project activities exceeded against midterm target)</b>  <b>812 national and aimag stakeholders were trained (58% male, 42% female) (exceeded against midterm target)</b> on sustainable land management planning, sustainable rangeland management and PA management.	HS Exceeded targets
		<b>Capacity development scores</b> (average of 3 aimags and 9 soums)	47% (21.1 points)	52.5% (23.6)	61.3% (27.6)	<b>60% (26.8 points) for average of 3 aimags and 9 soums – (100% achieved against Midterm target)</b>	HS
<b>Component 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for the sustainable management of drylands in Mongolia</b>							
<b>Strengthening the enabling environment for the sustainable management of</b>	<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Strengthened policies and planning mechanisms for the sustainable management of	Number of multi-stakeholder working groups established and operational	0	13	1 national, 3 aimag-level working groups and 9 soum level working groups (in total 13)	<b>12 working groups (92.3% achieved against Midterm target)</b> of cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder representation established and became operational through integrated land management planning.	S
		Number of aimag and soum land management plans	0	12	3 aimag land management plans, 9 soum territorial development (mid-term land management) plans	<b>7 land management plans for aimag and soum adopted (58,33% achieved against midterm target)</b> incorporating sustainable landscape management and biodiversity conservation considerations in integrated manner.	MS

drylands in Mongolia	drylands at national, aimag and soum levels.	incorporating sustainable land use, landscape management and biodiversity conservation strategies and targets.							
		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	<b>In progress</b> <a href="#">9 soum level land monitoring system</a> as grazing impact photo monitoring improved to make it more participatory and end user oriented for herders.	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.	<b><a href="#">4 regulations (exceeded against Midterm targets)</a></b> <b><i>3 soum pasture use regulations were approved by the Local Parliament of soums</i></b> and endorsed by Ministry of Justice creating legal environment for making sustainable rangeland management on a total of 1,802,029 ha of pastures in Munkhkhaan (635,695 ha), Sukhbaatar (989,484 ha) and Tumentsogt (178,850 ha) soums. <b><i>Khar yamaat NR protection regime was developed and submitted to local Parliament for approval.</i></b>	HS Exceeded targets		
<b>Component 2: Scaling up sustainable dryland management in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia</b>								S	
Scaling up sustainable dryland management in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia	2.1. Farmers/ crop producers in target areas are applying more sustainable	Area under improved practices:	<a href="#">- See Core Indicator 4 above -</a>						
		Quantity of crops produced from sustainable and climate-smart	0	375 ton	750 ton	<b><a href="#">237 tons of grain and vegetables (63% achieved against midterm target)</a></b> produced from application of sustainable and climate-smart practices.	MS		



crop and fodder production practices through the introduction of improved/ climate-smart technologies	practices.						
	Quantity of fodder produced from sustainable and climate-smart practices.	0	104 ton	208 ton	<b>200 tons of fodder (exceeded against midterm targets)</b> produced from application of sustainable and climate-smart practices.	HS Exceeded targets	
	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)	<b>229 individual farmers (exceeded midterm target)</b> (male 93 or 39.1% and female 145 or 60,9%) that consist members of organized vegetable groups, female headed household, spouses and disable people. 71 household in vegetable cooperative and groups 28 eco street households (5 female headed household) 130 households in 9 soums <b>10 crop companies</b> in the Eastern aimags are participating in the crop management activities.	HS Exceeded targets	
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	<b>5 pasture user group agreements (83% achieved against midterm target)</b> formalized for implementation of participatory bagh-level rangeland management over 376,907 ha by herder groups.	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 enhanced value	Number of people (women and men) benefiting from enhanced	0	180	450 (average 50 per soums)	<b>2111 people (45% male, 55% female) are benefiting from and actively engaged in project value chain activities. (Exceeded against midterm target)</b> 150 female herders from 7 target soums received “Cashmere sorter” competency-based training and out of which 140 received certification. and 140 herders received certification which 127 women received cashmere grading competency certification and	HS Exceeded targets	

	chains, public-private partnerships, and access to markets in support of sustainable grazing practices	value chains in support of sustainable grazing practices.				13 women received animal health and welfare certification. 12 people (25% male, 75% female) engaged in beekeeping activity. 3 cooperatives in 3 soum for wool value chain 4 cooperatives benefiting SFA certified cashmere production and trading. 3 cooperatives in 3 soum, 260 herder family for meat production 604 households for cashmere production- 14 cooperatives in 7 soums 1 company for ecotourism 60 households in 3 soum for lamb feeding practice. - 3 community-based organizations, 2 herder group, 1 savings and credit cooperative savings and credit cooperatives	
		Number of herder groups/cooperatives that obtain certification on sustainable practices through projects.	0	3	9	<b>5 agricultural cooperatives in the target soums exceeded against Midterm target) of Munkhkhaan, Matad, Khulunbuir, Bayan-Ovoo and Bulgan obtained certification as sustainable fiber (cashmere) supplier/producers. Third-party assessment conducted by and SFA cashmere standard compliance Certificate have been issued for the 5 cooperatives.</b> <b>38 herders obtained certification</b> as a qualified national wool shearer from Munkhkhaan, Sukhbaatar, Bulgan, Norovlin and Matad soums including members of 4 agricultural cooperatives of these soums.	HS Exceeded targets
		Additional or new income from value chain activities.	0	5%	10%	<b>Additional or new income of 22.7 % higher (exceeded against midterm targets)</b> generated from the sale of sustainably produced cashmere by the 5 agriculture cooperatives of target soums certified and traced and recorded by <b>Salesforce system</b> of SFA.	HS Exceeded targets
<b>Component 3: Strengthening biodiversity conservation and landscape connectivity</b>							S
<b>Strengthening biodiversity conservation and landscape connectivity</b>	Outcome 3.1: Management capacity of Nature Reserves (NRs) and Local	Area of terrestrial PAs under improved management effectiveness	- <a href="#">See Core Indicator 1 above</a> -				
		Area of landscapes under improved local protection	- <a href="#">See Core Indicator 4 above</a> (Sub-Indicator 4.1) –				S

	Protected Areas (LPAs) in connectivity areas is increased to support survival of Mongolian gazelle and other iconic species.	to benefit biodiversity																																																																						
		BD/species indicators:  (i) Mongolian Gazelle: Number of individuals and number of days in which gazelles are observed in target NRs during relevant season  (ii) White-naped Crane: Number of breeding pairs in target area; Nesting success <sup>14</sup>	(i) In Khar Yamaat NR – Mongolian gazelle – 2,500 individuals/40 days in 2019.  ii) 22 breeding pairs are registered in the project area	Bayantsagaan tal – 961 Jaran togoonii A – 974 Jaran togoonii B – 24316 Menen Tsagaan khooloi - 68027  Toson khulstai - 77853 Ulz river head (winter) - 2300  ii) 25	i) Bayantsagaan tal – 961 Jaran togoonii A – 974 Jaran togoonii B – 24316 Menen Tsagaan khooloi - 68027  Toson khulstai - 77853 Ulz river head (winter) - 2300 Khar Yamaat (winter) - 200  ii) 25	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="3">Name of NRs (relevant season)</th> <th colspan="5">Mongolian gazelle count</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="5">Baseline</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Feb 2021</th> <th>Aug 2021</th> <th>Dec 2021</th> <th>Jul 2022</th> <th>Dec 2022</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bayantsagaanii tal (summer)</td> <td>108</td> <td>961</td> <td>411</td> <td>6540</td> <td>175</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jaran togoonii A (summer)</td> <td>46</td> <td>974</td> <td>916</td> <td>9651</td> <td>1717</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jaran togoonii B (summer)</td> <td>2589</td> <td>24316</td> <td>3890</td> <td>6021</td> <td>11895</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Menen Tsagaan khooloi (winter)</td> <td>68027</td> <td>0</td> <td>1257</td> <td>54</td> <td>1460</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toson khulstai (summer)</td> <td>557</td> <td>77853</td> <td>246</td> <td>35600</td> <td>246</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulz river head (winter)</td> <td>2300</td> <td>120</td> <td>3700</td> <td>12</td> <td>2703</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Khar Yamaat (winter)</td> <td colspan="3">200 heads of Mongolian gazelle observed all year</td> <td>67 (In Sept - 300)</td> <td>150 (In October - 1200)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="3"></td> <td colspan="2">About 300 heads of Mongolian gazelle observed all year</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of NRs (relevant season)	Mongolian gazelle count					Baseline					Feb 2021	Aug 2021	Dec 2021	Jul 2022	Dec 2022	Bayantsagaanii tal (summer)	108	961	411	6540	175	Jaran togoonii A (summer)	46	974	916	9651	1717	Jaran togoonii B (summer)	2589	24316	3890	6021	11895	Menen Tsagaan khooloi (winter)	68027	0	1257	54	1460	Toson khulstai (summer)	557	77853	246	35600	246	Ulz river head (winter)	2300	120	3700	12	2703	Khar Yamaat (winter)	200 heads of Mongolian gazelle observed all year			67 (In Sept - 300)	150 (In October - 1200)					About 300 heads of Mongolian gazelle observed all year			
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Bayantsagaanii tal (summer)	108	961	411	6540	175																																																																			
Jaran togoonii A (summer)	46	974	916	9651	1717																																																																			
Jaran togoonii B (summer)	2589	24316	3890	6021	11895																																																																			
Menen Tsagaan khooloi (winter)	68027	0	1257	54	1460																																																																			
Toson khulstai (summer)	557	77853	246	35600	246																																																																			
Ulz river head (winter)	2300	120	3700	12	2703																																																																			
Khar Yamaat (winter)	200 heads of Mongolian gazelle observed all year			67 (In Sept - 300)	150 (In October - 1200)																																																																			
				About 300 heads of Mongolian gazelle observed all year																																																																				
<b>Component 4: Project coordination, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation</b>											S																																																													
<b>Project coordination,</b>	<b>Outcome 4.1: Project</b>	Number of knowledge products (publicatio	0	5	10	<b>12 knowledge products (exceeded against midterm target)</b> <a href="#">Report</a> on Mongolian Gazelle connectivity analysis(in Mongolian and English) <a href="#">Video</a> on best practice on Khulst lake protection) In Mongolian with eng subtitle)					HS																																																													

