Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2023 – Revised Template

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	RNE
Country (ies):	Iraq
Project Title:	Sustainable Land Management for Improved Livelihoods in Degraded Areas of Iraq (FSP)
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/IRQ/003/GFF
GEF ID:	9745
GEF Focal Area(s):	Land Degradation (LD)
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Environment
Initial project duration (years):	48 months
Project coordinates: *This section should be completed ONLY by:* a) *Projects with 1st PIR;* *b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.*	*[Projects in a) and b) categories should indicate YES here and provide the geocoded data in Annex 2]*

Project Dates

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	02 April 2019
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	01 January 2020
Project Implementation End Date/NTE[1]:	15 January 2023
Revised project implementation End date (if approved) [2]	01 January 2024 (2-year extension requested based on MTR recommendations)

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	3,549,321
Total Co-financing amount (USD)[3]:	21,200,000
Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):	958,435
Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)[4]:	787,523
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023[5]	USD 2,120,000

[1] As per FPMIS

[2] If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

[3] This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO Document/Project Document.

[4] The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

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

M&E Milestones

Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:	24 August 2021
Expected Mid-term Review date[6]:	March – June 2023
Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):	In progress
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date[7]:	September-October 2023
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)	Yes

Overall ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	Moderate unsatisfactory
Overall implementation progress rating:	Moderate unsatisfactory
Overall risk rating:	Moderate

ESS risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Low

Status

Implementation Status ***(1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):***	3rd PIR

Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Coordinator (PC)	Ali AlHasani , National Project Coordinator, FAO Iraq	Ali.Alhasani@fao.org
Budget Holder (BH)	Hajj Hassan, Salah FAO Representative in Iraq	Salah.ElHajjHassan@fao.org
GEF Operational Focal Point (GEF OFP)	Dr. Jasim al-Falahi, the MoE's Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs	

[6] The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2nd 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.

[7] The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

Lead Technical Officer (LTO)	Al-Hamdi, Mohamed Senior Water and Land Officer for the Near East and North Africa, FAO	Mohamed.AlHamdi@fao.org
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	Bergigui, Mohamed Fouad, GEF Portfolio Support and Project Development Specialist, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit	Mohamed.Bergigui@fao.org

2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

(*All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)*

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators[8]	Baseline	Mid-term TargetMid-term Target[9]	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress[10] since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating[11]
Reverse land degradation processes, conserve and sustainably manage land and water resources in degraded marshland ecosystems in Southern Iraq for greater access to services from resilient ecosystems	Project or Development Objective	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management (SLM) in production systems (GEF Core Indicator 4.3)	0 ha	2,000 ha	10,000 ha	0ha under SLM in production systems. First cycle of crop production is still pending	U
		Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF Core Indicator 11)	Male: 0 Female: 0	Male: 750 Female: 750	Male: 1,250 Female: 1,250	421 Females and 2049 Males targeted to date for the project. The project will ensure to promote for increased women participation even from the targeted male-headed households. This is aimed at improving project participation by females after failing to meet the target on female headed households. Women participation in gaining knowledge on new agricultural technologies is important as it can increase the chances of passing this new knowledge to the next generation. Experience	MU

[8] This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

[9] 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.

[10] Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic co-benefits as well.

[11] Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Moderately Satisfactory** (MS), **Moderately Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU). Refer to Annex 1.

and improved livelihoods						has noted that women spend more time interacting with children and youths thereby boosting chances of knowledge exchange dynamics.	
	Outcome 1						
	Enhanced policy, legal, and institutional frameworks support SLM	Number of national and governorate staff reporting higher SLM management capacity.	0: MOA 0: MOE 0: MOW 0: Muthanna Gov. 0: Thi-Qar Gov.	3: MOA 5: MOE 2: MOW 2: Muthanna Gov. 2: Thi-Qar Gov.	10: MOA 12: MOE 5: MOW 5:Muthanna Gov. 5: Thi-Qar Gov.	0/37 trained (0%). Nomination trainees completed; with 37 government officials from the different Ministries MOA, MOE, MOW, Muthana and Thi-Qar governorates. The project team finalized and has an approved/cleared training Curricula for Decision and Policy Makers on Sustainable Land Management (SLM). Recruitment of an Expert Trainer to train selected participants on Policy and Decision Making in SLM is in progress. The training is expected to be rolled out in August/September 2023. This training was delayed due to the MoE's delay in providing nominees/selected participants from key ministries for the training, despite several communications from FAO the trainee participants were not ready. However, by the time of reporting all is set for the training to take place as planned. This training is planned to be integrated with the activity reported below targeting CAD and extra MOE staff.	MS
		Number of Government staff exclusively mandated to support implementation of SLM programming, including agriculture and wetlands	0 CAD Staff 0 MOE Staff	20 CAD (Conservation Agriculture Directorate) Staff 20 MOE Staff	40 CAD Staff 40 MOE Staff	0/80 trained (0%). A specific curriculum for Decision Policy Makers has been finalized and approved to train government personnel on SLM linked to Conservation Agriculture and Agroecology. 66/80 trainees were nominated from CAD and MOE staff, thus pending is the Government of Iraq, nomination of the remaining 14 trainee participants of the planned SLM training. Terms of Reference and training curriculum developed and approved for the planned training. Recruitment of an Expert Trainer to train selected participants is in progress. The training is expected to be rolled	MS

						out in August/September 2023 at the same time with activity reported above. These trainings are divided in four different modules that will provide information to decision and policy makers on SLM and its adaptation to policies and local frameworks. Each module will be completed in one week for a total of three weeks training.	
		A national SLM strategy action plan developed with implementation financed by government	0 SLM strategy and action plan developed and financed	1SLM strategy and action plan developed and financed	1 SLM strategy and action plan developed and financed	0 SLM strategy developed. Terms of Reference for SLM strategy establishment were developed and approved, recruitment is in progress of an Expert on Natural Resources Management and Policy Making, who will facilitate the planned workshops to develop 1 National Sustainable Land Management Strategy for Iraq. A project no cost extension (NCE) was requested and is required to adequately complete this task with quality products	MU
		A national strategic action plan for agriculture and marshlands GENDdeveloped with implementation financed by government.	0 agriculture and marshlands conservation action plans developed and financed	0 agriculture and marshlands conservation action plan developed and financed	1 agriculture and marshlands conservation action plan developed and financed	0 agriculture and marshlands conservation action plans developed. Terms of Reference for Agriculture and Marshland conservation were developed and approved, recruitment is in progress of an Expert on Natural Resources Management and Policy Making, who will facilitate the planned workshops to develop 1 National Agriculture and Marshland Conservation Action Plan for Iraq. This activity is integrated with the SLM strategy development reported above. One consultant will be hired to deliver both tasks. A project NCE was requested and is required to adequately complete this task with quality products.	MU
		Number of annual users reported for project emplaced capacity and knowledge tools.	0 users of project social media (e.g., Facebook)	150 users of project social media (e.g., Facebook)	300 users of project social media (e.g., Facebook)	166 users of project social media (e.g., Facebook, FAO Iraq Tweeter) and 0 users of project emplaced knowledge management website. Terms of reference were developed and approved to hire a consultant for a Needs Assessment of the KMT system. Project plan to	MU

