

UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2023

Reporting from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1. Project details

Identification Table	GEF ID.: 9744	Umoja WBS: SB-009799
	SMA IPMR ID: 36856	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000622
	Project Short Title: <i>Environmental Information System for Iraq</i>	
Project Title	<i>9744: Establishing a Functional Environmental Information System for the Synergistic Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) for Iraq</i>	
Duration months	<i>Planned</i>	<i>36 months</i>
	<i>Age</i>	<i>57 months</i>
Project Type	<i>Medium Size Project</i>	
Parent Programme if child project	<i>N/A</i>	
Project Scope	<i>National</i>	
Region	<i>West Asia</i>	
Countries	<i>Republic of Iraq</i>	
GEF Focal Area(s)	<i>Multi Focal Areas (MFAS)</i>	
GEF financing amount	<i>USD 1,135,000</i>	
Co-financing amount	<i>USD 610,000</i>	
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval	<i>23 March 2018</i>	
UNEP Project Approval Date (on Decision Sheet)	<i>23 March 2018</i>	
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force)	<i>15 October 2018</i>	
Date of Inception Workshop, if available	<i>15-18 October 2018</i>	
Date of First Disbursement	<i>21 June 2018</i>	
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2023	<i>925,951 USD</i>	
Total commitments as of 30 June 2023	<i>252,723.81 USD</i>	
Actual Expenditure as of 30 June 2023	<i>473,137 USD</i>	
Midterm undertaken?	<i>No</i>	
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken	<i>-</i>	
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken	<i>30 November 2023</i>	
Completion Date	<i>Planned – original PCA</i>	<i>30 May 2022</i>
	<i>Revised – Current PCA</i>	<i>30 December 2023</i>
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	<i>30 June 2024</i>	
Expected Financial Closure Date	<i>30 December 2024</i>	

1.2. Project description

Establishing a functional environmental information system to enhance the capacities of Iraq for monitoring and reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements through a well-integrated and functional environment information system. This project is funded by GEF and executed by UNEP and the Iraqi Ministry of Health and Environment (MOHE) in partnership with the Iraqi Ministry of Planning (MOP) / Central Statistics Organization (CSO).

- **Component 1:** Development of a coordinated environmental knowledge and information management system.
 1. The creation of a streamlined and integrated data and information system at the national level that takes into consideration the decentralized governance system in Iraq for use in decision-making, planning, and reporting.
 2. Improved regular environmental monitoring by directorates of environment in the governorates and other relevant agencies to integrate MEAs and relevant SDGs into the data collection and reporting procedures and system.

- **Component 2:** Enhancement of institutional coordination and technical capacities to mainstream, develop, and utilize policies for the effective implementation of MEAs and relevant SDGs.
 1. Regulatory and collaborative institutional set-up for sustainable and transparent sharing of environmental information.
 2. Enhanced capacities to develop and implement results-based and impact-oriented policies, plans and programme integrating MEAs and related SDGs.

1.3. Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	<i>Early Warning and Assessment Division</i>
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency(ies)	<i>Ministry of Environment of Iraq, supported by UNEP West Asia Office</i>
Names of Other Project Partners	The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) Iraq
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	<i>Jochem Zoetelief</i>
UNEP Task Manager(s)	<i>Jochem Zoetelief</i>
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	<i>Florence Kahiro</i>
UNEP Support/Assistants	<i>Ayda Villalobos-Castro</i>
EA Manager/Representative	<i>Miraq Al-Jubouri</i>
EA Project Manager	<i>Miraq Al-Jubouri</i>
EA Finance Manager	<i>Florence Kahiro</i>
EA Communications Lead, if relevant	<i>Hoda El-Turk</i>

2. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

2.1 UNEP PoW and UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s)	<i>Foundational Science-Policy Subprogramme</i>
PoW Indicator(s)	<i>SP (i): Number of countries and national, regional, and subnational authorities that, as a result of UNEP support, have</i>

	<p><i>strengthened capacity to develop sound environmental data, statistics, scientific assessments and early warning systems.</i></p> <p><i>SP (ii): Number of relevant global, regional, and national forums, institutions and Governments using data, statistics, scientific assessments and early warning and foresight systems provided by UNEP for catalysing policymaking and action.</i></p>
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s)	<p>The project began implementation during UNEPs 2018-2019 PoW under Sub Programme 7 (Environment Under Review) and also remains compliant with UNEPs 2022–2025 medium term strategy for tackling climate change, loss of nature and pollution.</p> <p>Under current UNEP PoW, the cross-cutting nature of this GEF capacity building project also remains aligned with UNEPs 2022-2023 PoW integrated results frameworks designed to ensure countries apply sound science to inform policies, as a foundation for delivering climate stability, living in harmony with nature and a pollution-free planet.</p>
UNSDCF / UNDAF linkages	The project responds to strategic priority 4 (promoting natural resource and disaster risk management, and climate change resilience) of the draft 2020-2024 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCF) for Iraq
Link to relevant SDG Goal(s)	<p><i>Although this GEF CCCD project has been designed to create enabling environment and enhance the implementation, monitoring and reporting of all SDGs with an environmental dimension, majority of the project interventions primarily contribute to the following SDGs, targets, and indicators:</i></p> <p><i>SDG 13 (13.2, 13.3); SDG 16 (16.10); and SDG 17 (17.14; 17.16, 17.18)</i></p>
Link to relevant SDG Target(s)	SDG 13 (13.2, 13.3); SDG 16 (16.10); and SDG 17 (17.14; 17.16, 17.18)

2.2. GEF Core Indicators:

Indicators	Targets – Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total target	
<p>GEF6: Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks)</p>	<p><i>Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least (1) country</i></p>	<p><i>(a) Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least (1) country = implementation ongoing in the Republic of Iraq</i></p> <p><i>(b) Functional environmental information systems are established to</i></p>	<p><i>Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least (1) country</i></p>	<p><u>Replenishment Targets:</u> a) <i>Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least (1) country,</i></p> <p><i>Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least (1) country.</i></p> <p><u>GEF6 Replenishment Targets Results:</u></p>

		<i>support decision-making in at least (1) country</i>		<p><i>(a) Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least (1) country = implementation is ongoing in the Republic of Iraq</i></p> <p><i>(b) Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least (1) country = system is implemented in the Republic of Iraq; final testing and revision are ongoing</i></p>
<p>GEF7: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</p> <p>11. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</p>	100	350	350	<p><i>Beneficiaries are increasing as the system is progressively being used by ministries users.</i></p>

2022 PIR Update	
How many direct beneficiaries have been reached ever since the project started?	
Males	100
Females	100
Total	200
<u>2022 Update</u>	
<p>The number of beneficiaries remains the same for the past reporting period due to the system not being launched yet. Once the system is launched and accessible to all the beneficiaries, the number of beneficiaries will increase significantly.</p>	
2023 PIR Update	
How many direct beneficiaries have been reached ever since the project started?	
Males	110
Females	110
Total	220
<u>2023 Update</u>	

Beneficiaries have slightly increased since the “2022 Update”. However, the number of beneficiaries will significantly rise once the system is live. All workshops that have been delivered since last reporting constitute of an average of more than 50% of females’ presence, female (43) and male (42).