<sup>14</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.

knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation	coordination, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation for the sustainable management of drylands in Mongolia.	ns, leaflets, case studies, best practice documents, videos or other media content, etc.) developed and disseminated				<a href="#">Video</a> on best practice on forest campaign Educational <a href="#">TV program</a> (7 episodes of Big brothers' trip) <a href="#">Video</a> on lamb feeding <a href="#">Documentary</a> on Marmot ( <i>Marmota sibirica</i> ) in Mongolian with english subtitle <a href="#">Lamb production guideline</a> Booklet for <a href="#">Khar yamaat NR</a> <a href="#">Khar yamaat NR landscape book</a> <a href="#">Milk production technological guideline</a> <a href="#">Camera trap videos</a> of Khar yamaat NR <a href="#">Save the Mongolian gazelle curriculum for school, kindergarten and lifelong learning</a>	
		Number of people (women and men) at national/aimag level reached by communications and knowledge management activities	0	25,000	50,000	Over a million people reached by communication and knowledge management materials (double counted) – <b>(exceeded against midterm target)</b> 21,700 people reached by communication and knowledge management materials. 18,410 people - reached by project promotional printed materials. 1,107,572 people were reached by social media posts –run by <a href="#">FAO</a> and <a href="#">WWF Mongolia</a> and social media channels of national and local TV	HS
		M&E deliverables are submitted on time.			Yes	Yes PIR, PPR, Inception reports were submitted on time	S

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

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
<b>Sub- Indicator 1.2</b> Approval for boundaries of 3 newly established NRs	Organize additional lobbying activity for the Cabinet in collaboration with MET	PMU and MET	Fall 2023
<b>Sub-Indicator 3.2:</b> Area of forest and forest land restored.	Need to work on the forest management activities	PMU and MET	Fall 2023

### 3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs <sup>i</sup>	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the AWP2023)	Main achievements <sup>ii</sup> (Please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance <sup>iii</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 established and operational.</b>	<b>3 trainings 3 meetings 9 updated and approved TOR</b>	5 <a href="#">trainings</a> organized for 373 participants (57% male, 43% female) on participatory, gender sensitive and integrated land management planning that incorporates <a href="#">CC, LDN, and BD conservation</a> for aimag and soum Working group members. As a result, working group members started taking a lead in developing LMPs and convening regular <a href="#">meetings</a> by incorporating considerations of environmental aspects including concern for improved pasture management into the LMPs. Moreover, established cross-sectoral working groups restructured themselves to become multistakeholder and <a href="#">updated terms of reference</a> to define its roles and responsibilities.	N/A
<b>Output 1.1.2</b> Guidelines for science-based, integrated land management planning, assessment and monitoring developed and stakeholders trained.	N/A	<b>2 guidelines and 1 training program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two <a href="#">draft guidelines and a training program</a> developed which incorporated environmental and biodiversity considerations such as climate change, land degradation neutrality, priority connectivity corridors and critical breeding sites of migratory species into existing land management planning process.</li> <li>- Draft guidelines were piloted throughout the process of developing integrated land management plans of Eastern three aimags and target nine soums. To strengthen technical capacity of land management entities on-the-job guided training conducted for more than 15 times.</li> <li>- A joint <a href="#">workshop</a> for improving draft guidelines organized in October 2022 and participants supported the draft agreed to revise existing guideline for developing LMP and incorporate environmental goals and considerations, stakeholder engagement and based on the results of the pilot LMP in Eastern aimags and soums.</li> <li>- The <a href="#">methodology</a> for PA land use mapping and impact assessment was drafted and has been tested in 27 PAs in different ecosystems of Mongolia. This will be incorporated into the PA management plan guideline.</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 consultations and ensuring gender equality and inclusiveness.</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 management) plan</b></p>	<p>All LMPs were developed using the above methodology and were discussed at all levels; working groups, representatives of local parliament and Bagh community khural by reaching out <a href="#">11,173 (47% male, 53% female)</a> local community members to incorporate their feedbacks and comments to <a href="#">ensure gender equality and inclusiveness</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">7 LMPs</a> (Sukhbaatar aimag and Bayan-Ovoo, Bayan-Adraga, Norovlin soums of Khentii aimag, Tumentsogt, Sukhbaatar and Munkhkhaan soums of Sukhbaatar aimag) were adopted by the respective local parliament.</p>	<p>LMP for Khentii aimag was finalized and submitted for approval of local parliament.</p> <p>LMP for Dornod aimag and TDPs for Bulgan, Matad, Khulunbuir soums are being finalized, and approval process by the local parliament is pending.</p>
<p><b>Output 1.1.4</b> Regular monitoring of land use, land degradation and biodiversity in target soums conducted</p>	<p><b>Number of improved monitoring systems and processes in place.</b></p>	<p><b>9 soum-level and 3 aimag-level land monitoring systems</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through capacity building <a href="#">training activities</a>, herders started to participate in the photo monitoring study (which was initially conducted by only land officers) and photo-monitoring results were introduced at bagh meetings. Engaging herders in the training were resulted in improved awareness raising and organizing themselves into pasture management groups for instance in Sukhbaatar soum.</li> <li>- To strengthen the national and local capacity of land management, monitoring, and evaluation, capacity building <a href="#">trainings</a> and <a href="#">technical supports</a> were provided to the MET, ALAMGAC, land officers and meteorologists of target aimag and soums.</li> <li>- A <a href="#">draft methodology</a> for using remote sensing for land monitoring was developed.</li> <li>- A <a href="#">consultation meeting</a> for coordination of data under national land monitoring system was organized for 59 participants (40% male, 60% female) representing all parties related to land monitoring.</li> </ul>	<p><b>N/A</b></p>
<p><b>Output 1.1.5</b> National and/or aimag- level policies/laws and resolutions developed (or strengthened) to support sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation</p>	<p><b>Number of revised policies, laws or resolutions drafted and submitted to Cabinet/local Khural.</b></p>	<p><b>At least 3 revised policies, laws or resolutions drafted and submitted to Cabinet/ local Khural.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 soum <a href="#">pasture use regulations</a> were developed using participatory process and approved by the local parliament of soum and endorsed by Ministry of Justice creating legal environment for making sustainable rangeland management in Sukhbaatar and Tumentsogt soums.</li> <li>- Khar yamaat NR protection regime was developed and submitted to local Parliament for approval.</li> </ul>	<p>Draft package land law including draft land cadastre law was decided to be withdrawn from deliberation at the initiation of the MCUD cased delay in the process.</p>

<b><u>Outcome 2.1</u></b>	<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>			
<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 friendly, climate-smart crop and fodder production techniques.	<b>Quantity of crops produced from sustainable and climate-smart practices.</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Post and pre-cropping <a href="#">Technical Workshops</a> of the Crop farmers of Khentii and Dornod aimags organized twice in December 2022 and April 2023 where best practices of individual farmer on application of intercropping practices on commercial scale shared. It resulted in launching young farmers' mentorship program on promoting intercropping practices involving 11 companies in the Eastern aimags in the spring 2023.</li> <li>- Mixture of pea and oat planted as second year rotational crop at the wheat planted plots of Ider-Onon crop farming company in 2022, one of two pioneers, where they grew super-elite wheat seed for renovation and replication on 30 ha of cropland.</li> <li>- Co-financing contribution of beneficiary crop farmers at MNT 963,0 million MNT made possible to scale up project supported activities on intercropping and improved rotational system in the spring of 2023 from 239 ha to 1340 ha.</li> </ul>	<b>N/A</b>
<b><u>Output 2.1.2</u></b> Support provided to farmers in target areas to apply environmentally friendly, climate-smart crop and fodder production practices within overall landscape management.	Quantity of fodder produced from sustainable and climate-smart practices.		<a href="#">Fodder production</a> has been identified as a key supporting service for promoting meat value chain and sustainable livestock practices. Total of 200 ha of oat harvested in 2022. With the supply of oat seeds, total 114 ha planted at abandoned cropland and herders' winter camping sites to promote contracted and sustainable fodder production model.	<b>N/A</b>
	Number of farmers (women and men) participating in crop management activities	10 trainings and meetings	17 rounds of interventions in the form of technological training, on-the-farm technical supervision and supply of small farming inputs implemented for and provided to beneficiary farmers in the nine target soums. In total, 415 participants (169 male or 40,7% and 246 female or 59,3%) directly benefited from the project intervention resulted in the harvest of 37 tons of vegetables and inspired beneficiaries to continue growing vegetables as fulltime job for them. "Eco-Street" initiative for household-based integrated fruit tree and vegetable farming model of 15 households replicated to other 13 households with local co-financing contribution to demonstrate sustainable land use practices.	<b>N/A</b>
<b><u>Outcome 2.2</u></b>	<b>Local communities are applying sustainable management and restoration of rangelands, forest patches and riparian forests in the target area</b>			
<b><u>Output 2.2.1</u></b> Guidelines and training program for local decision makers	Number of bagh-level rangeland management	5	In November 2022, <a href="#">5 pasture use agreements</a> between Soum Governor and pasture user groups formalized for implementation of participatory, bagh-level rangeland management over 376,907 ha in Hulunbuir soum, Dornod aimag.	<b>N/A</b>

and stakeholders (herders, private sector, CBOs6) on sustainable pasture management and the conservation/restoration of critical ecosystems developed and implemented.	t and/or rangeland use agreements adopted by local stakeholders			
<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.	Area of natural grass and shrublands restored  Area of rangeland under improved rangeland management plans	Mid-term target: 124,413.5 ha  930,652.5 ha	Condition of degraded pastureland covering total of 292,265 ha improved in Sukhbaatar (231,556 ha) and Tumentsogt (60,709 ha) soums of Sukhbaatar aimag in 2022 by resting (Verified by the result of annual National grazing impact photo monitoring of 2022).  Based above achievement, pasture <a href="#">management</a> plan 2023 for 4 baghs in the target soums ( <b>711,330 ha</b> covering only livestock grazing and hay making areas) was developed as part of the soum LMP and approved, uploaded to the <a href="http://www.egazar.gov.mn">www.egazar.gov.mn</a> as the national land database and is being implemented.	<b>N/A</b>