			0 users of project emplaced knowledge management website	500 monthly visitors of project emplaced knowledge management website	1,000 monthly visitors of project emplaced knowledge management website	hire a consultant for Needs assessment to identify gaps and existing data sets to the planned KM system development. A separate Terms of Reference was developed and approved to hire a consultant on the KMT operationalization through data collection and KM platform design. A National Geographic Information System Specialist based in Basra was recruited to support the project knowledge management system. This will include the timely dissemination of data and information on SLM pertaining to climate change and its impact to agriculture, extent of combating land degradation, irrigation and water resources management, evaporation, groundwater use, crop production levels, run-off, efficiency, and pollution loads. This information will be uploaded on the Knowledge Management Platform of the project housed within the Ministry of Environment.	
		Number of annual national SLM progress reports delivered based upon information generated by GIS-based monitoring and knowledge platform	0 national SLM progress reports	2 national SLM progress reports	4 national SLM progress reports.	0 national SLM progress reports. The operationalization of the KM System platform is still pending. Data from the KM platform will be analyzed to generate related SLM reports on e.g., climate change and its impact to agriculture, extent of combating land degradation, irrigation and water resources management, evaporation, groundwater use, crop production levels.	U
	Outcome 2						
	Number of Government staff exclusively mandated to support implementation of SLM	Number of Government staff exclusively mandated to support implementation of SLM	Number of extension officers with proven capacity to implement FFS SLM	0 extension officers	50 extension officers	120% achieved. 60/50 Government extension officers trained as FFS facilitators on Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Farmer Field School (FFS). Training covered topics of CA such as: minimum soil disturbances, soil facts, soil cover, mulching, zero tillage, mix and crop rotation, salinity and water management. FAO	S

	programming, including agriculture and wetlands	programming, including agriculture and wetlands	training programs.			will follow up and monitor the extensionists to cascade the training to 2,500 farming households/beneficiaries during July – December 2023.	
		Number of hectares of degraded agriculture and grazing lands under improved SLM management as a result of FFS implementation.	0 ha	2,000 ha restored	6,000 ha restored	0 ha under improved SLM. FAO with MOA Extension Officers has since established 34/30 Demonstration Plots on Farmer Field School (FFS) on Conservation Agriculture (CA). Land preparation is on progress on demonstration plots. Trained Extension Officers will be facilitators as Trainer of Trainees, training 1 500 farming households/beneficiaries. Farmer training is still pending thus no beneficiaries have reported land restoration/improvement under CA practice for SLM.	MU
		Number of agricultural producers reporting higher economic returns based upon participation in FFS SLM training programs	0: men 0: women	N/A	150: men 150: women	0 women and 0 men as agricultural producers reporting higher economic returns. Trained Extension Officers will facilitate the FFS Demonstration plots on CA with local farmers and will sensitize farmers on farming as a business with market linkages. After the harvest season, FAO will report the economic returns of those who participated in the FFS.	U
		Number of agriculture	0 ha monitored	15,000 ha monitored	30,000 ha monitored	0 ha monitored and no report to national KM. - Planning is in progress to set up a KM platform	U

		hectares (degraded and under SLM) monitored annually as a result of FFS programming with linkages to the national KM system.	and reporting to national KM	and reporting to national KM	and reporting to national KM	which will use GIS and Remote Sensing techniques to monitor land use and land cover changes attributed to FFS CA programming. A hired consultant will lead the set up and operationalization of the KM platform where annual land use and land cover changes will be monitored and recorded by the recently recruited national GIS and Remote Sensing specialist based in Basra. A project NCE was requested and is required to deliver on this activity on annual basis	
	Outcome 3						
	Measures to restore and sustainably manage marshland ecosystems adopted	Number of extension officers with proven capacity to implement FFS agroecological training programs that support marshland conservation.	0 extension officers	20 extension officers	20 extension officers	0/20 extension officers trained on agroecology and marshland conservation. This is a follow-up to the CA FFS training delivered. Draft training curriculum on Agroecology (AE) and Marshland Conservation submitted to FAO Senior Technical experts for review and possible clearance and this will be followed by planning for the training. The project technical team is addressing review comments from the technical experts.	MU
		Number of marshland dependent agricultural producers reporting higher economic returns based upon participation in FFS agroecological training programs.	0: men 0: women	N/A	100: men 100: women	0: men 0: women Trained Extension Officers will facilitate the FFS Demonstration plots on AE with local farmers and will sensitize farmers on farming as a business with market linkages. After the harvest season, FAO will report the economic returns of those who participated in the FFS.	U
		Number of hectares of wetlands restored and sustainably	0 ha restored	1,500 ha restored	4,000 ha restored	0 ha under wetlands restored. FAO with MOA Extension Officers has established 18/20 Demonstration Plots on Farmer Field School (FFS) on Agroecology (AE). Land preparation is	MU

		managed as a result of FFS agroecological implementation				on progress on demonstration plots. Trained Extension Officers will be facilitators as Trainer of Trainees, training 1 000 farming households/beneficiaries. Once the 1 000 farmers are trained on AE and Marshland conservation, these will be expected to adopt AE and Marshland conservation practices on at least 4ha per farmer (translating to 1 000 x 4ha = 4 000ha). Farmer training is still pending, thus, no beneficiaries have reported land restoration/improvement under AE practice for SLM.	
		Number of wetland agriculture hectares monitored annually to promote SLM practices and reporting to national KM system.	0 ha monitored and reporting to national KM system	10,000 ha monitored and reporting to national KM system	20,000 ha monitored and reporting to national KM system	0 ha monitored and no report to national KM. - Planning is in progress to set up a KM platform which will use GIS and Remote Sensing techniques to monitor land use and land cover changes attributed to FFS AE and Marshland conservation programming. A hired consultant will lead the set up and operationalization of the KM platform where annual land use and land cover changes will be monitored and recorded by the recently recruited national GIS and Remote Sensing specialist based in Basra. A project NCE will be requested and is required to deliver on this activity on annual basis	MU
	Outcome 4						
	Monitoring and evaluation informs knowledge management with best practices upscaled	Percentage of intended outputs and indicators reported by the project's mid-term and final report as delivered and/or on-track for delivery.	0% delivered 0% on-track for delivery	50% delivered 50% on-track for delivery 1 mid-term evaluation report	100% delivered 0% remaining for delivery 1 end of project evaluation report	About 25% delivered and 75% remaining for delivery. Mid-term Evaluation is in progress with data collection completed and the hired consultant is finalizing the report writing. A project NCE of 24 months was requested and is required to adequately deliver the 75% remaining for delivery	MU