2.3. Implementation Status and Risk

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
PIR #	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Rating towards outcomes (DO) (section 3.1)	S	S	S	MS
Rating towards outputs (IP) (section 3.2)	MS	MS	S	MS
Risk rating (section 4.2)	L	L	L	L

2022 Update

The project implementation continues to be affected by many factors, including lengthy governmental processes and lack of capacities. However, under activities 1.3.1, and 1.3.2, the conceptual design was completed as well as the system mockup. Also, the alpha version of the system will be delivered in July 2022. Under activity 2.1.1, the final mapping of indicators to SDG was completed within the indicator report. Currently, activities under 1.3 are continuing to be finalized for final delivery within 2022.

Activity 1.3.1 involves an analysis of existing infrastructure and systems, including GIS databases and links with global and regional platforms. This will include an analysis of the potential usability of IRIS as a tool for reporting using the data/information from the new system, an analysis of potential user groups and requirements, and an analysis of legal requirements and relevant intellectual property regulations and access/security protocols for the EIS.

Activity 1.3.2 involves the development of a conceptual design of the EIS (*servers, databases and applications, workstations and network*) and the *Iraq Environment Information Portal (EIP)*, by incorporating state of the art technologies and tools for data capturing, processing, analysis and presentation. The system shall be available in Arabic and English and shall have adequate security and access protocols (with different levels of access).

While under **output 2.1** (definition, update and improvement of nationally appropriate environmental indicators, baseline data and targets based on MEAs, SDGs and other sources for use in different reporting and assessment processes), activity 2.1.1 (analyze environmental indicators) is ongoing. This activity will involve the identification of measures to harmonize, update and improve environmental indicators, baseline data, and targets in line with the requirements of the MEAs and SDGs (including gender-disaggregated indicators where relevant).

Challenges

The project implementation has faced a few challenges during the past reporting period. Those challenges are as followed:

1. Gaps in the data needed to complete the alpha version of the system, especially the GIS shapefiles, which effected the delivery of the alpha version.

2. The activation of the domain and Cloudflare was delayed due to the processes of the Communication and Media Commission. This was required to host the system since the decision was taken to use cloud services to host the system.

During this reporting period, the project team was able to overcome some of the challenges that have been faced in the implementation before. The below items were accomplished:

- (i) [The indicator report](#) was finalized and completed to include detailed information for the approved indicators to be used for system development.
- (ii) In order to efficiently complete the logistics of procurement of equipment, onboarding of national partner and logistics of workshops, UN-to-UN agreement was signed with UNDP to support these activities.
- (iii) The international partner completed and presented the System Mockup, which is the design of the system, including the logos, pages, and functionalities. The mockup was validated by the project management and team.
- (iv) Due to the financial sanctions and difficulties of transferring funds to Iraq, the amount of funds as per the amended PCA with the ministry was not successful, which caused delays in the project implementation. Therefore, UNEP has sent a letter to the MOE notifying them of the cancelation of the PCA while keeping the same technical activities as per the work plan to be delivered through UNEP.
- (v) To further work on the data analysis and to provide a Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Responses (DPSIR) analysis of the indicator data, a national consultant was onboarded. The main role of the consultant is to work on data gathering, DPSIR analysis of the indicators and the development of an indicator based SOER.
- (vi) As part of the above item, the draft DPSIR analysis report was developed and currently finalizing the report for final revision.
- (vii) [Capacity building plan](#) and [schedule](#) were completed for the project and training sessions and workshops are planned for the second half of 2022.
- (viii) Alpha version of the system was completed and currently going through review and feedback

2023 Update

Despite encountering delays caused by various factors, such as the onboarding process and dependencies on third parties, the project has made significant progress since the last update. The project team successfully accomplished tasks pertaining to system development, enhancement, and capacity building including two main capacity building workshops (Activities 1.3.5 and 2.3.1 below) which were conducted to relevant ministries and user groups to ensure the proper use of the system and support in the decision-making mechanism, and ongoing testing and modifications of EIS web-portal which concluded in a Beta version of the system. Main activities that took place during the reporting period of June 2022-June2023:

Activity 1.3.5 Capacity building for user groups: Develop and implement capacity building programme for user groups (in-country). This included training of a) the IT Department on operating the systems, network and databases, and b) system users on inputting and accessing data (around 40 participants in total). Relevant guidance documents/training materials were made available online.

Activity 2.3.1 Prepare training on use of tools to handle complex data sets. Prepare training of key actors (including women) in the relevant ministries/agencies on the use and application of tools to handle complex data sets (e.g., GIS tools, remote sensing tools, data visualization tools, database outline and management, statistics software) in order to enable them to inform decisions related to environmental actions and policies. The training was incorporated into regular training programmes of the MoHE & materials will be made available online on the EIS.

Activity 1.3.3 Implement systems and portal: Implement the systems, including provision of hardware, software and network, and develop web-based portal.

Activity 1.3.4 Regular review and improvement of the systems and portal based on user feedback.

Challenges

Anticipated challenges in the project include onboarding process due a shortage of competent applications received which resulted in reposting the job for more than two times, as well as the frequent schedule changes resulting from a significant re-organization and restructuring recently carried out at the MoE. Notably, the ministry went through a separation of Ministry of Health from the Ministry of Environment, a new minister has been appointed after this position being vacant for a very long period, the organization restructuring causing managerial level positions to be replaced and roles changing frequently, all of which have impacted the scheduling of delivery of the project activities. These challenges have the potential to impact equipment procurement, the onboarding of a local partner, and slight delay in completing some tasks, inquiries, and training.

- Onboarding of a local partner in Iraq to work on specific activities, such as training relevant ministries personnel and trainers, installation of equipment, and provide support and maintenance was planned during earlier project phases. Local partner hasn't been onboarded yet due to shortage of applied companies and non-competent applications received despite posting the requisition for three times. Currently the onboarding of the local partner is in the process of evaluation and it is expected to be completed in August 2023.
- Procurement of the IT equipment to Minister of Environment is another challenge that is being faced. Due to the global inflation and the changes in the prices, the estimated cost of the equipment has increased and caused delays in the supply of these items. The equipment are expected to be delivered by Q3-2023.

To address these challenges, UNEP is actively engaging in proactive and continuous communication with all concerned stakeholders. By focusing on effective communication and collaboration, UNEP is confident to overcome these challenges and successfully carry out all related activities as planned.