<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># of soums with sire renting regulation</p> <p># training on dairy and beef farming technology</p>	<p>AWP 2023; 5</p> <p>AWP 2023; 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In total, 330 ram lambs of Barga and Uzemchin superior breeds and 270 bucklings of Bayandelger <a href="#">superior breeds supplied</a> to Private livestock breeding units in 6 target soums. It helped to building units started purchasing superior rams to form nuclear herd making it possible to lease best rams for herds of local herders in the future. Result of cashmere fibre testing by accredited laboratory of Animal Husbandry Research Institute confirmed that cashmere (down) of year-old bucks of breeding units (11-16 µm in diameter and 28.3-46.7 mm in length) could be used for further breeding to enhance productivity and quality.</li> <li>- 114 cows (33% of contracted cow number) were artificially inseminated in 2022 and success of given birth was 50% in 2023.</li> <li>- 167 herders/farmers participated the training on dairy and beef farming technology, feed production and nutrition.</li> <li>- 38 herders from 8 soums attended a 5-day <a href="#">practical training</a> at dairy farms of collective dairy cooperative in outskirts of Ulaanbaatar city. Participants/trainees worked/helped host-farmers by feeding cows, cleaning slurry from barn, operating the portable milking machine, and adjusting the settings. 4 participants bought dairy cows and started dairy business in Sukhbaatar.</li> <li>- To contribute reducing livestock number, <a href="#">lamb feeding</a> methods have been tested and Pellets (fodder) for 1800 lambs were provided to 12 herders who joined a voluntary basis. Herders have fed the lambs for 1-2 months in the spring. The average live weight of female lambs reached 39 (34-45) kg and male lambs 43 (39-49) kg in autumn, and weight was at least 10 kg higher than lambs on normal pasture. The cost of buying fodder was calculated and it was beneficial both economically and environmentally. It has demonstrated that simple practices of lamb feeding combined with bloodless castration could meet lamb weight threshold requirements of meat processing companies and/or exporters and potential of selling lamb within the year of birth.</li> <li>- Ongoing study on livestock tax implementation is focusing on collection of livestock tax within the current legal regulations, proper use of generated income from tax, and to develop recommendations based on study results on how to impose the tax based on the value of the ecosystem. The following common problems in the taxation of livestock identified as preliminary results.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tax rates are set at a low level which can not serve as an economic barrier to stop the movement of livestock that has been concentrated in the area in recent years.</li> <li>- High livestock tax has not been set for horses and goats. This livestock has a more negative effect on pastures than other type of livestock. For goats, the maximum is 1000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>As per planned, 350 cows supposed to be artificially inseminated in 2022 by using frozen semen of dual-purpose commercial breed bulls such as the Simmental and Alatau. Due to poor understanding and lack of experience of local herders and officials on cattle artificial insemination, the selected herders did not do additional care for their cows and rearing them separately from main herd especially bulls for certain duration.</p>
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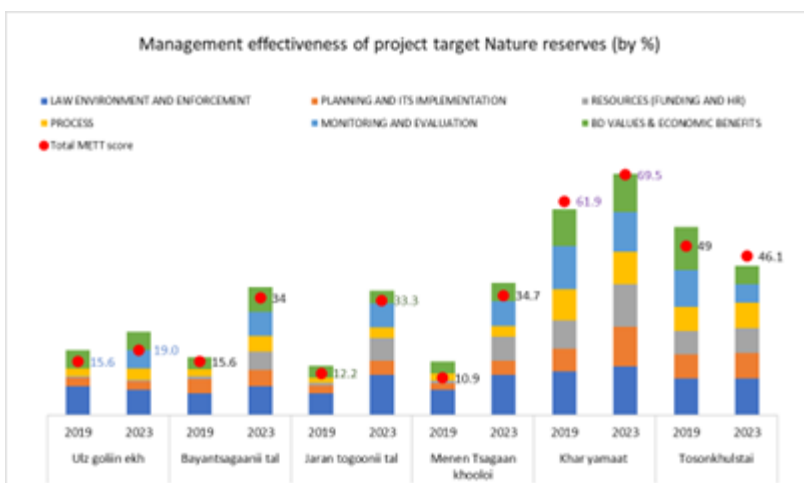
			<p>MNT and the minimum is 500 MNT, which is only 25-50% of the maximum allowed by the Livestock Tax Law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is not possible to levy taxes on the livestock of citizens of other provinces (who have cattle, mainly horses) who go to the Eastern region and stay there temporarily or for a long time. Their livestock tax is paid to the main administration (Ulaanbaatar or provincial capital) and not to the land where they are used for grazing.</li> <li>- The same tax is imposed on livestock used for grazing in and outside of the PA of the area. It would be in line with the conservation policy if more tax is imposed on animals that use pasture in specially protected areas.</li> <li>- In Mongolia, livestock is private property, but pasture is state property, and herders use the pasture free of charge. There is no legal framework for determining the boundaries of grazing lands for each herder family. That's why, herdsmen and people with livestock have been using the pasture for free and using its value. For this situation, economists recommend that it is appropriate to determine the value of ecosystem services and to determine the amount of livestock tax based on this.</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>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Riparian forest field day</a> organized to promote the protection and sustainable management of riparian forest and its biodiversity for respective stakeholders of Khentii, Dornod, and Sukhbaatar provinces of 109 participants (48% male, 52% female) in 5 target soums. During the field day, participants gained theoretical knowledge and practical skills ecological value of riparian forest, technical aspects of proper management, thinning, cleaning and restoration techniques and value importance of riparian forest and pasture to biodiversity. Also, participants were able to observe successful natural regeneration of willows prevented from livestock grazing at fenced pilot sites. It made them aware of taking necessary collective measures to improve riparian pasture management.</li> <li>- Two sites for cleaning and thinning demonstration as pilot along Kherlen river riparian areas and patch forest near Ulz goliin ekh NR were identified jointly by National and FAO International consultants in June 2023.</li> <li>- Following devastating steppe fire occurred in spring 2023, fire-fighting equipment and financial support were provided to all 7 Protected Area Administrations, 3 Departments of Environment and Tourism in the Eastern regions. Moreover, the local emergency services and the National Emergency Management Agency organized training on the use of fire-fighting equipment and preparedness in the event of a forest and steppe fire.</li> </ul>	N/A

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In collaboration with the Environment and Tourism Department of Dornod aimag, a <a href="#">training of trainers and capacity building workshop</a> was organized for 70 participants of public and private entities and individuals who are playing in vital role in the implementation of Billion tree national movement for the purpose of leveraging project pilot activities on riparian forest restoration along Kherlen river.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Area of forest and forest land restored</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1.1 ha reforestation of riparian forest in Tumentsogt, Bayan-Ovoo and Bulgan soums was organized and planted 1,100 trees with the active engagement of local community members.</li> <li>- 2.7 ha area was reforested in collaboration with the local authorities of 9 soums and Food and Agriculture department of Sukhbaatar aimag and 7,099 trees were planted in May 2023 mostly for supporting household-based nurseries and soum greenery purposes.</li> <li>- 6 ha of Khar yamaat NR was afforested with 1425 tree seedlings by active engagement of 136 members of local communities and volunteer rangers. Local private company and a mining company in the buffer zone of the Khar yamaat NR took initiative to manage and water the planted trees.</li> <li>- 1 ha of area was afforested with 1899 trees as a wind break in 3 tree nurseries.</li> </ul>	<b>N/A</b>
<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			
<b>Output 2.3.1</b> Partnerships established and implemented between herder groups/ farmers/cooperatives, local government and private sector to develop value chains for sustainably produced agricultural products.	a) Number of people (women and men) benefiting from enhanced value chains in support of sustainable grazing practices.	180 (average 20 per soum), of which at least 50% women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 402 households from 5 cooperatives are benefiting from enhanced cashmere and wool value chains in support of sustainable grazing practices.</li> <li>- To promote sustainable cashmere production, project supported productive <a href="#">partnership</a> building between the SFA certified cooperatives and cashmere processors including "Sor Cashmere" LLC, and "Monital Cashmere" LLC.</li> <li>- The new technology introduced as electric shearing machine and wool market days organized for the second time in June 2023</li> <li>- Under LoA with NAMAC, the <a href="#">business partnership forum</a> organized for establishing partnership in meat value chain in the eastern region in collaboration with Agricultural Commodity Exchange, the Mongolian meat association, and the project for Pasture Management development in April 2023 at Sukhbaatar province.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Three savings and credit cooperatives</a> established with the support of capacity building by professional consultancy and mentorship service. <a href="#">One of them obtained</a> special permits from State agency of Financial Regulation Committee. The cooperatives are expected to grow non-livestock business as new income generation opportunities for herders and local communities as well as potential source for generating fund for</li> </ul>	<b>N/A</b>

			financing natural resource management and eco-system restoration activities in accordance with current legal environment.	
	Number of herder groups/cooperatives that obtain certification on sustainable practices through project	3 herder groups/cooperatives (of which at least 1 women-led)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 150 members of the agriculture cooperatives in the 7 target soums received skill development trainings to apply sustainable code of practices for cashmere sorting and grading. Out of which 127 women received cashmere grading competency certification and 13 women received animal health and welfare certification.</li> <li>– 7 cooperatives (1 women-led) sold cashmere under SFA traceability system for export was considered as certified while 5 cooperatives assessed as eligible to obtain certificates by SFA verified by a third party.</li> <li>– <a href="#">14 young herders</a> received the “National shearer certificates” from wool shearing technology training. Of which, one young woman successfully graduated and received the certificate.</li> </ul>	N/A
	Additional or new income from value chain activities (% increase).	3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 4 agricultural cooperatives of Bayan-Ovoo, Munkhkhaan, Bulgan, and Matad soums <a href="#">sold 57,600 kilograms</a> of sustainably produced cashmere (total sales: 8.63 billion MN or USD 2,514,500) to domestic primary processors earning 22.8% higher income as premium price compared to regular market price.</li> <li>– As a result of wool partnership, there are <a href="#">83 tons of wool</a> supplied from three agriculture cooperatives to the Mon Pellets LLC’s, producer of organic wool fertilizer. It generated nearly 74.0 million MNT sales income to 3 cooperatives and 244,000 euros export income to Mon Pellets LLC.</li> </ul>	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>  Assessment to enhance landscape connectivity and management of globally important biodiversity in the target landscape conducted and incorporated into local plans.	BD/species indicators:  (i) Mongolian Gazelle:  Number of individuals and number of days in which		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 14 crucial breeding and summering sites for White-naped crane identified and incorporated into the 2 aimag and 6 soum land management plans.</li> <li>- In July and December 2022, Mongolian gazelle monitoring surveys conducted twice in target NRs. The data collected was compiled and uploaded in the BIOSAN online database for PAs. The results are being used to update management and monitoring plans for the selected Nature reserves.</li> <li>- With recent year’s tendency of increased migration of Mongolian gazelle to the border zone in the wintertime, a joint monitoring survey on Mongolian gazelle along the border between Russia and Mongolia was conducted in December 2022 counting 9,733 heads of Mongolian gazelles on the Mongolian side. It helped to identify new habitat of scattered gazelle flock.</li> </ul>	N/A