		Number of annual KM tool reports uploaded into regional and international KM tools.	0: reports submitted to WOCAT 0: reports submitted to Regional SLM FAO Unit	2: reports submitted to WOCAT 2: reports submitted to Regional SLM FAO Unit	4: reports submitted to WOCAT 4: reports submitted to Regional SLM FAO Unit	Draft Concept Notes were developed on 8 potential studies/technical reports writing. Planning is in progress to sign Level of Agreements with the University of ThiQar and University of Al Muthanna to collaborate in 8 research study outputs of the project. The planned research work include the following thematic subjects; - Climate change and its influence on Agriculture in Al Muthanna governorate, southern Iraq - The status of Sustainable Land Management across southern Iraq - Land use and land cover changes across Al Muthanna governorate - Household socio-economic benefits of adopting Conservation Agriculture across Al Muthanna governorate - Climate change and its influence on Agriculture in Thi Qar governorate, southern Iraq - The status of Marshland conservation across Thi Qar governorate, southern Iraq - Land use and land cover changes across Thi Qar governorate - Household socio-economic benefits of adopting Conservation Agriculture and Agroecology across Thi Qar governorate	MS

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

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Enhanced policy, legal, and institutional frameworks support SLM	The project team finalized and has an approved training Curricula for Decision and Policy Makers on SLM. In progress is the hiring of a consultant Natural Resource Management and Policy expert to train selected government staff on Policy and Decision Making in SLM. A total of 117 personnel will be capacitated as Decision and Policy Makers on SLM from the Iraq MOA, CAD, MOE and the MOW to participate in the planned training on SLM Policy Decision making, Policy enactment and implementation. Recruitment of a consultant. The consultant will also develop a national strategic action plan for agriculture and marshlands as well as a national SLM strategy. Another short-term consultant will be hired to design and operationalize the KM platform for SLM	FAO, MOE, MOA, CAD and MOW	September 2023 it is expected to have national and government staff trained. November 2023, A national SLM Strategy and an Action Plan for Agriculture and Marshland conservation would have been established. During the same period the KM platform and SLM reports would have been completed.
SLM best practices promoted and delivering global environmental benefits	Roll-out and speed up the implementation of FFS Demonstration Plots and Farmer trainings on CA for SLM.	FAO, MoE, MoA and targeted conservation agriculture farmers	Under the assumption that the NCE is approved, and that the institutional/political/security situation remain stable and allows the project to deliver all of its interventions, thus, most of the tasks/activities will be implemented by November 2025
Measures to restore and sustainably manage marshland ecosystems adopted	Finalize the development of the training curriculum and train Extension Officers on Agroecology (AE) and Marshland Conservation. Roll-out and speed up the implementation of FFS Demonstration Plots and Farmer trainings on AE for SLM.	FAO, MoE, MoA and targeted agroecology farmers	Under the assumption that the NCE is approved, and that the institutional/political/security situation remain stable and allows the project to deliver all of its interventions, thus, most of the tasks/activities will be implemented by August 2025.
Monitoring and evaluation inform knowledge management with best practices up-scaled	Accelerate hiring of consultants to do a Need Assessment to inform the establishment of the KM platform that will be put in place by another hired consultant expert for the platform	FAO, MoE, MoA, University of Thi Qar and University of Al Muthanna	To be completed by December 2023.

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
	development and the coordination of the data collection to be uploaded into the platform. Speed up the process of signing the LoA between FAO and the Universities of Thi Qar and University of Al Muthanna. A No Cost Extension was requested to ensure that project results will be on time delivered.		

3. Implementation Progress (IP)

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

Outcomes and Outputs[12]	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements[13] (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance[14] in delivering outputs
Project Objective: Reverse land degradation processes, conserve and sustainably manage land and water resources in degraded marshland ecosystems in Southern Iraq for greater access to services from resilient ecosystems and improved livelihoods	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF Core Indicator 4.3)	10,000 ha	0ha under sustainable land management in production systems	First cycle of crop production did not commence yet by the time of reporting
	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF Core Indicator 11)	Male: 1,250 Female: 1,250	421 Females and 2 049 Males targeted to date for the project.	At beneficiary registrations households generally prefer to register a male member of each household even for female headed households. Training participants from male headed households are planned to encourage their women counterparts to attend farmer field schools together as couples. This ensures women participation in directly gaining knowledge on new technologies of sustainable agriculture.
Outcome 1: Enhanced policy, legal, and institutional frameworks support SLM	Number of national and governorate staff reporting higher SLM management capacity.	10 MOA 12 MOE 5 MOW	37 Government staff have been nominated for the training. A term of reference has been approved to hire a consultant Expert Trainer and a	No variance to be reported during the reporting period

[12] Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

[13] 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)

[14] Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

		5 Al-Muthanna Governorate 5 Thi Qua Governorate	training manual developed and approved for the planned SLM Decision and Policy Making processes.	
	Number of Government staff exclusively mandated to support implementation of SLM programming, including agriculture and wetlands	40 CAD Staff 40 MOE	66 participants have been nominated for the training. A term of reference has been approved to hire a consultant Expert trainer and a training manual developed and approved for the planned SLM Decision and Policy Making processes.	The nomination of the remaining 14 personnel is still pending for the planned training.
	A national SLM strategy action plan developed with implementation financed by government.	1 SLM strategy and action plan developed and financed	Terms of reference developed and approved to hire a consultant Natural Resource Management to lead and establish a national SLM strategy	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
	A national strategic action plan for agriculture and marshlands developed with implementation financed by government.	1 Action plan for Agroecology and Marshland conservation developed and financed	Terms of reference developed and approved to hire a consultant Natural Resource Management to lead and establish a national Action plan for Agroecology and Marshland conservation	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
	Number of annual users reported for project emplaced capacity and knowledge tools.	300 users of project social media (e.g., facebook) 1000 monthly visitors of the project emplaced knowledge management website	Terms of Reference were developed and approved to hire a consultant to design and operationalize the KM platform. The hired consultant will establish and capacitate project team on a Knowledge Management Platform where SLM information system will be derived through GIS and Remote Sensing Techniques to be uploaded and disseminated.	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
	Number of annual national SLM progress reports delivered based upon information generated by GIS-based	4 National SLM progress reports	No progress to be reported during the reporting period	No variance to be reported during the reporting period