Achievements

1. [Beta version](#) of the system was developed by the international partner, CIMA Foundation,
2. [A capacity building workshop](#) took place in September in Beirut Lebanon. The workshop hosted 25 members of the project working group in Iraq, including members from the Ministries of Planning and Environment. The workshop consisted of two classes: "Data Analysis and Validation" and "GIS and Satellite Images".
3. Conducted [capacity building workshop for user groups](#) to train MoE team on using and maintaining the system; the workshop hosted 40 members.
4. Conducted [capacity building training](#) on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and State of the Environment Report (SoER).
5. [System revision](#) conducted by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) IT team.
6. Finalizing the development of data management Standard Operating Procedure.
7. Initiated the project closure process: wrapping up deliverables, ensuring the successful completion of all activities, and lastly preparing for official handover.

[section will be uploaded into the GEF Portal]

2.4. Co-financing

<p>Planned Co-finance Total: <i>(total only) 460,000.00 USD</i></p> <p>Actual to date: 460,000 USD</p>	<p>The ministry of Environment had reported in-kind contribution of 460,000.00 USD out of the total budget 460,000 USD (75%)</p>
<p>Progress</p>	<p><u>2022 Update</u> The Ministry has co-financed the project by contributing a percentage of the employees' time, preparing meetings and conferences, and contributing the use of expandable equipment and the use of non-expandable equipment. The rate of actual expenditure has been appropriate for this stage of the project given the challenges that the project had faced due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and other administrative challenges at the ministry's level.</p> <p><u>2023 Update</u> <i>The MOE have continued to co-finance the project under the same categories reported previously (employees time, meetings and conference, and the use of expandable and non-expandable equipment). For this reporting period, the MOE have contributed the full amount of the co-finance committed originally.</i></p>

2.5. Stakeholder engagement

<p>Date of project steering committee meeting</p>	<p><i>Steering committee meeting was not conducted during this reporting period due to major organizational changes in the ministry, new minister was appointed who initiated a broad restructuring. According to that, PSC meeting is being scheduled for October 2023.</i></p>
<p>Stakeholder engagement</p>	<p><u>2022 Update</u> In order to continue the momentum of the stakeholder engagement, meetings with the PMU, WGs, International Partners, and the national consultant continued throughout the reporting period. During these collaborations, the below was achieved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreement on the PMU and working group's structure 2. Agreement on the indicators and content of the system 3. Continuous monitoring and progress updates with the project manager (Bushra Ali Ahmed – GM) 4. Technical discussions between the IT working group and the technical teams of the international partner (CIMA foundation) to finalize the system design 5. Collection of GIS mapping data (Shape Files) to be included in the system. 6. Agreement on the modality of the system (using the cloud version as well as the domain to host the web-based system) 7. Rectifying the challenges faced by the delayed payment by canceling the PCA and reagreeing on the workplan. 8. Reporting progress, achievements, and challenges to the PSC members <p><u>2023 Update</u></p>

	<p>Project closure phase has started, demanding ongoing collaboration and participation from all stakeholders and parties to ensure the timely completion of all activities. Therefore, UNEP is eagerly organizing regular meetings involving key stakeholders such as Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Planning (MoP), CIMA foundation (International partner), and UNDP.</p> <p>Achievements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- International consultant was onboarded to finalize the delivery of project activities focusing on pending items in preparation for project closure following the project exit strategy that is being developed in consultation with key stakeholders. 2- Organized stakeholders' consultation sessions with Iraqi Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Ministry of Planning (MoP) focusing on data management process and mechanism to finalize SOP related to activities 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 3.1.1, and 3.1.2 3- Continuous discussions with the project working groups to review the beta version and suggest needed enhancement and improvement ahead of the system with close collaboration with UNEP team, MoE, and CIMA. 4- Stakeholders' engagement was increased through series of capacity building workshops that included open discussions on system implementation and sustainability strategy and resulted in better understanding of ways for synergetic implementation of MEAs agreement in Iraq. <p>[section will be uploaded into the GEF Portal]</p>
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2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	<i>The project does not count with a gender action plan, however, programmatic activities have been planned with a gender lens as well as stakeholder engagement.</i>
Gender mainstreaming	<p><u>2022 Update</u></p> <p>Women's participation is continuing to exceed 60%. Women continue to lead the project implementation through project management, actively participating in the decision making and the technical contribution to the project. There are 20 active female members of the project team (about 60%) in all areas of the project, IT, Data, Quality, PMU and administrative.</p> <p><u>2023 Update</u></p> <p>In addition to the information provided in the "2022 Update" section, it is worth noting that all the workshops conducted since the last reporting period have seen a significant representation of women. On average, the attendance at these workshops consisted of more than 50% female participants, with a total of 43 females and 42 males present. This demonstrates a positive trend towards gender inclusivity and reflects the project's commitment to promoting female participation and empowerment.</p> <p>[section will be uploaded into the GEF Portal]</p>

2.7. Environmental and social safeguards management

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of)	Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?
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Environmental and social safeguards)	<p>No</p> <p>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN? <i>N/A</i></p>
New social and/or environmental risks	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? <i>No</i></p>
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	<p>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period? <i>No</i> <i>No Complaints or grievances related to social and/or environmental impact to be reported for this period.</i></p>
Environmental and social safeguards management	<p><u>2022 Update</u> Being a pure capacity building project in which no interventions involving activities that pollute/degrade the environment or physically disrupt existing ecosystems, animals, or other life forms, it was assessed and approved as a low-risk project at GEF CEO Approval and has continued to be so. As a result, there has not been a need to design for or trigger any serious environmental risks/safeguard mitigation measures and plans.</p> <p>However, the project continues will ensure that UNEP ESSF guiding principles (resilience and sustainability; human rights, gender equality and women empowerment, accountability and leave no one behind) will continually be applied throughout implementation, and that appropriate grievances mechanisms are instituted, and partners/ community complaints addressed promptly. Special attention will also be given to potentially marginalized and vulnerable population/ beneficiaries.</p> <p><u>2023 Update</u> The project has maintained its status as a low-risk project as approved during the GEF CEO Approval since it is primarily focused on capacity building and refrains from engaging in any activities that harm the environment or disrupt existing ecosystems, animals, or other life forms. However, this project remains committed to upholding the UNEP ESSF guiding principles, resilience and sustainability, human rights, gender equality, women's empowerment, accountability, and leaving no one behind, throughout its implementation. By abiding by these principles, the project ensures that its actions contribute to long-term environmental and social well-being.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project recognizes the importance of addressing the needs of potentially marginalized and vulnerable populations or beneficiaries and establishing grievance mechanisms to facilitate the resolution of issues in a timely and fair manner if it happens.</p> <p>[section will be uploaded into the GEF Portal]</p>