	<p>gazelles are observed in target NRs during relevant season.</p> <p>(ii) White-naped Crane:</p> <p>Number of breeding pairs in target area.</p> <p>Nesting success</p>	<p>22 breeding pairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A <a href="#">website</a> for BIOSAN - biodiversity online database and monitoring tool of Protected areas of Mongolia was upgraded and user-friendly mobile application for <a href="#">Android</a> and <a href="#">iOS</a> introduced. Operating procedure for updated BIOSAN website and mobile app developed and training for rangers and specialist in charge of 6 target NRs conducted.</li> <li>- A total of 10 individuals of Mongolian gazelle were fitted with satellite collars in October 2022, in an area where railways are planned to be built to connect mineral extraction sites with Trans-Mongolian railway.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 3.1.2</b></p> <p>Management plans for NRs developed or updated in a participatory process involving local governments and stakeholders ensuring landscape level management.</p>	<p>Area of terrestrial PAs under improved management effectiveness:</p>	<p>1,189,866 ha</p> <p>6 NRs have new or improved management plan.</p>	<p><b>Empowerment of stakeholders in PA management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">Training and study visit</a> to Khustai NP organized for local authorities of target aimag and soums helped to raise awareness on administrative and financial roles and responsibilities for managing NRs, especially enforcing law and regulations.</li> <li>- Improving conservation impact by empowering people as coaches to plan, evaluate and monitor effective conservation practices, adapt, and share (Conservation standard) is one of the effective participatory conservation approaches. To establish a network of leaders and skilled conservation planners in the project area, “Conservation coach” <a href="#">training</a> was organized in 2 phases, in April and May 2023, in collaboration with MET, WWF-Mongolia, WWF-US, TNC, and WCS Mongolia. A total of 14 people from the project partners such as MET, Departments of Agriculture, PAs, Soum Government, local conservation NGO and Land management companies were trained in conservation standard designing tools and 9 of them became conservation coaches. The significance of these training course is that not only it helps empowering leaders at the regional level, but also the representation from different sectors could contribute to strengthening cooperation and mutual understanding at the landscape level.</li> </ul> <p><b>Participatory NR management planning:</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

- WWF Mongolia have been conducting conservation activities with active participation of local partners in the Khar yamaat NR according to the 10-year (July 2013- June 2023) contract with MET and Governors' of Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimags. Since 2019, the exit strategy has been implemented in collaboration with co-management council of Khar yamaat NR, and with the active engagement of the key stakeholders, the future management structure to be piloted has been identified and accepted by all parties. Khar Yamaat NR is located across territory of 2 soums of 2 aimags, and to implement unified and comprehensive management, an agreement was signed between the governors of the Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimags. According to the agreement, the governor of Khentii aimag was selected as the main body responsible for management, and the Department of Environment and Tourism of Khentii aimag was selected as the main coordinator of the management plan implementation. The rights and obligations of other stakeholders were clearly reflected in the newly developed management plan.
- From October 2022 to May 2023, the stakeholder consultation [meetings](#) were organized 5 times and a management plan for Khar yamaat NR (2023-2032) was developed according to the official methodology on PA management development and submitted to the Local Parliament of Sukhbaatar and Khentii aimags for approval. This management plan is unique because it contains several innovative ideas that will become good practice throughout the national PA network. Those are:
  - According to the newly amended Law on PA, in January 2023, the first PA management plan defines a 10-year strategy.
  - The Local Government of Khentii aimag will take the lead and implement it with the participation of the key stakeholders, and it clearly reflected the responsibilities and obligations of the management structure, operations, and financing. On the other hand, it is planned to pilot a new option for management structure for PAs located across the territory of more than 2 aimags and soums.
  - For the first time, land degradation resulting from current and future land use has been mapped, and land use planning has been comprehensively reflected. This will greatly contribute to the improvement of PA management plan methodology of Mongolia.
- To monitor the results of joint activities within the project, an assessment was conducted using the Mongolian METT methodology with the multi-stakeholders' participation for selected 6 NRs in 2023. METT scores for 5 NRs showed that an increase by 3.4% - 23.8%, while the management effectiveness of Tosonkhulstai NR decreased by 2.9 percent compared to baseline or 2019 (Graph 1). The results of the assessment will be used as a basis for determining areas for management improvement.



**Output 3.1.3**  
Priority interventions implemented in target NRs in line with management plans.

**Summary of activities implemented as priority interventions in the target NRs:**

**Participatory BD monitoring to support NR management:**

- Comprehensive biodiversity monitoring/survey conducted from July through September 2022. It was focused to monitor long term climate change and environmental degradation trends and its contributing factors in Khar yamaat NR. 26 researchers and students from National University of Mongolia (NUM), Mongolian State University of Education, Mongolian University of Life Sciences and Mongolian Academy of Sciences participated. The main highlights are as follows:
  - Species richness was relatively higher (44 vascular species) inside of Khar Yamaat NR than the buffer zone (12 vascular species), indicating conservation actions are preventing a land degradation. NR is harboring a very rare plant species, *Viburnum Mongolicum*, which is protected by the Mongolian law.
  - Since the protection of Khulst lake in 2019, lake water and surrounding plants has drastically improved, and lake size reached 2.1-3.5 ha with 6.7-7.2 ha surrounding lush wetland vegetation year around. Thanks to improved habitat, the lake is currently hosting over 30 species of birds during the summer acting as a breeding and summering site, including a very rare White-naped crane, nesting over the last 3 years. Moreover, the lake is serving as a hotspot for the thousands of migrating birds to stop, feed and rest during their migration.
  - Moreover 2 scientific articles by the results from the Khar Yamaat NR biodiversity survey has been submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

N/A

- In addition, based on the results of pasture monitoring survey conducted at 92 monitoring points in Khar Yamaat NR, the carrying capacity of pastures and the potential number of livestock for wintering were determined, and recommendations were made to authorities of Bayan-Ovoo and Tumentsogt soums.
  - In addition, the research team conducted a feasibility study on re-introduction of marmot in Bayantsagaanii tal and Jaran togoonii tal NRs and its buffer areas and made recommendations for re-introduction.
  - A camera trap was installed at the Khar yamaat and Bayantsagaanii tal NRs with active participation of the volunteer rangers, and soum government officials. A camera trap in Khulst Lake, Khar yamaat NR [captured a breeding pair](#) of White naped cranes and [monitoring of breeding success](#) is being done jointly. Moreover, a [video](#) was prepared and released to promote the results of local partners' cooperation in protecting the lake.
- Promote ecosystem restoration:**
- Natural spring known as “Elegnii bulag” in Bayantsagaanii tal NR was fenced at the request from the local herders and authority of the Sukhbaatar soum. To prevent environmental and social risks and conflicts, a joint meeting with local herder was organized and they supported with great gratitude and secured by the request letter of 21 local herders confirming that they will be taking the charge for building and overall maintenance. Moreover, considered the selection of fencing materials and building techniques to ensure that sensitive ecosystems in dryland are not harmed. The Kherlen River Basin Authority is being conducted regular monitoring of water flow rate and length of protected spring.
  - 4 natural springs in Khar yamaat NR were protected between 2015-2021. Rangers and volunteer rangers of Khar yamaat NR rehabilitated broken fences in October 2022.
  - Based on the feasibility assessment result, in collaboration of Khustai National Park administration, a total of 150 Siberian marmots were released at the Khar yamaat and Bayantsagaanii tal NRs to establish a long-gone Siberian marmot population. 50 Marmots were reintroduced to [Jargalant hill](#) in Matad soum where its soum authorities provided 67% of the total budget as co-financing activity. Participatory marmot monitoring plan was designed.
  - In the winter of 2022-2023, heavy snow fell in the Khar yamaat NR, the thickness of the snow reached 20-30cm. Therefore, to support the wild animals to overcome the harsh natural conditions, the rangers and volunteer rangers [placed 300 kg](#) of salt and mara at 4 selected points in January 2023.
- Promote ecological education:**