	monitoring and knowledge platform.			
Outcome 2: SLM best practices promoted and delivering global environmental benefits	Number of extension officers with proven capacity to implement FFS SLM training programs.	50 Extension Officers trained on Conservation Agriculture	60 Extension Officers from the MOE trained on Conservation Agriculture and farmer Field School	Extra +10 Extension Officers were trained to reduce the extension officer-farmer ratio.
	Number of hectares of degraded agriculture and grazing lands under improved SLM management as a result of FFS implementation.	6 000 ha restored	No progress on land restored to be reported during the last reporting period. 34 FFS Demonstration plots on CA were set up to serve as "Look and Learn Centres" for 1 500 farming households	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
	Number of agricultural producers reporting higher economic returns based upon participation in FFS SLM training programs.	150 men 150 women	No progress to be reported during the reporting period	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
	Number of agriculture hectares (degraded and under SLM) monitored annually as a result of FFS programming with linkages to the national KM system.	30 000 ha monitored and reporting to the national KM system	Terms of Reference were developed and approved to hire a consultant to design and operationalize the KM platform. The hired consultant will establish and capacitate project team on a Knowledge Management Platform where SLM information system will be derived through GIS and Remote Sensing Techniques to monitor land use and land cover changes	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
Outcome 3: Measures to restore and sustainably manage marshland ecosystems adopted	Number of extension officers with proven capacity to implement FFS agroecological training programs that support marshland conservation.	20 Extension Officers trained on Agroecology	A draft Training curriculum on Agro-eocology and Marshland conservation was developed and being reviewed for possible approval to deliver the training	30 Extension Officers were nominated for the training against the target of 20, to increase the farmer-extension officer ratio.

	Number of marshland dependent agricultural producers reporting higher economic returns based upon participation in FFS agroecological training programs.	100 men 100 women	No progress to be reported during the reporting period	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
	Number of hectares of wetlands restored and sustainably managed as a result of FFS agroecological implementation.	4 000 ha restored	No progress on land restored to be reported during the last reporting period. 18 FFS Demonstration plots on AE and Marshland conservation were set up to serve as "Look and Learn Centres" for 1 000 farming households.	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
	Number of wetland agriculture hectares monitored annually to promote SLM practices and reporting to national KM system.	20 000 ha monitored and reporting to the national KM system	Terms of Reference were developed and approved to hire a consultant to design and operationalize the KM platform.	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
Outcome 4: Monitoring and evaluation informs knowledge management with best practices upscaled	Percentage of intended outputs and indicators reported by the project's mid-term and final report as delivered and/or on-track for delivery.	1 mid-term evaluation report 100% delivery and 0% remaining for delivery	Data collection was completed, and report writing is in progress for the mid-term evaluation.	No variance to be reported during the reporting period
	Number of annual KM tool reports uploaded into regional and international KM tools.	4 reports submitted to WOCAT 4 reports submitted to Regional SLM FAO Unit	Draft Concept Notes developed for 8 studies/technical reports planned to be delivered through a LoA with the University of ThiQar and University of Al Muthanna. Negotiations is still in progress towards the signing of the LoA 5 Leaflets are under development namely on, (i) Conservation Agriculture, (ii) Crop rotation, (iii)	No variance to be reported during the reporting period

			Farmer Field School, (iv) Agroecology principles and (v) Agroecology farming systems.	

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)
Sixty Extension Officers were trained as ToT on Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Farmer Field School (FFS). 52 FFS Demonstration Plots are set up and land preparation is in progress, these plots serve as "Look and Learn Centers" for farmer training on SLM practices. A follow-up training on Agroecology and Marshland Conservation targeting the same Extension officers is being planned. In that regard, a training curriculum on Agroecology and Marshland Conservation is under development. As part of the KM outputs, 5 Leaflets are under development namely on, (i) Conservation Agriculture, (ii) Crop rotation, (iii) Farmer Field School, (iv) Agroecology principles and (v) Agroecology farming systems. Several Terms of References were approved to hire consultants to deliver on various deliverables, namely; (i) training on Decision and Policy Making processes (ii) establish the KM platform, (iii) establish the national SLM strategy and Action plan on agroecology (AE) and Marshland Conversation, (iv) 8 studies/technical reports on SLM related thematic subjects. FAO has maintained continuous communication with MoE in-person and/or via virtual platforms. FAO is working for the full engagement of the stakeholders to the project. During the reporting period, the Local Project Implementation Units comprised of all relevant key stakeholders for each targeted Governorate held project planning meeting where the project progress updates were done, project challenges and suggested solutions were discussed and resolved. FAO in Iraq is promoting the adoption of CA principles that are universally applicable in all agricultural landscapes and cropping systems. However, the project lost 2 years of project implementation time, through delays due to COVID 19 restrictions on movement and political instability in project locations, thus, the remaining project timeline is too limiting for the purpose of achieving the intended project objective. For instance, it requires demonstrating crop rotations and crop residue/ soil organic matter built up for over 4 to 6 cropping seasons for farmers to start realizing the benefits (economic, agronomic, and environmental) of adopting the new technologies of CA and AE practices for improved SLM. To be widely adopted, new technology needs to have benefits and advantages that attract a broad group of farmers who understand the differences between the CA and what they need to adopt for Sustainable Agriculture. Under the existing situation, where the remaining project duration will only allow for one cropping season with neither crop rotation nor crop residue built up, thus the project will not measurably contribute to the achievement of global environmental and economic benefits across the project locations. CA is based on restoring naturally occurring processes and therefore needs a reasonable conversion period before the CA and AE systems are established and the natural balances are restored[15]. To achieve the planned ecosystem-based project objective, a budgetary review and No Cost Project Extension of 24 months is recommended.