2.8. Knowledge management

Knowledge activities and products	<p><u>2022 Update</u> The capacity building continues throughout the implementation of the project. The final indicator report was completed to provide holistic information on the indicators. In addition, a workshop to present the system mockup was conducted on 30/11/2021 during this reporting period. The working groups were tasked to enhance the data available for the system as a capacity building</p>
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	<p>exercise. An intensive series of capacity building activities are planned for 2022 to train the stakeholders on the system, data, GIS, and DPSIR.</p> <p><u>2023 Update</u> Based on the capacity building and sustainability strategies developed for this project in alignment with its main objective to enhance environmental monitoring, reporting, and decision-making and to support the continued synergistic implementation of the MEAs and SDGs, UNEP has conducted multiple workshops for MoE, and MoP's project teams to effectively sustain the system (EIS). These workshops provided participants with the necessary knowledge and skills in data analysis, GIS information management, system operation and maintenance, and reporting. The workshops aimed to enhance the technical competencies of the project team members and enable them to utilize the EIS to its full potential.</p> <p>[section will be uploaded into the GEF Portal]</p>
<p>Main learning during the period</p>	<p>Main workshops that have been conducted during this reporting period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Workshop held on GIS, indicators, data analysis and collection, and data validation in Beirut, Lebanon in September 2022</i> - <i>Workshop held on System Use, Administration and Updating the Platform in Beirut, Lebanon on May 23, 2023</i> - <i>Workshop held on Data collection and validation, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and State of the Environment Report (SoER) in Erbil, Iraq on May 29, 2023</i> <p>Additionally, eLearning modules are being finalized and online knowledge transfer sessions will be conducted in the coming months before project closure.</p>

2.9. Stories to be shared

<p>Stories to be shared</p>	<p><u>2022 Update</u> Since the last PIR, the importance of having the EIS as a tool to support decision making has become more obvious among the leadership at the MOE. A center for information system has been established in order to become the source of information as a starting point to start the transformation towards using science to influence decision making and policy. Once the system is implemented, leadership will be supported with the insights produced by the system as appose to the outdated paper-based system and this can push Iraq towards implementing better environmental management.</p> <p><u>2023 Update</u> Despite facing some challenges, both the project team and members from relevant ministries who have attended the capacity building workshops recognize the significance of this digital transformation. They are enthusiastic about utilizing the system, once the system is handed over to the MOE, as it enables them to monitor specific environmental indicators and generate reports for decision-makers to support the continued synergistic implementation of the MEAs and SDGs. The system provides up-to-date environmental data on the EIS web-portal, facilitating prompt action in response to any environmental changes or degradation which will strengthen the Iraq capabilities in addressing arising environment issues.</p>
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	[section to be shared with communication division/ GEF communication]
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3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RISK

Based on inputs by the Project Manager, the **UNEP Task Manager**¹ will make an overall assessment and provide ratings of:

- (i) Progress towards achieving the project Results(s)- see section 3.1
- (ii) Implementation progress – see section 3.2

Section 3.3 on Risk should be first completed by the Project Manager. The UNEP Task Manager will subsequently enter his/her own ratings in the appropriate column.

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes (Development Objectives)

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
Objective: To enhance capacities of Iraq for monitoring and reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements through a well-integrated and functional environment information system	Increased capacity for monitoring, reporting, and implementing MEAs as shown in the capacity development scorecard	See capacity development scorecard for baseline.		Capacity development scorecard shows average increase of 0.5 point at a minimum across all indicators by end of project	82%	So far, the project has witnessed significant progress in meeting its objectives. Two of the main achievements till date are: First, the successful development and implementation of the EIS beta version have provided Iraq with accurate and up-to-date environmental information, strengthening its monitoring and reporting capabilities, and enabling it to fulfil its commitments under MEAs and SDGs. Second, the project has effectively enhanced the skills of the Ministry of Environment team through ongoing training sessions and knowledge transfer initiatives based on the capacity building strategy set forth. These achievements reflect the project's positive impact on Iraq's environmental management and demonstrate its dedication to sustainable practices and continuous improvement.	MS

¹ For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

² Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Marginally Satisfactory (MS), Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU).

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
	Availability of a functional environmental information system (technology and processes)	<i>Iraq does not have a centralized environmental information system.</i>	EIS Implementation Plan <i>Request for Proposal (RFP) documents (requirements for the EIS Implementation)</i>	<i>A functional environmental information system and related processes in place by end of project</i>	<i>94%</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alpha version was tested and feedback for enhancement/modifications was provided. - Beta version was developed based on end-user feedback. - Final system revision is being conducted by MoE; awaiting final feedback to update the last version accordingly. - Setting up of production environment (live version) is ongoing i.e., moving all data and maps to cloud server owned by the government. - National partner is selected to supply required equipment to ministries. 	S

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
Outcome 2.0: Improved regular environmental monitoring by directorates of environment in the governorates and other relevant agencies to integrate MEAs and relevant SDGs into the data collection and reporting procedures and system	Availability of streamlined monitoring and data collection processes	Limited coordination and harmonization of environmental monitoring Data collection and availability is inconsistent.	Indicator Report	Streamlined monitoring and data collection processes in place and functioning by end of project	<i>100%</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Indicator Report - WASDI (developed in the system) is an automated mechanism that provide regular indicator updates collected from satellite without any human intervention. <p>Capacity building workshops were conducted on data collection and validation.</p>	<i>MS</i>

<p>Outcome 3.0: Regulatory and collaborative institutional set-up for sustainable and transparent sharing of environmental information</p>	<p>Number of enhanced regulatory and collaborative mechanisms (including M&E mechanisms) to support the implementation of MEAs and related SDGs</p> <p>Number of training and educational programmes developed, executed and made available online</p>	<p>Component 2: Enhancement of institutional coordination and technical capacities to mainstream, develop, and utilize policies for the effective implementation of MEAs and relevant SDGs</p> <p>Currently limited collaborative mechanisms apart from a few, often ad hoc committees, such as for NBSAP, Ramsar,</p>	<p>Agreement and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for coordinated data management</p>	<p>At least 3 mechanisms or processes have been agreed upon and are being implemented by end of project</p>	<p>72%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data Management SOP and Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms are being finalized based on the ongoing discussions with relevant ministries. - Operational Guidelines is being finalized. <p>Several discussions with MoE and MoP about the mechanisms and processes had been held during two workshops to foster improved collaboration, consultation, and information sharing in support of the implementation of MEAs and SDGs.</p>	<p>S</p>
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Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
		desertification					

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2023	Progress rating ²
Outcome 4.0: Enhanced capacities to develop and implement results-based and impact-oriented policies, plans and programmes integrating MEAs and related SDGs	Number of training and educational programmes developed, executed and made available online	None	Number of training workshops	At least one training programme developed, executed and made available online by end of	52%	Three workshops were conducted to strengthen environmental monitoring, reporting, and decision-making processes while supporting a harmonious implementation of MEAs and SDGs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop held on GIS, indicators, data analysis and collection, and data validation in Beirut, Lebanon in September 2022 - Workshop held on System Use, Administration and Updating the Platform in Beirut, Lebanon on May 23, 2023 - Workshop held on Data collection and validation, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and State of the Environment Report (SoER) in Erbil, Iraq on May 29, 2023 In addition, eLearning materials (online) are being finalized for a continuous knowledge transfer following project handover.	MS

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

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
Output 1.1: Output 1.1 In-depth analysis of the current management of environmental information, data sources and flows, environmental statistics and reporting mechanisms related to the Rio Conventions, other MEAs and other relevant processes, including a mapping of relevant stakeholders					

³ Outputs and activities (or deliverables) as described in the project logframe (and workplan) or in any updated project revision.