- The annual campaign “Steppe beauty” was successfully organized in November 2022 under the theme “Wildlife friendly pasture management” to raise awareness on adverse impact of overgrazing to habitat loss of Mongolian gazelle. This year’s campaign expanded its coverage to school children from 21 soums in eastern 3 aimags. It was organized in innovative way in 3 phases that include [field trips](#) to core habitats and connectivity areas of Mongolian gazelle, [a joint meeting](#) in Dornod aimag and promotional and educational activities at their school and among communities. To further improve curriculum and teaching skills to conduct training on Mongolian gazelle, [a methodology](#) for curriculum to be used at 3 levels (secondary school, kindergarten, and lifelong learning) was developed and distributed to all schoolteachers in the Eastern aimags.
- World Migratory Bird Day [event](#) was organized in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Tourism of Dornod aimag and the Mongolian Bird Conservation Center NGO for more than 100 ecoclub children of Khentii, Dornod and Sukhbaatar aimag under the theme of “Water Sustain Life”. Students learned about migratory birds and the importance of water and wetlands in the habitat of birds. As part of the celebration day, students understood the importance of protecting the habitat of birds and cleaned up the garbage around bird habitats.
- To raise awareness on important breeding sites of Cranes and threats to their habitat, "Crane welcoming day" was organized which is focused on cranes that resting and feeding near the wetlands and croplands at Norovlin, Bayan-Adarga soums Khentii province. We included up to 10 students of each eco clubs with their teachers. Students observed total of 77 individuals of three species of cranes, 13 species of water birds and 5 species of shorebirds have been observed.
- In cooperation with the NUM, the "Student Researcher 2022" Research Conference was organized for the 6th year under the slogan “Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth” in December 2022. In total, 18 students (8 Master and 10 Bachelor students) of three national universities presented the result of their research work. Contrary to the previous conferences that were often participated by the students from the biology and ecology studies, this year the students from the diverse background such as physics, chemistry and law participated in the conference and presented their research. The conference was live-streamed by zoom and [Facebook page “Research student”](#) and reached 874 people. Moreover, the submissions to the essay and photo contests were uploaded at the above Facebook page which reached 13,859 people. Also, to build capacity and strengthen their photography skills, the "Macro photography" course was organized for 11 students in cooperation with the Institute of Biology of Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

- In collaboration with 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. 7 school children voluntarily joined three day-field studies organized in Khar Yamaat NR in August 2022. 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. The program also helped the children to realize the importance of their participation in conservation so that students expressed their interest to join their school ecoclubs. A [video](#) on the programme was published at WWF-Mongolia Youtube page.
- [Winter training program](#) held for children was also implemented in Khar Yamaat NR in March 2023. 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.
- To promote ecological functions of Mongolian marmots, produced a short [documentary](#) on life of Mongolian marmot and disseminated through social media channels for the celebration of World Wildlife Day 2023. Known as ecosystem engineer, the Mongolian marmot (*Marmota sibirica*) is a large, endangered rodent species that ranges across the steppe regions. Marmots were formerly a common steppe species, but overharvesting has made them endangered, raising worries about the effects of their extinction on other species. Given the importance of marmots to the ecosystems they live in, the fall of these animals probably had an impact on other species.
- In collaboration with the Mongolian National Broadcasting Television (MNB) and the experts from the NUM, Mongolian Academy of Science and Mongolian Bird Conservation center, [7 episodes](#) of the educational TV program named “Big brother’s tour” was prepared and broadcasted on national television in October-December 2022. The main objective of this program was to provide environmental education to children and encourage them to protect their environment. Therefore, episodes covered various topics such as the importance and value of migratory species in the Eastern Steppes, their important habitats, and the promotion of PAs such as Ulz goliin ekh, Khar Yamaat, Toson khulstai, Bayantsagaanii tal, Jaran togoonii tal and Menen tsagaan khooloi NRs. The eco-club children from Sukhbaatar soum of Sukhbaatar province and Bayan-Adarga soum of Khentii province took part in the tour. During the trip, eco-club children also learnt about the importance of wetlands, wetland protection measures and observed migratory birds such as White-Naped cranes,

			<p>swans, and geese etc. The program was selected as top three most watched TV program of the November 2022 by the Mongolian National Broadcasting channel. It reached almost 12,000 people through live streaming on its social media channels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the active engagement of the soum authorities of Norovlin, Bayan-Ovoo, Tumentsogt, Sukhbaatar and Khulunbuir soums, the project team organized awareness raising <a href="#">campaign</a> in Ulz goliin ekh, Bayantsagaanii tal and Toson khulstai NRs in November-December 2022 to promote PA values and benefits.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support small eco businesses of local community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To promote green and eco-business in the buffer zone of NRs, "<a href="#">Eco-business small grant</a>" was awarded to 5 small business proposed by herder and bee farmer's cooperatives, local entities for supporting bee honey, semi-intensified dairy farming for school luncheon program, eco-tourism and wool processing for value adding.</li> </ul>	
<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>579,669 ha</p>	<p>Priority intervention sites for migratory species were selected with total coverage area of 579,669 ha in 4 project target soums (Norovlin, Khulunbuir, Bulgan, Bayan-Ovoo) out of which 145,838 ha belongs to local protected areas in consideration of major criteria for potential habitats for calving and connectivity corridors for Mongolian gazelle, the degree of land degradation and project supported pasture and value chain activities and overlap with the existing local protected areas.</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>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment on identifying potential funding sources for Natural Reserves, implementation methods and planning was conducted for 6 NRs in 9 project soums. Based on the assessment, 10 potential income sources were identified such as: Livestock tax revenue, Local Development Fund, Natural resource use fee, Pasture use fee in PA, Income from payments for work and services provided in PA, as well as fees for issuing permits for the use of natural resources and tourism activities in PA, Revenue from entrance fees to PA, Compensation for environmental damage in PA, Offset by mining companies, Local fund and donations.</li> <li>- These identified funding sources are clearly reflected in the Khar yamaat NR management plan for 2023-2032. Moreover, 2 joint meetings were held between the mining company, the Departments of Environment and Tourism in Sukhbaatar and Khentii aimags, the Soum Governors, and the WWF-Mongolia to effectively implement mining offset program at Khar yamaat NR. Parties agreed to pilot the mining offset program to reduce the environmental degradation through improving infrastructure along the tourist routes. This activity is included in the newly developed</li> </ul>	

			<p>management plan for Khar yamaat NR and related contracts between Governors and Mining company were prepared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In collaboration with the Department of Environment and Tourism of Khentii province organized meetings to support local decision-makers, and officials in the optimal management of Natural resources use fee (NRUF) and Livestock tax. In total 99 people involved in the meetings were raised how fees and taxes should be used to improve pastures as referred to in related legal documents, protect and strengthen the sustainable use of natural resources. It created the motivation that it is desirable and supported the decision-making process at the soum level. In addition, in total 56 herders and soum officials from the 9 soums were surveyed about the need of the Livestock tax, whether it will affect the carrying capacity and use of pastures. 88% of respondents said that this tax does not burden the lives of herders, 83% supported the law, 69% said it would have a positive effect on livestock overgrowth, and 38% said that the new law should be promoted more. These show that there is an opportunity to achieve results by implementing systematic and comprehensive measures in cooperation with all stakeholders and promoting good practices.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>Outcome 4.1</u></b></p>	<p><b>Project coordination, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation for the sustainable management of drylands in Mongolia.</b></p>			
<p><b><u>Output 4.1.1</u></b> Effective project coordination and monitoring and evaluation.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>2 PSC meetings 2 reflection meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project Steering Committee (PSC) <a href="#">meeting</a> was organized with full participation of PSC members approved the AWPB 2023 in December 2022. Ten members of the PSC participated in the meeting (90 % male, 10% female). At the meeting, a report on the state of implementation of AWPB 2022 was presented and it was rated as highly satisfactory by the Chair.</li> <li>- PMU reflection workshops were organized three times to reflect on implementation status and achievement of project outcomes in August, December and February 2023. Specialists from FAO Mongolia and WWF-Mongolia provided their comments to the project activities. To develop AWPB 2023 using a participatory approach, a workshop for the PMU team along with the training of Communication was organized on December 20-22, 2022. All the comments from the project stakeholders were discussed and incorporated into the AWPB 2023.</li> <li>- The joint project Taskforce of UN-FAO and WWF meeting was held virtually on December 2022 and February 2023 to provide updates on progress and seek orientation further the project and provide updates on progress. Taskforce members, LTO and FLO, Technical officer paid visits to the project sites in the Eastern aimags to get acquainted with project activities and provide technical support to riparian forest activities.</li> </ul>	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ESS team conducted a field monitoring activity in January 2023, and recommendations were provided to PMU. Based on the recommendations, PMU updated its GRM and information sharing process. GRM was introduced to project stakeholders and their inputs were reflected in the GRM.</li> </ul>	
<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/aim ag level reached by communications and knowledge management activities.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 12 major knowledge products, 99 social media posts, 22 news and programs on local and national TV, 17450 copies of promotional materials of 18 different types for sustainable rangeland management and landscapes and biodiversity conservation critical ecosystems and project visibility materials were developed and disseminated to more than 1 million people by social media channels run by <a href="#">FAO</a>, <a href="#">WWF Mongolia</a> and <a href="#">Responsible nomad facebook</a> group on national and local TV.</li> <li>- Project team was actively engaged in the <a href="#">DSL-IP Global coordination</a> events and country docking activities and shared best practices on land use management planning, pasture management to international audience. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project team participated 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. A <a href="#">case study</a> of the project was introduced at FAO Forestry Technical Network webinar entitled “Making Every Voice Count for Adaptive Management: An innovative method of upscaling change” in December, 2022.</li> <li>▪ 4 editions of WWF Amur Heilong Ecoregional newsletter and PANDA newsletter of WWF Mongolia covered news and updates of project progresses in detail.</li> <li>▪ Best practices of pasture management was shared on <a href="#">Webinar “Sustainable management of pasture resources in Kazakhstan”</a> in April 2023.</li> <li>▪ Project best practices on land use management planning was shared on <a href="#">webinar</a> by DSL-IP “Integrated Land Use Planning for Land Degradation Neutrality: Towards a Community of Practice for informed decision making on LDN” in March 2023.</li> <li>▪ Attended WOCAT DSL-IP Communities of Practice to get familiarized with DSL-IP Communities of Practice by CDE/WOCAT and received online training and consultation with WOCAT team of Centre for Development and Environment under Ip program.</li> <li>▪ Project shared its best practices to GEF Asia Pacific Workshop as a Dryland IP child program in Bali in January 2023.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 4.1.3</b> LDN target monitoring and reporting mechanism</p>	<p>M&amp;E deliverables</p>	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought on June 17, 2023, short videos were produced to promote land degradation neutrality and sustainable land management on the topic for #HerLand, #HerRight on <a href="#">FAO</a> and <a href="#">WWF-Mongolia</a> facebook page.</li> </ul>	

strengthened, and relevant information shared through national and global IP platforms.