[15] https://www.fao.org/conservation-agriculture/impact/ca-adoption/en/

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[16]	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating[17]	Comments/reasons[18] justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	**MU**	**MS**	FAO planned and organized several activities of the project, 60 Extension Officers were trained FFS facilitators on 52/70 Demonstration Plots already set up, where organized farmers groups/beneficiaries converge now and then for farmer field school on SLM related thematic subjects of CA and AE. Several Terms of References were developed and approved to hire expert consultants to deliver on various project targets. FAO has maintained continuous communication with MoE, MOA, MOA and University of ThiQar and the University of Al Muthanna in-person and/or via virtual platforms. FAO is working for the full engagement of the stakeholders to the project. During the reporting period, the Local Project Implementation Units comprised of all relevant key stakeholders for each targeted Governorate held project planning meeting where the project progress updates were done, project challenges and suggested solutions were discussed and resolved. Preliminary planning meetings were held each with the University of ThiQar and University of Al Muthanna to explore possibilities of signing a LoA to deliver on 8 studies/technical reports related to sustainable agriculture and SLM across the project locations
Budget Holder	**MU**	**MU**	Despite advancing significantly the activities in the past year, the progress against the output indicators remains low. We expect however, based on the strong technical capacity of the team, currently expanding, to achieve and document important results before the end of 2023.
GEF Operational Focal Point[19]	**MU**	**MU**	- *The project aims to improve the Livelihoods of the people, raise the income of the Family, restore the neighborhoods of Degradation Lands, and increase the soil fertility and productivity.*

[16] **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.
[17] **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.
[18] Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence
[19] In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

			- *The project in being implementation in the governorates of Dhi Qar and Muthnna.* - *The Beneficiaries are the Ministries (Environment, Agriculture, and Water Resources) and funded by the Global Environment facility.* - *The challenges facing the project: Water scarcity, drought, surrounding environment changes, and some other difficulties.* - *The measures taken include reducing the number of project implementation site, preparing field schools, using modern irrigation technologies, adopting preservation agriculture, environment agriculture, and the parents desire to implement this project.* - *Achievement: Agricultural advisor training, project management units meetings, activating field visits, identifying problems, supporting financial agricultural counsellors, preparing strategy for preservative cultivation.* - *The project has made slow progress through the implementation of the preparation and training stages and provision of expertise in the field of preservative agriculture implementation on the ground.* - *There will be coordination between FAO and the concerted authorities to take subsidized measures to overcome obstacles and initiate implementation.*
Lead Technical Officer[20]	**MU**	**MU**	Slow start-up process has resulted in low delivery to-date. Despite the initial delay in achieving various outputs, there is an anticipation for an overall acceleration of progress to meet the project objectives.
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)	**MU**	**MU**	Good progress was achieved during this reporting period regarding FFS training, a stronger engagement of project beneficiaries and partners and the preparation of plots to conduct CA and AE demonstrations. A 2-year extension is necessary in line with the MTR recommendations to deliver the pending results given start-up delays and crop seasonality. Nevertheless, extension alone does not guarantee results' delivery hence the need for the project team to proactively implement an adaptive managerial response to navigate any potential institutional turnovers, political deadlocks or security threats over the remaining implementation period that may slow down implementation and jeopardize project success.

[20] 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.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

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

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	**Current ESS risk classification** Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid[21]. If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	Low

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.
Not applicable

[21] **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit (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[22]	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Political instability and civil unrest in addition to internal conflict	L	Y	Continuous consultation with the Government departments for responsible local authorities to spearhead mechanisms of conflict resolutions for any security risk the project implementation may encounter and working closely with local community to provide them with the needed skills and tools to be used once the political stable situation is enhanced.	FAO team with support from UNDSS and UNAMI is always keen to follow up the security status in the targeted project locations, not only on the national political conflicts but even the tribal conflicts in the rural areas. Feedback from GoI is always on track, which assists in the security threats scenario mapping and predicting by security focal personnel. Trained Government Extension Officers would normally remain project focal personnel in project locations in cases of limited access.	**Implementation through national counterparts**

	Type of risk	Risk rating[22]	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
2	The current level of commitment and interest to work on multi-sectoral approach on sustainable agriculture diminishes.	L	Y	This project is designed with the full support of various key primary stakeholders. Extensive meetings were held at both the national and governorate levels with responsible representatives to mobilize relevant stakeholders to collaborate accordingly during project implementation.	MOE, as the executive partner of GoI is coordinating with all relevant stakeholders to support project implementation. The level of commitment by all stakeholders to this project implementation has fairly improved to date and is expected to continue through-out implementation. This will be insured through an approach that continues to be highly inclusive and facilitates full engagement by multi-sectoral stakeholders.	Continuous coordination with the main stakeholders at all levels (federal and local).

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

	Type of risk	Risk rating[22]	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
3	Low ownership and lack of sustainability of new technologies and techniques	L	Y	This is mitigated through capacity building through training and awareness targeted at project beneficiaries. Mitigation actions also involve tools, such as socio-economic assessments which will inform household economic analysis that will clearly show that there is an socio-economic and ecological benefits to the adoption of these new technologies of CA, AE and marshland conservation.	The trained 60 Extension Officers will cascade knowledge on CA to farmers. A plan on capacity building is in place through FFS and M&E plan that will show while data collection and analysis will be done to highlight the changes on the conventional agriculture situation vs the new techniques of CA, AE and marshland conservation.	Implementation in coordination with the main stakeholders at all levels (federal and local).

	Type of risk	Risk rating[22]	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
4	Incentives for local stakeholders are not adequate to generate engagement	M	Y	The project will provide stakeholders with the technical support required to measure how improved SLM delivers both enhanced ecosystem services as well as improvement on crop productivity integrated with environmental protection. This will serve as a major incentive for local project support. In addition, project funding will provide a bridge to reduce risks to producers who may be hesitant to adopt "new" technologies. FAO will continue to encourage the GoI to meet its obligation of co-funding and distribute agricultural inputs to individual farmers/beneficiaries so that farmers would have resources to utilize as they adopt new techniques of CA, AE and marshland conservation for SLM and improved livelihood.	The project will provide stakeholders with the technical support required to measure how improved management delivers both enhanced ecosystem services as well as production improvements. FAO is currently working on the development of a KM informative platform. This will serve as a major incentive for local project support. In addition, project funding will provide a bridge to reduce risks to farmers who may be hesitant to adopt "new" technologies of CA, AE and marshland conservation.	Ensuring commitment from the counterpart technically and financially; including the development of a joint roadmap for follow up activities.