⁴ The completion dates should be as per latest workplan (latest project revision).

⁵ As much as possible, describe in terms of immediate gains to target groups, e.g., access to project deliverables, participation in receiving services; gains in knowledge, etc.

⁶ To be provided by the UNEP Task Manager

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p>Activity 1.1.1 Conduct detailed analysis</p> <p>a. Detailed mapping of existing environmental information systems, data sources/flows, indicators and reporting mechanisms related to MEAs and other relevant processes in Iraq (Including units of measurement, methodology and frequency of collection)</p> <p>b. Analysis of data gaps and potential areas of duplication, and assessment of environmental data needs and priorities (including gender-sensitive data)</p> <p>c. Analysis of relevant stakeholders and institutions at the federal, governorate and local levels (ministries, agencies, convention focal points, academia, NGOs, private sector, local communities), as well as at the regional and global levels (based on the initial analysis conducted during the project preparation phase)</p> <p>d. Inventory of relevant national policies and legislation</p> <p>1Note: This analysis will be conducted by the same partner organization/team that will support the system design under output 1.3, in order to ensure that the relevant information required for the system design is effectively generated at this stage.</p>	Q2 2023	90%	100%	<p>The partner organization (CIMA Foundation), which was onboarded through (SSFA) in close collaboration and active engagement and ongoing discussions/meetings with the Ministry of Environment (MoE), (CSO), and other related stakeholders, was tasked with completing all aspects of Activity 1.1.1. This included mapping the existing Environmental Information System (EIS), assessing data gaps and indicators, collecting local data spanning a period of 10 years to support the mapping and analysis task, and conducting an analysis of relevant stakeholders and institutions. As a result of these combined efforts, a set of comprehensive documents has been developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inception Report - Indicator report <p><u>Pending:</u> Engaging with MoE to collect the relevant national policies and legislation in order to complete this activity.</p> <p>MoE don't possess clear national policies and legislation regarding the Environment Information System or digital content; here is draft Regulation on Digital Content in Iraq as per Washington post: https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/pdf/view/18118/en https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KXHyU1HGfLbYrRcdtj_u3mW23T1kuW0l/view</p> <p>However, Iraq have initiated The National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan for Iraq along with some other agreements : "National contribution and vision representing Iraq's overarching policy in addressing the issue of climate change nationally and internationally.": NDC-2021, and National Communication about Climate Change</p>	S

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
Activity 1.1.2 Develop a set of recommendations to streamline and harmonize data collection and to address data gaps)	Q3 2023	70%	100%	Indicator Report includes potential solution for each indicator on how to develop indicators and address gaps: <u>Final indicator report</u> <u>Pending:</u> CIMA is finalizing additional set of recommendations. - <u>Recommendation to enhance data collection</u> and to address data gaps was developed for this activity.	S
Activity 1.1.3 Conduct a stakeholder consultation workshop to validate findings	Q3 2022	80%	100%	This activity is completed. Multiple meetings with stakeholders were conducted to analyse and verify the finding. Workshop was conducted on September 2022 – <u>Report</u>	S
Activity 1.1.4 Prepare report on analysis and recommendations	Q3 2022	85%	100%	- <u>Final indicator report</u> - <u>Initial Analysis Report</u>	S
Output 1.2: Endorsed agreement and standard operating procedures among key line ministries and agencies on the streamlining of data collection and sharing to fill data gaps and reduce unnecessary duplication					
Activity 1.2.1 Elaborate agreement and SOPs: Based on the analysis conducted under output 1.1 and in a consultative process, elaborate agreement, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for coordinated data management (in parallel with outputs 1.3 and 2.1)	Q3 2023	60%	85%	The accomplishment of this activity requires the joint efforts of the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the Ministry of Planning (MoP), and the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), and IT department. Consultations with the relevant ministries have already started, and a broad outline of the data management Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been established. The finalization of this activity will be carried out through further discussions and meetings during upcoming workshops. - Data Management SOP was discussed during two consecutive workshops with MoE and MoP members: <u>Beirut workshop (May 2023)</u> and <u>Erbil workshop (May 2023)</u> to underline the main structure of the data flow. - This activity is still in progress.	MS

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
Activity 1.2.2 Multi-stakeholder workshop to seek endorsement of agreement: Organize a multi-stakeholder workshop to seek endorsement of the agreement and SOPs among key line ministries and agencies at both the federal and governorate levels	Q3 2023	60%	80%	Multiple meetings with stakeholders from both MOE and MOP were conducted, mentioning (June 2021, and Sep 2022 – <u>User Group Workshop</u> - to consult and gain endorsement of the recommendations. Final Multi-stakeholder workshop/meeting is planned for Q3 2023. Online meeting is planned to take place in September 2023.	MS
Output 1.3: Systems and portal established to manage and access environmental data, information and geospatial information (e.g. GIS) [50%]					
Activity 1.3.1 Analyse system needs/requirements: Based on outputs 1.1 and 1.2, establish needs for updating/providing the IT Department of the MoHE (and other departments within the Ministry) with systems to serve as the main repository of all environmental information, by conducting the following analyses: - Analysis of existing infrastructure and systems, including GIS databases and links with global and regional platforms. This will include an analysis of the potential usability of IRIS as a tool for reporting using the data/information from the new system. - Analysis of potential user groups and requirements - Analysis of legal requirements and relevant intellectual property regulations and access/security protocols	Q2 2023	80%	100%	Technical discussion between the international partner (CIMA) and MoE's IT department was conducted thoroughly to assess the current infrastructure and the required technology and infrastructure to develop the EIS system. - <u>System architecture and requirements</u> - IRIS reporting tool is not an option at this moment; as a mitigation, graphs and dashboards are automated and the final report is manually created. - Legal and IP: discussion with ministries to provide any documents related to IP. On of the challenges is that the MoE does not possess any relevant IP documentation related to EIS and web-portal i.e., MoE doesn't possess any Intellectual Property law specific to the project and digital content.	S