- Guideline on land management planning was shared during the workshop of the COP 15 meeting. The UNCCD considered that the issue of integrated land management will be a policy lever for reducing desertification and land degradation during the COP15 which was held in December 2022.
- Organized training on land management database and [monitoring](#) for land management entities and WWF-Mongolia, land officers of Eastern aimags supported by WOCAT in March 2023.
- PMU participated in the seminar on [GEO-LDN Online Seminar: National approaches to mapping land degradation](#) in April 2023.

#### 4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

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

##### Summary on Project progress

Project has been providing an extensive supports to local stakeholders and beneficiaries towards achieving development objectives.

1. 12 working groups in the target aimag and soums to exercise integrated land management planning of aimag and land management plans incorporating environmental considerations such as CC, LD trends and biodiversity connectivity corridors and critical habitat sites of migratory species, wildlife passages along the roads, integrating calving and breeding sites of Mongolian gazelle to the rangeland management planning
2. Building better capacity through training, consultation meetings and mentoring exercises extended to national and local level stakeholders including the land planners;
3. Ensuring extensive stakeholder engagement throughout processes of aimag and soum land management plans/pastureland management plans as an integral part of annual soum land management, land use impact mapping of 27 protected areas across Eastern steppe
4. Methodology improvement and introduction new tools for development of aimag and soum land management, land use mapping in PA, METT and automatic camera biodiversity tracking; and
5. Piloting combined approach of remote sensing with physical photo monitoring on grazing impact by promoting applied and participatory monitoring, upgrading BIOSAN biodiversity monitoring data system into user friendly format;
6. Promoting environmental and biodiversity restorations through resting degraded pastureland, planting seedlings at riparian forest, operating tree nurseries, reintroducing marmot, scaling up of sustainable livestock farming practices as animal breeding, productivity improvement and livestock product value chain activities in promotion collective herders' actions for reduction of livestock number and biodiversity and environmental restoration
7. Application of climate smart and sustainable crop farming technologies in the Eastern steppe for improving soil health and farmers income to achieve national voluntary LDN target through Young farmers mentorship program on intercropping and commercial vegetable farming. The project operates closely with local authorities and communities facilitated by designated soum coordinators. This allows implementing stakeholder engagement plan and make local partners to take lead and participate in the project activities. In addition, project directly supports priorities of national and local

governments (such as the land management planning, rangeland management, ecosystem restoration, sustainable management of livestock, value chain development etc). The activities are closely coordinated with and build on existing schemes.

**Challenges:**

Most pressing challenges that we faced include mainly a) due to human resources related issues such as instability of project counterparts in all project intervened areas, low administrative and management capacities of soum governance office, reluctance of engaging in integrated land management planning due to sectoral ambition, lack of understanding and knowledge on benefits of integrated land management, absence of qualified human resources, quick and high burden of work overload etc b) data quality issues such as access to quantifiable consolidated data, data source reliability, data accuracy, old and obsolete date, non transparency of data, reluctance of sharing data between the organizations etc. 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.

The management effectiveness of Toson Khulstai has weakened even though the Baigali PAA was established to manage all NRs and LPAs in Dornod province. Due to unclear responsibilities of PAAs in Dornod aimag, the management and responsibilities of rangers are divided among PAAs and there is no common understanding.

**Outcomes of project implementation:**

However, to overcome challenges, project organized mentoring training on integrated land management planning for interpreting climate change , LDN and biodiversity related trends and study results into real actions in the plans. As a result, landscape based approach was applied for the first in Mongolia by using same methodology, data sources and planning of feasible actions to restore degraded land, implementing climate adaptation and mitigation measures such as pasture resting, retorsing, tree planting, riparian forest rectoration, wildlife and rural water supply significant ponds, climate smart agriculture practices based identified CC and LD trends using international recognized new tools. All above results made land management planning process as an innovative and integrated and replicated under other projects implemented by FAO/EU Stream project and UNDP ADAPT project.

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

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

	FY2023 Development Objective rating <sup>15</sup>	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating <sup>16</sup>	Comments/reasons <sup>17</sup> justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
<b>Project Manager / Coordinator</b>	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	<i>Ratings/Comments Significant and steady progresses made towards achieving development objectives against result framework indicators. Project disbursement is on track. Project ESMF and Stakeholder engagement plans are well implemented. All these justify the rating as "SATISFACTORY" which remains the same as previous reporting period.</i>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<i>Ratings/comments The project implementation is progressing as planned and the delivery is satisfactory.</i>
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point<sup>18</sup></b>	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	<i>The project overall objective is reversing land degradation and preventing from biodiversity losses in Eastern Steppe of Mongolia. This project identified specific objectives and targets for achieving global environmental benefits that conform to the overall objective of DSL IP. During reporting period, the project has been implemented various activities in order to achieve the project outcomes such as developing integrated land management plans of aimag and soums, introduction of sustainable livestock and pastureland management practices, value chain development implementing priority activities in the target Natural reserves under its existing or revised NR management plans, conducting capacity building trainings and knowledge sharing events for target areas communities and local government officials and other stakeholders etc. Generally, project activities are on track and within the budget as we planned. Therefore, project progress toward development objectives could be rated as "SATISFACTORY".</i>

<sup>15</sup> **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>16</sup> **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

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

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



<p><b>Lead Technical Officer<sup>19</sup></b></p>	<p><b>Satisfactory</b></p>	<p><b>Satisfactory</b></p>	<p><i>1. Ratings/comments</i>  <i>Development objective: SATISFACTORY.</i>  <i>Despite several of the challenges outlined above, project activities at all levels (national, aimag, soum, bagh) are progressing well. The project has built up close collaboration with government and local stakeholders to establish an initial evidence base (e.g., such as via relevant project and government monitoring and evaluation systems) on project impacts; continued to ensure adaptive project management and responses, and; ensured that all the project activities and interventions implemented will contribute to achieve the overall project objective of reducing land degradation in Mongolia.</i></p> <p><i>Project ownership, its theory of change, assumptions and sustainability and exit strategy should continue to be reviewed to ensure ongoing relevance.</i></p> <p><i>Implementation progress: SATISFACTORY</i>  <i>The project is progressing well. There is a recognized challenge with shifts in government personnel. Government and other stakeholders demonstrate 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 of new cross sectoral planning and land management modalities, and within the co-financing and support government and stakeholders provide to each project activity in the E Steppes. While not directly within the project’s control, achieving clear commitments with key agencies and staff and on their longer-term planning needs and, building up data input quality should remain in sight.</i></p>
<p><b>GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex-Technical FLO)</b></p>	<p><b>Satisfactory</b></p>	<p><b>Satisfactory</b></p>	<p><i>The project team together with the national and local government worked with communities and other stakeholders to make continuous implementation progress during the reporting period. The MTR (the first child project to undergo MTR) is being finalized and the findings will inform the future activities (where to strengthen) as well as the sustainability plan development. During the upcoming annual joint supervision mission, FAO and WWF teams plan to visit project sites that are facing challenges to help remove bottlenecks as well as high-performing sites. Though the project areas are distant, the GEF-7 project's good practices and lessons learned could inform the GEF-8 project (PIF) which is being finalized.</i></p>

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

## 5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

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

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

### Implementation arrangement:

The PMU implemented ESMF with the technical support by the [ESS consultant team](#).

- All project activities in AWP 2023 screened against the ESMF and provided guidance to PMU team.
- PMU team started practicing mandatory screening in the table added to the TOR template.
- ESS related clauses have been added to all types of contract templates and TORs. Contracting parties are also informed about this.
- WWF-Mongolia Child safeguard policy was well enforced for eco club activities.
- Procedure for Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) was updated based on the ESMF and FAO and WWF-Mongolia GRM. GRM related information and contact details to receive complaints were put at all soum information boards, FAO, WWF-Mongolia websites, project newsletters.
- ESS team provided training, review on AWPB and conducted external field evaluation on implementation of ESMF for improvement of ESS measures.

### Capacity building training for PMU staffs

The following 4 trainings were organized in December 2022 – January 2023 and coordinated by Agnes Agama, Regional Head, E&S Safeguards, Asia, WWF International and Human rights consulting firm and all PMU staff attended. During the training, after a basic introduction provided by training coordinator, group discussions were organized on case studies based on the identified risks on ESS screening. Training topics include:

- **Human rights** (*Basic principles of human right, human rights policy and legal documents of the United Nations and Mongolia*)
- **Substantive Standards** (*WWF ESSF overview, Substantive Standards and Cross-cutting Issues*)
- **Stakeholder engagement** (*Stakeholder analysis, Influence-Impact Matrix, and Planning for engagement*)
- **Mitigation planning** (*Safeguards process, E&S Risk Analysis & Consolidation and Mitigation planning*)

Specific ES risk reduction 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>				
Land Management Planning Inadequate/ uncoordinated planning could lead to more problems to degradation of	- Build better capacity to the local working groups to function as per approved working procedure.	- Organized 3 repeated capacity building trainings on GRM, Gender sensitive LMP and project ESMF for	Keep supporting the implementation of approved land management plans	Land management specialist, PMU