	Type of risk	Risk rating[22]	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
5	Climate Change	M	Y	The project implementation approach will enable stakeholders and targeted farmers to better understand climate induced vulnerabilities and how strategically adapt. SLM practices of CA and AE are being be selected based on their potential contribution to more resilient production systems and marshland ecosystem restoration. Steps will be taken to build resilience measures into project design to minimize the risk and/or adapt to new conditions when possible.	According to the HH results; due to poor management 90% of the respondents in the governorates of Muthanna and ThiQar have many problems with their crops and livestock. Some of the next steps to improve agriculture conditions in both governorates is the promotion of drought tolerant crop varieties and more diversified cropping patterns. AE is being promoted in marshland areas of Thi Qar governorate where 18 FFS Demonstration plots under AE are set up, while CA is being promoted in semi-arid areas of Al Muthana governorate where 34 FFS Demonstration plots under CA are set up to date.	Training curricula and activities to reflect the impact of climate change

	Type of risk	Risk rating[22]	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
6	Land Tenure issues will challenge implementation	M	Y	FAO ensures that the small-holder farmers are the rightful owners of their land or are otherwise legally entitled to work on the land after the project end.	Beneficiary registration and verification ensured to target beneficiaries with access to crop land and/or grazing land with no conflict of interest	
7	Low capacity of local and national institutions	M	Y	To mitigate this risk, the project support the institutional framework and technical capacity development at national and local levels, through a capacity building program and training.	60 Government Extension Officers were trained on CA and FFS approach. A follow-up training on AE and marshland conservation is planned and pending.	Continue building the capacity of the government

	Type of risk	Risk rating[22]	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
8	Challenged project coordination	L	Y	Proposed mitigation measures include intra-governmental agency liaison by the national Project Management Unit and, overview of coordinated activities by the Project Steering Committee. At governorate level, Local Project Implementation Unit (LPIU) in each targeted governorate were established to coordinate and collaborate on project implementation. The project will ensure that there is close coordination between the relevant agencies within Iraq. Close and collaborative cooperation between many institutional stakeholders will be essential for the project to achieve its stated goal and objectives. This is mitigated to some extent by the positive experience of collaboration of project management team and project steering committee as well as FAO's long-standing experience.	Face-to-face and online meetings were held during the last year in the venues of MoE, MoA, MoWR and the different governorates to suggest solutions on multi-tasking to deliver on the otherwise delayed tasks, and to elaborate some key issues. LPIU meetings were held at governorate level and FAO maintains constant communication with the different stakeholders, farmers associations among them, to ensure everyone understand their roles and responsibilities.	Strengthen the coordination and implementation with local authorities

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	The overall risk is moderate. The project was able to deliver relatively tangible results. The Local Project Implementation Unit (LPIU) at each targeted governorate level was established to facilitate timely addressing of issues which may derail project implementation. In that regard, participation of government key ministries and Universities has improved since then. 60 Government Extension Officers were trained on CA and FFS approach. The trained Extension Officers will lead farmer training on Demonstration Plots under the mentorship of FAO technical staff. 34 CA Demonstration Plots and 18 AE Demonstration Plots were set up on individual farms and land preparation is in progress for the planned first cropping cycle of the project. The FFS Demonstration Plots were identified and designed according to the requirements of the project, in the different areas the farmers associations and communities have been supporting the intervention and willing to contribute for the success implementation of the project. To a lesser extent, there is risks related to institutional, political instability and conflicts during the remaining project duration. However, the main threat and project risk is the limited time remaining until the end of the project. Most planned activities and tasks will miss the target by the end of the project unless a project no cost extension is provided for a period of 24 months till December 2025. Further justification to the proposed No Cost Extension of the project for 24 months is based on the project's theory of change which requires reasonable time for the planned four integrated components designed to result in the achievement of the project objective. Each component is designed to catalyse and result in the transformations required to assist southern Iraq to move towards production modalities of Conservation Agriculture, Agroecology and Marshland conservation practices that support Sustainable Land Management. Conservation Agriculture is a concept in support of sustainable land management, environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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 during this Fiscal Year
Recommendation 1: The MTR recommends a No Cost extension of the project until January 2026, in order to make it possible for the project team and the executing partners to achieve the project outputs and outcomes	A project No Cost Extension justification concept note was prepared and cleared by the LTO. A revised work plan was also inclusive of the proposed extension period was developed and endorsed in the national Project Steering Committee meeting held on 05 July 2023.
Recommendation 2: Develop a Detailed Implementation Plan and implement a Risk Management Plan	A revised detailed project workplan of prioritized and achievable deliverable targets was developed in line with the remaining project duration. Some other activities are planned with the anticipation of a project No Cost Extension of 2 years.
Recommendation 3: The Project Team should officially Identify the mechanisms for the implementation of the Iraqi Government's in-kind Contributions to the Project	This request was presented to the national project steering committee meeting held on 5 July 2023. Continued effort towards an integrated approach will be explored to ensure that the MoA, MoW and MoE, respectively, support beneficiary farmers with in-kind distribution of seeds and fertilizers, supply and fix modern irrigation systems.
Recommendation 4: FAO to ensure that the coordination and oversight mechanisms will be strengthened as soon as possible, including regular meetings of the Project Steering Committee, and the Local Project Implementation Units and enhance the collaboration with Local government Partners through the established mechanisms to speed up project implementation	TORs were developed and approved for the Steering Committee, national PMU, and the governorate level the LPIUs that identify their role in the project implementation. Thus, having ToRs that outline the committee/units' responsibilities and expected roles help build trust, enhance national ownership, and fosters a supportive environment for addressing implementation challenges collaboratively to ensure smoother implementation. Moving forward, the year 2023 has recorded an improvement in the frequency of planned meetings of these national structures for project implementation.
Recommendation 5: Monitor and Evaluate Progress for adaptive management	This is work in progress with the FAO M and Team developing a Knowledge Management Platform to collect data, analyze to ensure evidence based programming. Adaptive measures will be adopted accordingly as informed by the project monitoring and evaluation findings.

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[23]. 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			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule	The political instability of the country from 2019 to 2021 negatively impacted the communication with the local authorities and this delayed project implementation. The project implementation progress was further derailed by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic with restricted movement imposed in much of 2020/21. Furthermore, even though the elections were held in October 2021, the political situation was still volatile and the project communication channels remained a major challenge. Several lines of communication have been used to set up project meetings with delayed responses. In that regard, despite the project start date being 01 January 2020, the first National Project Steering Committee was set up and the first Steering Committee meeting was held on 24th of August 2021. The delayed set up of the National Project Steering Committee and the onset of the Steering Committee meeting, this alone is a major indicator explaining why the project activity implementation is behind the scheduled timeline. It is recommended or envisaged for a No Cost Extension of the Project for a	It is recommended or envisaged for a No Cost Extension of the Project for a period of 24 months till December 2025.	Pending