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Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p>Activity 1.3.2 Develop conceptual design of systems and portal: Develop conceptual design of the systems (servers, databases and applications, workstations and network) and the Iraq Environment Information Portal (EIP), by incorporating state of the art technologies and tools for data capturing, processing, analysis and presentation. The system shall be available in Arabic and English and shall have adequate security and access protocols (with different levels of access).</p>	Q2 2022	90%	100%	<p>Conceptual architecture and mock-up design of the system were developed and approved in close consultation with MoE and CSO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>System mock-up design</u> - <u>System architecture and requirements</u> 	HS
<p><i>Activity 1.3.3 Implement systems and portal: Implement the systems, including provision of hardware, software and network, and develop web-based portal</i></p>	Q3 2023	30%	80%	<p>Beta version was implemented using a temporary domain name. The production version will be moved to a .gov domain once it is agreed on with MoE IT department and the responsible parties. Another pending matter for this activity is the supply of the equipment (an agreement was signed with UNDP to support the procurement of the equipment, hardware and software – expected delivery on Q3 2023):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Beta version</u> <p>UNDP has selected a company responsible of supplying the required equipment</p>	S

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<i>Activity 1.3.4 Regular review and improvement of the systems and portal based on user feedback</i>	Q3 2023	30%	90%	<p>The UNEP ROWA conducted a thorough review of the system, along with the working teams from the Ministries. Subsequently, a report was generated, containing the recommended changes and comments. This report was then shared with the international partner (CIMA) to incorporate the suggested modifications.</p> <p>This activity is an ongoing process, it will be 100% finalized once the system goes to production and is open to general public use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two reviews were conducted that produced Alpha then Beta, third review will take place before go-live: Review Document - MoE IT team is finalizing the last system review: final system modification and migration to live environment is tentatively scheduled in August 2023. 	S
<i>Activity 1.3.5 Capacity building for user groups: Develop and implement capacity building programme for user groups (in-country). This will include training of a) the IT Department on operating the systems, network and databases, and b) system users on inputting and accessing data (around 40 participants in total). Relevant guidance documents/training materials will be made available online.</i>	Q3 2023	30%	95%	<p>Capacity building workshop to be conducted by CIMA is scheduled on Q2 2023. This workshop aims to provide training to the working teams within the Ministries of Environment and Planning in Iraq. Additionally, the IT Department will also receive specialized training during the workshop.</p> <p>Moreover, eLearning materials are being developed to ensure a sustainable and continuous capacity building for different user groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LinksDoc : module1 and module2 - Modules 3 and 4 are expected to be delivered on Q3 2023 - Workshop had been conducted on May 2023 in Beirut, Lebanon: Report - eLearning modules 3 and 4 are being finalized and translated to Arabic. 	S
Output 2.1: Definition, update and improvement of nationally appropriate environmental indicators, baseline data and targets based on MEAs, SDGs and other sources for use in different reporting and assessment processes					

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p><i>Activity 2.1.1 Analyse environmental indicators: Based on the analysis conducted under output 1.1 and in a consultative process, identify measures to harmonize, update and improve environmental indicators, baseline data and targets, in line with the requirements of the MEAs and SDGs (including gender-disaggregated indicators where relevant)</i></p>	Q3 2022	50%	100%	<p>The international partner (CIMA) has completed the final indicator analysis report, which included mapping of the indicators to the MEAs and SDGs in the initial report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Final indicator report</u>: indicators are in line with MEA's and SDG's requirements – a detailed table is provided for all indicators. - Based on the limited capabilities; WASDI is an automated mechanism that provide regular indicator updates collected from satellite without any human intervention (included in the report). 	HS
<p><i>Activity 2.1.2 Workshop to consult and agree on indicators: Organize a consultation workshop to agree on the definition of updated/improved indicators (including units of measurement, methodology and frequency of collection, and responsible agency for each)</i></p>	Q3 2022	90%	100%	<p>Multiple workshops and discussions were held to discuss indicator data and to present other sources of data (Satellites and International databases). Events held to consult and agree on indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Meeting with the statistics group to collect data at the MOP/CSO office 6/5/2021.</u> 2. <u>Meeting with the Indicator group to collect data at the MOHE offices on 10/5/2021.</u> 3. <u>Consultation meeting with the statistics group virtual on 7/6/2021 to discuss the draft indicator report.</u> 4. <u>Virtual consultation meeting with the head of the indicator group on 8/6/2021 to discuss the draft indicator report.</u> 5. <u>Consultation workshop between the international partner (CIMA foundation), UNEP, the statistics group (MOP/CSO), and the indicators group (MOHE) for 4 hours on 6/7/2021 to share the available satellite data and share available data from international sources as well as consult the experts from both ministries to finalize the indicator report.</u> 6. Final discussions on indicators took place on 27/9/2022 during stakeholder meeting in Beirut. 	HS

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
Output 2.2: Collection and validation of environmental data, information and maps through a streamlined indicator-based monitoring and reporting system to MEAs, indicators for the environmental dimension of SDGs and other relevant mechanisms, including the Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS)					
Activity 2.2.1 Prepare training of trainers (ToT) <i>Prepare training of trainers (ToT) on data collection and management methodologies to prepare for the collection and validation of environmental data to fill data gaps identified under outputs 1.1 and 2.1. This will include guidance on relevant global and regional platforms, including IRIS and the UNEP Live platform. The training shall provide clear definitions of the relevant indicators according to international standards, and electronic data collection sheets. Relevant guidance documents/training materials will be made available online.</i>	Q2 2023	70%	100%	TOT programme is being finalized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP in coordination with CIMA is working on accomplishing this activity. - eLearning Modules are being finalized and translated. Series of workshops have been developed to enhance project team capabilities on data collection and management methodologies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Developed workshop on Data collection and validation, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and State of the Environment Report (SoER) in May 2023 in Erbil Iraq</u> - <u>Developed workshop on System Use, Administration and Updating the Platform in Beirut, Lebanon on May 23, 2023</u> - <u>Developed workshop on GIS and Data Analysis and Validation in Beirut, Lebanon in September 2022</u> 	S
Activity 2.2.2 Conduct ToT workshop (around 40 participants in total)	Q2 2023	10%	100%	The TOT workshop is expected to take place in June 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Workshop held on GIS, indicators, data analysis and collection, and data validation in Beirut, Lebanon in September 2022</u> - <u>Workshop held on System Use, Administration and Updating the Platform in Beirut, Lebanon on May 23, 2023</u> - <u>Workshop held on Data collection and validation, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and State of the Environment Report (SoER) in Erbil, Iraq on May 29, 2023</u> 	S