<p>natural resources and local community livelihoods in project areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure full participation and leadership of local stakeholder during the land management planning process.</li> <li>- Establish efficient and permanent information sharing and feedback receiving channels for locals to participate in the land planning process.</li> <li>- Provide access to the local community for reviewing and commenting on the draft land management plans.</li> <li>- Provide capacity building activities for land planners companies and train these companies prior to the planning process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensured draft land management plans introduced to the local communities for feedback.</li> <li>- Informed about public feedback online QR system of ALAMGAC and provided instruction on accessing to the information to the locals.</li> </ul>	<p>through Aimag and soum Working groups by the involvement of local communities and land users</p>	
<p><b>Farming activities</b> Fertile topsoil and water resources depletion could be caused by unmanaged and unregulated farming activities;</p>	<p>The project will support climate smart and sustainable farming practices and support application of environmentally friendly farming practices do not implement activities in farmland in the water protection zones;</p>	<p>Seed and soil samples were tested for pesticide residue by the laboratory – no residue was found. Crop companies were provided with portable soil sampling tool.</p>	<p>Continue monitoring pesticide use at the cropland</p>	<p>Agricultural specialist, PMU</p>
<p><b>Risk Funds (Pasture Management Funds)</b> The project might unintentionally finance environmentally unsustainable practices that might result environmental degradation and social conflicts.</p>	<p>No activities shall be financed that would have a negative environmental impact.</p>	<p>Used ESS risk related criteria for selection of Small grants. Specific potential risk mitigation measures were recommended, and clauses aimed at preventing and reducing ES risks are included in the contract with 5 selected project beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Capacity building training will conduct for selected person. Regular monitoring will be conducted.</p>	<p>PMU</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Forest Management</b> Failure of reduce herding in forest area could undermine other intervention results</p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organized awareness raising and demonstration activities</li> </ul> <p>At the fenced riparian pasture and forest.</p>	<p>Implement recommendation and strategic plans prepared by international forest expert</p>	<p>PMU Aimag Environment and Tourism department</p>

			on restoration and sustainable management.	
<b>FAO ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats / WWF Policy on Protection of Natural Habitats</b>				
<b>Strengthening PA Administration Infrastructure</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 developed and included TOR template.	Continue tracking and monitoring	PMU
<b>Strengthening PA Administration Infrastructure</b> Potential risk for the fencing of crop fields to restrict the free movement of the Mongolian gazelle		The wildlife friendly fencing (with only single line barbed wire on the top) design was introduced and applied in the cropland and natural spring protection.		
<b>FAO ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
<b>Sustainable Forest Management</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 locally available with plant quarantine certificate and reviewed by Plant specialist at FAO RAP.	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	In cooperation with local authorities, the project shall promote control the permitted types and amount of pesticide use by the project supported crop companies. PMU shall have through monitoring system for seeds.	An assessment conducted by the Aimag Agriculture department on the optimal use of pesticides/herbicides project supported crop farmland in Ulz River watershed. Soil and seed samples were analysed and	Cropland companies shall use standardized pesticide types with legally permitted amount and areas. The project will provide support to monitoring of pesticides by the	PMU

<p>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.</p>		<p>result shows that there is no pesticide trace in the samples.</p> <p>Potential use of rodenticide associated with the vegetable growing activities are monitored by project agriculture specialist. Use of biological substances or simple farming methods in case of its occurrence is well introduced to local farmers. Biological fertilizers such as</p>	<p>respective local authorities.</p>	
<p><b>FAO ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement / WWF Policy on Involuntary Resettlement</b></p>				
<p><b>Access Restrictions / Economic Displacement</b> 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 rangeland and/or other natural resource sustainability parameters.</p>	<p>The project does not finance any activities that would lead to physical displacement and voluntary or involuntary relocation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This has been applied in the project activities by organizing participatory consultations, e.g., for the fencing of Ulz River water generating area as well as the development of rangeland management plans.</p>	<p>Project provided awareness raising and capacity building activities to rest pastures. Community members discuss among themselves to rest degraded pastures.</p> <p>For fencing the spring in Bayantsagaan and riparian forest, local community members were consulted and got written approval from the community members.</p>	<p>PMU team shall make sure to consult with the community members prior to the restriction of any access.</p> <p>ESS Consultant team to screen AWP, provide recommendation and independent assessment for improvement.</p>	<p>PMU, FAO and WWF</p>

<b>FAO ESS 7: Decent Work / WWF Standard on Community Health, Safety and Security</b>				
<b>Sustainable Forest Management</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 all project supplied equipment on vegetable farming, dairy processing and steppe fire prevention. Beneficiaries also reminded to follow safety instructions on the use of equipment and small machinery.	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)	Gender disaggregated data is collected and documented. Training on gender sensitive land management planning was organized to stakeholders.	Continue monitoring and document gender sensitive project activities.	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 an effort avoid targeting specific ethnic groups.	As a precautionary approach, the project therefore considers that indigenous peoples are present in the project site.	PMU
<b>New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY</b>				
	-			

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

<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>20</sup> . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
<b>High risk by FAO</b>	Remains “high” risk where project is working in/adjacent to protected areas, and potential impacts resulting from access restrictions on Indigenous Peoples/local communities; the project continues to ensure regular oversight of these issues in implementation and monitoring of the environmental and social safeguards measures as outlined in the 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>
No grievances received during the reporting period. Rather project compliance and grievance procedures were updated and informed through all means of communication channels to the local communities such as soum public FB groups, public information board at the soum center, by soum project coordinators, at the bagh community meetings and project released newsletters. In connection with FAO ESS policy official launch, project will follow the requirement.

<sup>20</sup> **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit ([Esm-unit@fao.org](mailto:Esm-unit@fao.org)) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf> )

## 6. Risks

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

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
<i>Risks identified in ProDoc</i>						
1	Local government might not allocate sufficient funding for implementation of integrated land management plans.	Low	Y	This risk is avoidable. The project will continue supporting the implementation of actions reflected in the land management plans on co-financing basis.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	
2	Failure to incorporate land degradation and biodiversity considerations into land management plans due to conflicting interests at the local level.	Moderate	Y	Working groups of aimag and soum well functioned with active involvement of key members representing environmental protection, conservation, water and agriculture. Broad consultations are being held from bagh to national level 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.	
3	Livestock numbers increase despite project interventions. Goat numbers increase due to enhanced value chains for cashmere.	Moderate-high	Y	All livestock related activities such as participatory rangeland management, animal breeding, lamb feeding, fodder production is well integrated and linked with value chain interventions to incentivize a reduction in stocking density..	Continue to monitor.	

<sup>21</sup> Risk ratings means a rating of accesses the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.



	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
4	Insufficient local market capacities to absorb domestically produced goods from improved value chains.	Moderate-high	Y	To address this risk, the project supporting viable partnership building between herders and processors/exporters through value chain development interventions.	Continue to monitor.	
5	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	Any unintended consequences and potential shifts to areas outside the project soums is monitored.	Continue to monitor.	
7	Extreme weather events (such as dzud or drought) negatively affect the project interventions.	Moderate	Y	Extraordinary hailstorm caused the loss of harvest by the beneficiary crop farmers in Bayan-Adraga in August 2022. Cold windy spring in 2023 caused loss of nurseries and required the reseed. Extreme weather events of strong wind and snowstorm as well steppe fire occurred in spring of 2023 might cause negative affect	Continue to monitor.	
8	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>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
<i>New risks identified to the project</i>						
1	Lack of funding and human resource to implement Natural reserve management	Moderate	N	To closely cooperate with aimag and soum authorities providing technical support in improving local capacity to implement NR management as per legislation	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	
2	Inflation and depreciation of MNT will have financial implication on project budgeting.	Substantial	N	To reallocate budget between categories with deficit	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	
3	Extraordinary weather shocks such as snowstorm, drought, steppe and forest fire affecting to the livelihoods of local herders which might lead to overuse of natural resources	Substantial	N	Improve interventions to introduce practices to adapting or mitigating impacts	Continue to monitor.	
4	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.	
5	Ban imposed on meat export from Mongolia due to FMD adversely impacting on reduction of livestock number through lamb feeding practices	Substantial	N	Will continue to be monitored and adaptive measures taken if needed.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
6	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 MET, MOFALI, ALAMGaC, Aimag and soum Governors to make effort for creating favourable working environment and conditions	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	
	Call for expression of interest for exploration licence in Eastern Mongolia within Mongolian gazelle connectivity areas and project target NRs announced publicly by Government agency.	Substantial	N	Seek alternative solutions to achieve target indicators on sustainably managed NRs by promoting community-based LPA management model.	No additional action required. Continue to monitor.	

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

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Moderate	Moderate	No change in risk rating. The project is making progress in accordance with the Annual work plan and budget FY 2022 and FY2023.

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

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

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

### 8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines<sup>22</sup>. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework	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 minor project amendment (define)			

<sup>22</sup> Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

### 9. Stakeholders' Engagement

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

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
<b>Government institutions</b>			
Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Lead Executing Agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold regular meetings for briefing project progress to Vice Minister as Chair of PSC, NPD, other officials from Climate change policy planning department, Green development department, Forest agency etc</li> <li>Participation in the workshops, discussions on consultancy report, feedback, PSC meetings;</li> <li>Guidance on sustainable management of PAs and natural resources and responsible for law enforcement in the Protected areas.</li> </ul>	None
Ministry of Food and Agriculture	Playing a co-leading role in implementing Component 2 (sustainable cropland and rangeland management and value chains).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities are well discussed with and supported by MOFALI through policy support in VC, crop and livestock and supply of seeds at a concessional price.</li> <li>Discussions for productive collaboration in the field of rangeland management related legislation, agroforestry, vegetable and crop production, animal health, breeding, livestock traceability system development through pilot activities in the project target soums, Value chain related activities are taking place.</li> <li>Participation in workshops, discussions, policy consultations, PSC meetings, integrated land management planning process, joint organization of climate smart agriculture practices;</li> </ul>	None
Ministry of Economy and Development	Support developing and implementation of aimag and soum land management activities within regional economic development target program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close coordination and collaboration maintained with Department of Regional and industrial development planning on integrating eastern regional economic development targets into the three aimag land management plans and assure its implementation afterwards.</li> <li>Co-organized meeting and training for land management planning process in</li> </ul>	None

		consideration of economic development perspectives	
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 maintained between the project team and the respective Department to plan and implement project activities in consideration of overall sustainability and ownership as well co-financing for maximizing impact and sustaining project result.	None
Information and Research Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (IRIMHE)	IRIMHE will play a role in the implementation of Output 1.1.4 on grazing impact monitoring.	Coordinate activities for conducting annual grazing impact photo monitoring and provide technical support in improving local staff capacity.	None
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> </ul> Collaborated for tree nursery and fruit and berry seedling assessment	
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 maintained with all key Department to jointly plan, implement and co-financing of respective activities in consideration of overall sustainability and ownership.</li> <li>• Participation in workshops, discussions on LoA results, PSC meetings;</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
Local gender committees	Involved in the implementation of local-	Local gender committees of 3 aimags were consulted and the project organized capacity building training for them.	None

	level activities, related to the Gender Action Plan.		
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 authorities and officials take a lead in implementation of activities and regularly informed and consulted. 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, leading annual land management and conducting photo monitoring, involved in the soum territorial development planning processes. The project provided necessary equipment to land managers too.	Frequent turnover of land officials causing risk
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)	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	Involved in the implementation of Component 3, for capacity building and	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