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

	period of 24 months till December 2025 so as to allow adequate re-planning on the implementation schedule.		
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity	Through the national Project Steering Committee and the Project Management Unit, the Local Project Implementation Unit (LPIU) of ThiQar governorate requested that the project locations must cover all the 13 Districts of the Governorate. Thus, project beneficiaries/farmers in ThiQar governorate are drawn and targeted across all 13 districts of the governorate.	24 August 2021	National Project Steering Committee, PMU and the LPIU of ThiQar Governorate
Other minor project amendment (define)			

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
Government institutions			
MOE	Responsible for the overall implementation of the project's activities, Coordinate with other national stakeholders. Provision of digital mapping services.	Coordinated and facilitated the establishment of Local Project Implementation Unit, each in ThiQar and Al Muthana Governorate, respectively. FAO requested MOE to set up a date for the next steering committee.	Delays in setting up the date for the next Steering Committee meeting.
MOA	In partnership with other national partners provide implementation resources and technical SLM/CA support. Provision of digital mapping services.	Nominated and seconded 60 Extension Officers who were trained on SLM/CA techniques. Trained Extension Officers are serving as Trainer of Trainee farmers on Demonstration Plots through the FFS approach.	Delayed response to provide telephones numbers for individual targeted farmers as requested by FAO M&E team for project monitoring activities.
MOW	Implementation of the project's water management plan in SLM/CA in partnership with MOE and MOA.	MOW representatives attended the PMU and LPIU meetings, and shared information for the project. Reassured FAO that irrigation water will be supplied to designed FFS Demonstration Plots on selected farmers.	No challenges encountered during the reporting period
National Centre for Water Resource Management	Implementation of the project's water management plan in SLM/CA in partnership with MOE and MOA	Representatives attended the LPIU meetings at governorate level, and shared information for the project. Reassured FAO that irrigation water will be supplied throughout the year, to designed FFS Demonstration Plots on selected farmers.	No challenges encountered during the reporting period
The State Commission Authority for Ground Water	Implementation of the project's water management plan	Representatives attended the LPIU meetings at governorate level, and shared information	Access to underground water is very limited in semi-arid areas of project

	in SLM/CA in partnership with MOE and MOA	for the project. Reassured FAO that irrigation water will be supplied throughout the year, to designed FFS Demonstration Plots on selected farmers.	locations in Al Muthanna governorate.
Department for Underground Water in Muthanna and Thi-Qar governorates	Implementation of the project's water management plan in SLM/CA in partnership with MOE and MOA	During the LPIU meetings, representatives from the have supported the team by providing valuable information on the water situation and data to take into account for the project. The information discussed is related to quantity of ground water, salinity and the major management challenges. All the data was discussed with FAO team to incorporate solutions for the farmers in the AE and marshland conservation training curricula.	No challenges encountered during the reporting period
Muthanna Governate	Instrumental for project site level implementation Al Salman district (Al-Shaweaa) and Al-Rumaitha district (Al-Majid)	A Local Project Implementation Unit comprised of all key stakeholders was established at governorate level to coordinate and troubleshoot project implementation challenges. 34 Demonstration Plots for FFS on CA are set up and land preparation is in progress for first planting	Delayed response by MOE and MOA to provide telephones numbers for individual targeted farmers as requested by FAO M&E team for project monitoring activities purposes.
Thi-Qar Governate	Instrumental for project site level implementation Al-Chibayish district (Al-Tar)	A Local Project Implementation Unit comprised of all key stakeholders was established at governorate level to coordinate and troubleshoot project implementation challenges. 18 FFS Demonstration Plots for FFS on Agroecology and 11 Demonstration Plots for FFS on CA are set up and land preparation is in progress for first planting. A request was made by the LPIU for this governorate, to expand the project location to include all	Delayed response by MOE and MOA to provide telephones numbers for individual targeted farmers as requested by FAO M&E team for project monitoring activities purposes.

		the 13 districts of the governorate while maintaining the same planned total number of beneficiaries.	
Office of Forests and Combating Desertification	Consultations for the implementation of SLM/CA.	Exchange of information on GoI approved/cleared tree species which can be planted to combat desertification. The office provide the latest information regarding the statistics on degradation on the sites of intervention.	No challenges encountered during the reporting period
Office of Agriculture Research	Support universities in delivering published research into the socio-economic and environmental benefits of SLM/CA.	Soil analysis of the soil samples from selected FFS Demonstration plots were held by this office.	No challenges encountered during the reporting period
Office of Agriculture Extension Services and Training	Support MOA extension services in project implementation in partnership MOW, ICARDA, FAO and private sector SPs.	The office continues to share information regarding agricultural extension services across the project locations, FAO has included some of the information in reports and planning documents of the project	No challenges encountered during the reporting period
Centre for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands	The Centre is consulted in the process of carrying out research on the marshes.	The center has shared information and reports regarding the Marshlands in ThiQar governorate, FAO conducted literature review to identify research gaps for technical report writing.	No challenges encountered during the reporting period
National Council for Seeds	Will partner with the project in supporting the development of private sector seed nurseries and seedbanks.	The office has shared information regarding seeds rules and regulations in the area, FAO has included some of the information in reports and documents of the project for cereal and vegetable seeds procurement for FFS Demonstration Plots.	No challenges encountered during the reporting period
NGOs[24]			
Private sector entities			

[24] Non-government organizations

Private Sector Service Providers	Providing local employment and function as facilitators and providers of technical support to the smallholder farmers as well as guaranteed buyers and the link to market.	Informal meetings were held to keep up to date with the latest activities on the project. Potential suppliers of forest and fruit tree seedlings were sought and provided by this sector.	There is general scarcity of suppliers of forest tree seedlings propagated through quality guaranteed methods.
Others[25]			
Iraqi Farmer's Association	Provide support in the development of Farmer Associations and cooperatives at the smallholder level.	The representatives of the associations participated in all Local Project Implementation Unit in each targeted governorate, they presented their perspectives and recommendations, also they had highlighted the main challenges existing across the farming communities	GoI delays in distribution of agricultural inputs to farming households
University of Thi-Qar	A source of technical knowledge on agricultural research in the region. Produce peer-reviewed research into capacity of the identified soil rehabilitation techniques to reverse salinization and soil degradation and improve yields.	A pre-planning meeting was held and Concept Notes were developed highlighting four thematic subjects for research studies/technical reports writing for the project. Planning is in progress towards the signing of a Letter of Agreement for the University to deliver on four research studies.	The University was encouraged to actively participate in all planned LPIU meetings at governorate level
University of Muthanna	A source of technical knowledge on agricultural research in the region. Produce peer-reviewed research	A pre-planning meeting was held, and Concept Notes were developed highlighting four thematic subjects for research studies/technical reports writing for the project.	The University was encouraged to actively participate in all planned LPIU meetings at governorate level

[25] 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

	into capacity of the identified soil rehabilitation techniques to reverse salinization and soil degradation and improve yields.	Planning is in progress towards the signing of a Letter of Agreement for the University to deliver on four research studies.	
Smallholder farmers.	The main focus of project activities is improving livelihoods, food security and environmental rehabilitation	The 18 FFS Demonstration Plots on AE and 34 FFS Demonstration Plots on CA are established to date across the project locations and farmers are actively participating. Land preparation has since commenced on selected Demonstration Plots.	GoI delays in distribution of agricultural inputs to farming households
New stakeholders identified			

10.Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) during this reporting period.