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p><i>Activity 2.2.3 Lead data collection and validation: ToT participants from relevant agencies and organizations lead the collection and validation of environmental data in accordance with the agreement, the SOPs and the newly defined indicators, with regular meetings to guide the process and validate the collected data</i></p>	Q2 2023	90%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 years old data were collected, and Workshops and meetings had been conducted for data collection with relevant stakeholders which had produced an updated indicator file. - Defining new indicators will take place after the project closure depending on the capabilities and need to basis. <p>After multiple discussions during meetings and workshops with concerned parties, the collection and validation of new data is dependent on relevant ministries (MoE and CSO)'s need for new indicators. This activity will be organised internally at MoE on a need to basis.</p>	
<p>Output 2.3: Guidance & training on the use & application of tools to handle complex data sets & results-based, impact oriented environmental actions that cut across MEAs/ SDGs</p>					
<p>Activity 2.3.1 Prepare training on use of tools to handle complex data sets <i>Prepare training of key actors (including women) in the relevant ministries/agencies on the use and application of tools to handle complex data sets (e.g., GIS tools, remote sensing tools, data visualization tools, database outline and management, statistics software) in order to enable them to inform decisions related to environmental actions and policies. The training will be incorporated into regular training programmes of the MoHE & materials will be made available online on the EIS.</i></p>	Q3 2022	50%	100%	<p>A capacity building workshop prepared by by two professors, one from the Lebanese American University and the other from the American University of Beirut, who facilitated the training, and it was help in September 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Training material</u> 	HS

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<i>Activity 2.3.2 Conduct training: Conduct training workshop (outside of the country) and on-the-job follow-up activities (in-country) to apply the acquired knowledge (around 20 participants in total)</i>	Q3 2022	50%	100%	A capacity building workshop took place in September 2022 with the objective of training the members of the working teams in the Ministries of Environment and Planning. The workshop comprised sessions focused on two key topics: data analysis and validation, as well as GIS and remote sensing. These sessions were led by two professors, one from the Lebanese American University and the other from the American University of Beirut. - September 2022 workshop - <u>Report</u>	HS
Output 3.1: Enhanced consultative and decision-making processes for mainstreaming of obligations under Rio Conventions, other relevant MEAs and related SDGs, including shared environmental information systems, collaborative and endorsed institutional inter and intra ministerial mechanisms, collaborative mechanisms with major groups and stakeholders					
<i>Activity 3.1.1 Identify regulatory and collaborative mechanisms and processes: Based on the agreement elaborated under 1.2, identify additional measures, at inter and intra ministerial levels, to support enhanced collaboration, consultation and sharing of information in support of the implementation of MEAs and SDGs</i>	Q4 2023	50%	80%	Several discussions about the mechanisms and processes have been held and a workshop is planned to be conducted in Erbil, Iraq on Q2 2023 to foster improved collaboration, consultation, and information sharing in support of the implementation of MEAs and SDGs. Several measures would be recommended to be implemented at both inter and intra ministerial levels. Additional measures are being drafted and will be included in the data management SOP.	MS
<i>Activity 3.1.2 Institutionalize these mechanisms: Institutionalize these measures through regulatory and collaborative mechanisms and processes (e.g., consultation process in the preparation of national reports and COPs, enhanced collaborative and support processes between departments, etc.)</i>	Q4 2023	30%	40%	This activity is dependent on the completion of 3.1.1	MS
Output 3.2: Monitoring and evaluation mechanism established, targeted to compliance monitoring of state policies, programmes, and plans					

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p><i>Activity 3.2.1 Elaborate M&E mechanism: Elaborate a mechanism, led by the Ministry of Health and Environment in collaboration with the Central Statistics Organization, to monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of MEAs and related policies, programmes and plans through the use of the environmental information system.</i></p>	Q3 2023	20%	60%	<p>This Activity is still in process – ongoing discussion is being held with MoE and CSO. Additional meetings will be held during Q3 2023</p> <p>Mechanism will be included in the data management SOP. The Beirut workshop (May 2023) included a thorough discussion about the mechanisms that should be put in place and included in the SOP. The team in the Regional Office have faced some delays due to the major internal restructuring that took place at the MoE. Expected delivery late Q3/early Q4.</p>	MS
<p><i>Activity 3.2.2 Workshop to discuss and adopt M&E mechanism</i></p>	Q3 2023	20%	50%	<p>Online workshop date is dependent on the completion of the SOP: expected Q3 2023</p>	MS
<p>Output 3.3: Sustainability strategy for continued implementation of MEAs and the environmental dimension of SDGs</p>					
<p><i>Activity 3.3.1 Identify clear owners of data, systems, and portal: Identify clear owners of data, systems, and portal and ensure that sufficient budget is allocated to their continuation after the project ends (operating expenses, development, training, etc.)</i></p>	Q3 2023	60%	100%	<p>Initial identification of data owners was established. As part of the data collection activities that took place, laying the foundation for efficient data management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing discussion with MoE and CSO to identify the adopted sustainability strategy of the EIS. - Sustainability guidelines is being finalized for this activity. The team in the Regional Office have faced some delays due to the major internal restructuring that took place at the MoE. Expected delivery late Q3/early Q4. 	MS
<p><i>Activity 3.3.2 Incorporate into operational guidelines and terms of reference (ToR): Include the utilisation and regular update of the systems and portal in the operational guidelines or terms of reference (ToR) of relevant authorities and committees, to support the continued synergistic implementation of the MEAs and SDGs</i></p>	Q3 2023	20%	80%	<p>Operational Guidelines document is being finalized and translated</p>	S

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p><i>Activity 3.3.3 Engage with local governments and line ministries: Engage with local governments and line ministries to scale up the project at the governorate level, seeking to obtain investment in local infrastructure and systems</i></p>	Q3 2023	40%	90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNEP has provided the necessary investment to MoE: system and web portal was developed by international partner (CIMA) and funded by GEF. - Resources to maintain the project and continuity of the system are permanent employees at the MoE IT department. - Completion is expected on Q3 2023: delivery of the equipment. <p>Supplier has been selected a expected delivery Q3 2023.</p>	S
<p>Output 4.1: Training programme developed and executed to enable the integration of environmental management into planning, monitoring and reporting processes</p>					
<p><i>Activity 4.1.1 Develop training programme: Develop a training programme for key personnel in relevant agencies and organizations on the integration of environmental management into planning and monitoring processes, and on reporting information for policy/decision making, based on data made available through the environmental information system. The training will be incorporated into regular training programmes of the MoHE and materials will be made available online on the EIP.</i></p>	Q3 2023	35%	60%	The development of the training program for key personnel is being finalized.	S