	implementation of management plans.		a 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.	PAAs involved in the biodiversity monitoring, supported to develop management plans, land use mapping in NRs, participated in the capacity building training, experience sharing meetings, provided with fire-fighting equipment, etc.	None
<b>Community based Organizations (CBOs)</b>			
National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives (NAMAC)	Lead and support agriculture cooperative development and governance	Conducted training and technical consultancy support in strengthening agriculture cooperatives in the target area under LoA.	None
<b>Non-Government organizations (NGOs)</b>			
WWF Mongolia	Executing partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational support for procurement, finance, HR, planning, reporting, M&amp;E, ESS risk mitigation, communication</li> <li>Ground level coordination for management of Khar Yamaat NR and forest related activities.</li> <li>NR management, biodiversity monitoring, data access, updating of tools and methodologies,</li> <li>Water conservation and protection.</li> <li>Member of PSC and Task Force</li> </ul>	None
Sustainable Fiber Alliance	Key partner leading and supporting the activities for complying sustainable cashmere standard and Code of Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered training and technical support for certified sustainable cashmere production and marketing under LoA with FAO.</li> </ul>	None
Mongolian Bird Conservation Center (MBCC)	Will be consulted and informed during project implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducting bird surveys as justification for implementing conservation activities and providing a quality data.</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.	Consulted and coordinated activities on rangeland management and value chain.	None
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	closely involved in activities related to Toson Khulstai NR.	Consulted and coordinated activities on NR management and capacity building, for rangers eco business promotion	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.	- 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	- They were actively involved in project activities such as sustainable pasture management, biodiversity conservation, value chain and development of land management planning.	None
Women's group, women's cooperatives	Beneficiaries of project interventions and key organizations for the implementation of Outcome 2.3	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>			
Agriculture, Vegetable and Savings and Credit Cooperatives	Beneficiaries of project interventions and key organizations for the implementation of Outcome 2.3	Cooperatives in 9 soums involved various project activities for sustainable produced wool, cashmere, meat, milk and application of climate smart practices in vegetable, crop fodder production through capacity building, supply of inputs and technical supervision and consultancy.	None
Mon Pellet LLC	Partner in sheep Wool value chain	Productive partnership built between the company and the agricultural cooperatives to supply sheep wool for organic fertiliser production and export and jointly organized wool market day and electric wool shearing demo training, trial of organic wool fertilizer in vegetable farming and tree nursery.	None
Dariganga Khuns LLC	Partner in meat value chain	Involved in training and meetings	None
Mankhat Bayan-Uul LLC	Partner in peri-urban milk processing and production and rural dairy value chain development	Co-financing dairy related activities Preliminary discussion was held to sell and market milk produced by dairy farmers in the two project soums on sustainable manner	None
Gurvan Khujirt LLC	Partner in small ruminant breeding	Created nuclear flock and ready to lease superior rams and bucks to herders in three	None None

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Delger Bayan Erdene LLC		target soums in 2023 under contractual arrangement.	
Bayasgalant Sureg LLC			
Mankhat Gol Nukhurlul			
Bayantsogt Sureg LLC	Partner in small ruminants breeding unit	The company has provided breeding sires in Tumentsogt soum and had triple-contract with soum Governor and Head of Aimag Food and Agriculture Department in 2022. Supported 65 lamb rams and 50 buckling for superior sires, and portable fences, scale and ear tag pliers for selection of breeding ewes and does in 2022.	
Uilsiin Khargui Cooperative	Partner in small ruminants breeding unit	Established in 2022 and received 50 buckling for breeding in Khulunbuir soum. The cooperative bought to strenthen its breeding service 300 ewes with lambs of Bagra breed in 2023.	
<b><i><sup>iv</sup>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	- Developed Khentii aimag and approved 3 soum`s land management planning	Challenge: Aimag Representative Citizen`s Khural is expecting

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“Gazar Delkhii” land management professional entity	Engaged in the land management planning related activities	- Developed and approved Sukhbaatar aimag land management plan	None
“Geobotanic” and “APPT” land management professional entities partnership	Engaged in the land management planning related activities	- Developed Dornod aimag and 3 soum`s land management planning	Challenge: Dornod aimag and 3 soums` Representative Citizen`s Khural is expecting
“Land owner” land management professional entities partnership	Engaged in the land management planning related activities	- Developed Munkhkhaan, Sukhbaatar and Tumentsogt soum`s land management planning	Challenge: 3 soums` Representative Citizen`s Khural is expecting
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

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>		
Category	Yes/ No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.		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?		During the reporting period, the project achieved most of the annual targets of the GAP. Project staff gives priority to ensuring equal participation of men and women as well as different social groups in all project activities. Project is promoting man's involvement in the vegetable farming activities. <a href="#">GAP implementation</a> in the reporting period has been satisfactory as solid foundations have been laid to ensure gender equality and mainstream gender in any project activities.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	N/A	
improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	A total of 5921 women (49% of total) were engaged in the discussion of land management planning and 3519 women (49% of total) participated in the training and workshop on beekeeping, greenhouse, vegetable farming and so on.
generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	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	All staffs received training on gender sensitive, gender responsive approach.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	Training on gender sensitive land management planning, gender-sensitive inputs supply to vulnerable and women led cooperative, supported engagement of women in electric wool shearing training to obtain certificate. <a href="#">A female ranger</a> supported and trained by project recognized as 'Ranger of the Year 2022' by Minister of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia. Short video content on women leader of vegetable cooperative and women bee farmer prepared and posted on the official FB page of WWF and FAO to promote women led activities.

**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 gather good practices related to project activities and disseminate it through social media, community meetings and TV channels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participatory integrated land management planning</li> <li>- Protection of springs in consideration of ESS</li> <li>- Environmentally friendly, climate smart agriculture</li> </ul>
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges <b>this year</b> .	Yes, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 12 major knowledge products, 99 social media posts, 22 news and programs on local and national TV, 17450 copies of promotional materials of 18 different types for sustainable rangeland management and landscapes and biodiversity conservation critical ecosystems and project visibility materials were developed and disseminated to more than 1 million people by social media channels run by <a href="#">FAO</a>, <a href="#">WWF Mongolia</a> and <a href="#">Responsible nomad facebook</a> group on national and local TV.</li> </ul>
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.	<a href="#">Human interest story</a>
Please provide links to related website, 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.	<a href="#">Communication activities</a>
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 N/A**

**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 and trainings conducted in all soums and baghs, where ethnic people live in are (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.

**13. Co-Financing Table**

Sources of Co-financing <sup>23</sup>	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing <sup>24</sup>	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval (1 USD= 2,840 MNT)	Actual Amount Materialized on 30 June 2023 (1 USD= 3,540 MNT)	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	\$ 3,593,797		
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	\$ 10,294,209		
Recipient Country Government	Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography (ALAMGAC)	In-kind	\$3,000,000	\$ 3,188,031		
Recipient Country Government	Sukhbaatar aimag Governor`s office and Tumentsogt, Sukhbaatar, Munkhkhaan soum Governors` office	In-kind	\$5,000,000	\$92,637		
Recipient Country Government	Khentii aimag Governor`s office and Bayan-Adraga, Bayan-Ovoo, Norovlin soum Governors` office	In-kind	\$5,000,000	\$100,932		

<sup>23</sup>Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

<sup>24</sup>Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF\\_FI\\_GN\\_01\\_Cofinancing\\_Guidelines\\_2018.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf))



Recipient Country Government	Dornod aimag Governor`s office and Bulgan, Matad, Khulunbair soum Governors` office	In-kind	\$5,000,000	\$95,946		
UNDP/GCF	ADAPT project	In-kind		\$2,217,538		
UN-FAO/EU	STREAM project	In-kind		\$472,905		
Civil Society Organization	WWF Mongolia	In-kind	\$1,300,000	\$355,000		
Civil Society Organization	TNC Mongolia (for Toson Khulstai Nature Reserve)	In-kind	\$300,000	\$30,000		
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 (Ilder Onon LLC)	Grant	\$500,000	\$162,800		
Private Sector	Crop production company (Munkhiin Duurlig LLC)	Grant	\$500,000	\$162,800		
Private Sector	Others include vegetable farmers and herders	Cash		\$114,908		
NGO	Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA)	Grant	\$5,400,000			
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$50,945,000</b>	<b>\$20,881,503</b>		

**Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions**

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

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

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

<b>Moderate Risk (M)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>26%</b> and <b>50%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
<b>Low Risk (L)</b>	There is a probability of up to <b>25%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks

## Annex 2.

## GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
<a href="#">Norovlin soum of Khentii aimag</a>	N 48° 41' 5"	E 111° 59' 40"	<a href="#">Norovlin</a>	
<a href="#">Bayan-Ovoo of Khentii aimag</a>	N 47° 46' 34"	E 112° 6' 56'	<a href="#">Bayan-Ovoo</a>	
<a href="#">Bayan-Adraga soum of Khentii aimag</a>	N 48° 33' 0"	E 111° 5' 0"	<a href="#">Bayan</a>	
<a href="#">Munkhkhaan soum of Sukhbaatar aimag</a>	N 46° 58' 21"	E 112° 2' 59"	<a href="#">Mönhhaan</a>	
<a href="#">Sukhbaatar soum of Sukhbaatar aimag</a>	N 46° 53' 45"	E 113° 25' 0"	<a href="#">Sühbaatar</a>	
<a href="#">Tumentsogt soum of Sukhbaatar aimag</a>	N 47° 36' 29"	E 112° 7' 56"	<a href="#">Tümentsogt</a>	
<a href="#">Matad soum of Dornod aimag</a>	N 47° 8' 42"	E 115° 31' 59"	<a href="#">Matad</a>	
<a href="#">Bulgan soum of Dornod aimag</a>	N 47° 59' 40"	E 113° 56' 0"	<a href="#">Bulgan</a>	
<a href="#">Khulunbuir soum of Dornod aimag</a>	N 47° 54' 30"	E 112° 57' 1"	<a href="#">Hölonbuyr</a>	

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

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

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

<sup>iv</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.