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<i>Activity 4.1.2 Conduct training workshops: Conduct 2 training workshops (one outside of the country and one in-country). Participants will include government ministries and agencies at governorate and federal levels who are responsible for key sectoral policies and legislation, NGOs and academia (around 40 participants in total).</i>	Q3 2023	25%	50%	Workshop is planned to take place on Q3 2023 Dependent on 4.1.1; eLearning modules are being finalized.	S
Output 4.2: At least 2 pilot sectors updating their strategies/plans to mainstream the environmental dimension/MEAs					
<i>Activity 4.2.1 Identify ways to update sectoral strategies/plans to incorporate knowledge from the information system</i>	Q4 2023	20%	40%	This activity is in process with two dependencies: reports from MoE and MEAs reporting consultant: To incorporate the reports that are being drafted at the MoE level. MEAs reporting consultant will complete this activity once assigned. Onboarding process is delaying this activity. To not further delay this activity, UNEP is in discussion with MoE to support in creating the strategy/plan.	S
<i>Activity 4.2.2 Update at least 2 strategies/plans to mainstream the environmental dimensions /MEAs: Update strategies/plans in at least 2 pilot sectors, at the federal or governorate level, to mainstream the environmental dimensions/MEAs (e.g., use of sustainable land/water management indicators in agricultural policies)</i>	Q4 2023	20%	40%	This activity is in process; it is pending MEAs reporting consultant with the support of local government especially MoE and CSO Onboarding process is delaying this activity. To not further delay this activity, UNEP is in discussion with MoE to support in creating the strategy/plan.	S
Output 4.3: Environmental education for Sustainable Development and awareness raising activities					

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2022 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2023 (%) (Towards overall project target)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
<p><i>Activity 4.3.1 Generate knowledge products: Generate knowledge products such as reports, brochures, infographics, GIS maps, and awareness materials to introduce the environmental information system, the indicators, MEAs and related SDGs</i></p>	Q4 2023	60%	80%	<p>Necessary workshops and discussions among ministries (MoE, MoP, and CSO)/stakeholders are being conducted to raise awareness on the EIS system, highlight the system capabilities on the analysis and decision making, and highlight the connection between the system and the MEAs and SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infographics/GIS Maps or related materials will be prepared for this activity. - Three workshops were conducted that contributed to raising awareness among the relevant ministries and agencies: - Capacity building for user groups - Capacity building on data collection and validation, MEAs, and SOER - Capacity building on GIS, indicators, data analysis and collection, and data validation in Beirut, Lebanon in September 2022 - Coordinating with MoE and UNEP communication team on the material structure and type. 	S
<p><i>Activity 4.3.2 Disseminate knowledge products through educational & awareness raising activities: Disseminate knowledge products through educational and awareness raising activities to raise awareness among the relevant agencies and the public on the environmental information system, the concept of sustainable development and the MEAs/related SDGs</i></p>	Q4 2023	40%	40%	<p>Discussions among ministries (MoE, MoP, and CSO)/stakeholders have been conducted to raise awareness on the EIS system, highlight the system capabilities on the analysis and decision making, and highlight the connection between the system and the MEAs and SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infographics for public will be published by Q4 2023 - Three workshops were conducted that contributed to raising awareness among the relevant ministries and agencies: - Capacity building for user groups - Capacity building on data collection and validation, MEAs, and SOER - Capacity building on GIS, indicators, data analysis and collection, and data validation in Beirut, Lebanon in September 2022 <p>Once the awareness materials (infographics or maps) are completed; it will be published to the public.</p>	S

4. Risk Rating

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

Risk Factor	EA's Rating	TM's Rating
1. Management structure – Roles and responsibilities	L	L
2. Governance structure – Oversight	L	L
3. Implementation schedule	L	L
4. Budget	L	L
5. Financial Management	L	L
6. Reporting	L	L
7. Capacity to deliver	L	L

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

4.2 Table B. Risk-Log

Risk	Risk affecting:							Δ	Justification
	Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4(this PIR)			
Risk 1 Security situation may affect the delivery of project components that necessitate face to face interactions with stakeholders in the capital	This risk causes lower stakeholder engagement as well as delays in collecting data and implementing activities that are dependent on the ministry	H	H	M	M	L	↓	Most meetings that necessitate physical presence have taken place as planned. If face to face interaction is no longer possible, the remaining meetings can be conducted virtually.	

<p>Risk 2 Delay in implementation as more time is required to negotiate agreements with data providers</p>	<p>This risk is causing a lower expenditure rate as the funds are held up at the MOF level and negotiating agreements, SOP and processes take longer time causing overall delays to the project implementation</p>	M	M	M	M	L	↓	<p>Agreements have been agreed up on and signed; implementation is at its final stages.</p>
<p>Risk 3 Compatibility issues of IT systems and platforms Insufficient funding from the Government to scale up the project at the governorate level</p>	<p>This risk can be mitigated by the consultation of the international and national partners and the creation of a plan for system integration</p>	L	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<p>Risk 4 Compatibility issues of IT systems and platforms</p>	<p>This risk can be mitigated by the consultation of the international and national partners and the creation of a plan for system integration</p>	L	L	L	L	L	=	<p>Beta version has already been developed.</p>
<p>Risk 5 Disruptions from world pandemics</p>	<p>This risk causes overall delays to the project implementation as more and more lockdowns are being</p>	L	L	M	M	L	↓	<p>Government has lifted all restrictions related to the pandemic.</p>

	imposed by the government						
Consolidated project risk		N/A		L	L	-	

Table B. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIR _{t-1} , MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom

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

Project Minor Amendments

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Results framework | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor project objective change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Components and cost | <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional and implementation arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> Risk analysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial management | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase of GEF project financing up to 5% |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> Co-financing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executing Entity | <input type="checkbox"/> Location of project activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executing Entity Category | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

[\[Annex document linked to reported minor amendment\]](#)

Minor amendments	The purpose of this second amendment is to extend the technical duration of the internal cooperation agreement for the Iraq EIS project for an additional period of 7 months, to 31 December 2023, as discussed and agreed with the GEF Unit in the Early Warning and Assessment Division. The amendment will allow finalizing the remaining activities that have been delayed due to political instability in the country. Further, this will enable performing the Medium-Term Review (MTR).
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5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
Original legal instrument	PCA		09 May 2018	30 May 2022	
Extension 1	Extension		28 May 2022	30 May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Internal Cooperation Agreement (ICA) amendment between UNEP Science Division and UNEP West Asia Office has been done to give an additional 12 months for the execution (ending 30 May 2022) in

					<p>order to complete all activities and ensure the project's effectiveness in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Plan is amended for the purpose of ICA amendment. The Annex F1 - Detailed Budget is also amended.
Extension 2	Extension		30 May 2023	30 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Internal Cooperation Agreement (ICA) amendment between UNEP Science Division and UNEP West Asia Office has been done to give an additional 07 months for the execution (ending 30 Dec 2022) in order to complete all activities and ensure the project's effectiveness in the country. • Work Plan is amended for the purpose of ICA amendment.

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 Required field	Latitude Required field	Longitude Required field	Geo Name ID Required field <u>if</u> the location is not an exact site	Location Description Optional text field	Activity Description Optional text field
Republic of Iraq	33	44	99237	Covering a whole country	Covering a whole country

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

The Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) project was designed to strengthen the legal, policy, and planning frameworks to support collection and sharing of environmental data covering a whole country.