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	No	
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	60 Government Extension Officers working as Farmer Field School (FFS) Facilitators were trained in Conservation Agriculture for improved Sustainable Land Management and mandated in both governorates, out of which 30 (2 Females and 28 Males) in Thi Qar and 30 (11 Females and 19 Males) in Muthanna governorate to spearhead the setting up of the FFS Demonstration plots which will serve as "Look and Learn Centres" for 2500 farm households with each farmer expected to adopt improved sustainable land management practices. Female Extension Officers are advised to encourage more women and female youths to participate in FFS on designated Demonstration Plots
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	No	
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	To date the project achieved about a 30% of participation of women farmers the project and this will ensure woman are part of the decision making processes in farmer groups
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	No	No progress to report during the reporting period
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	The formulation of questionnaires and any data collection tool has been designed to segregate the information by gender.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	Recently recruited International Farmer Field School and Sustainable Land Management Specialist has basic expertise on gender dynamics and disparities in farming communities and community based natural resource management.
Any other good practices on gender		

11. Knowledge Management Activities

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

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, Terms of Reference was developed and approved to hire a consultant to design and operationalize the KM platform. The hired consultant will establish and capacitate project team on a Knowledge Management Platform where SLM information system will be derived through GIS and Remote Sensing Techniques, this KM information will be uploaded and disseminated through a KM platform.
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges **this year**.	Outputs are designed for this purpose and will be supported by a recently recruited international communications specialist. Information will be fed into the national monitoring program, the tool-box, and inform adaptation of national and state level strategies and related programming. FAO generated training curricula on CA and FFS, and draft leaflets as educational resources. The project is implementing a communication strategy to make certain lessons are captured and disseminated effectively. Concept Notes were developed with the aim to conduct 8 research studies/technical reports to document project Lessons and capture of best practices for dissemination. The project will use knowledge management tools to facilitate the development of networks of women contributing to project objectives. This will include generating management templates, training materials, and other educational resources. The project will initiate at the end of 2023 an annual lessons-learned workshop to share advances with associated stakeholders, projects, and government agencies.
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	Farmers are expecting to learn techniques that help them to improve land degradation and water management. Farmers believe that the inclusion of new technology and the access to organic fertilizers will highly improve their land. They are willing to start with the principles of CA, AE and explore the alternatives that will present to them. No progress in relation to household socio-economic and ecological benefits to be reported during the reporting period

Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	
Please provide links to related website, social media account	Press release: https://t.co/xq4XZOQACL Twitter:https://twitter.com/faoiraq/status/1630123085448847361?s=46&t=ODwvXCNn3sBn93R-vLxdNA
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	Draft leaflets developed and submitted to LTO for review and possible clearance: (i) Conservation Agriculture to ensure Sustainable Land Management for Improved Livelihoods in Degraded Areas of southern Iraq: The Iraq FAO/Global Environment Facility (FAO/GEF) funded project (ii) Agroecology promotion for Sustainable Land Management to Improved Livelihood in Degraded areas of southern Iraq. The Iraq FAO/Global Environment Facility (FAO/GEF) funded project (iii) Training curriculum on Conservation Agriculture and Farmer Field School (iv) Training curriculum on Agroecology and Marshland Conservation
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details	Khawla Ben Aicha, International Communication Specialist Nazirov, Alisher, M&E Officer

12.Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

If applicable, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities.

Do indigenous peoples and or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.

The indigenous groups in the marshlands are the so called “Me’dan” who are buffalo breeders. One of the targets of the project is to upscale the biodiversity integration in the marshlands, where the increasing of cultivation intensity will secure more fodders to livestock breeders, keeping in mind that buffalos are the main source of income for Me’dan communities. Informed by the indigenous people and local communities, leguminous forest fodder tree (*Vachellia* species) seedlings are being procured for use as windbreaks, improve soil fertility on FFS Demonstration sites while in the long run will provide forage to livestock as well as fuelwood to farmers. Farmers are expected to adopt this agrosilviculture practice on their farms to diversify their livelihood.

The project aims to include the different local communities as much as possible throughout its interventions in 2023. The farmer association representatives were consulted and involved in the discussion around the project activities, including implementation of FFS and selection of beneficiaries/plots where FFS demonstrations will be undertaken. Farmer association representatives participated in all meetings between FAO and the Local Project Implementation Unit at each of the two targeted governorates. Selected local farmers are hosting identified and designed FFS Demonstration Plots (18 plots under Agroecology and 34 plots under Conservation Agriculture) for the purpose of Farmer Field School training delivery

13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing[26]	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing[27]	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
Government of Iraq	Ministry of Environment	In-Kind	5,000,000	785,000	785,000	5,000,000
Government of Iraq	Ministry of Agriculture	In-Kind	5,000,000	255,000	255,000	5,000,000
Government of Iraq	Ministry of Water Resources	In-Kind	5,000,000	180,000	180,000	5,000,000
Recipient Governorates	ThiQar, Muthanna	In-Kind	2,500,000	150,000	150,000	2,500,000
Private Sector	USAID /WADA	In-Kind	1,200,000	0,00	0,00	0.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-Kind	2,500,000	750,000	750,000	2,500,000
		TOTAL	21,200,000	2,120,000	2,120,000	20,000,000

[26]Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

[27]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

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

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

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

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

Risk rating 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:	
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.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between **51%** and **75%** that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, 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 moderate risk
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 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
ThiQar governorate	31.25	46.25	97019	Promotion of Conservation Agriculture and Agroecology
Al Salman district in Al Muthanna Governorate	30.5	44.53333	98534	Promotion of Conservation Agriculture
Al-Rumaitha district (sub-district Al-Majid) in Al Muthanna Governorate	31.49777	45.29542	9166568	Promotion of Conservation Agriculture

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

Annex 3._ Indicators Progress Tracking Table

Description	Indicators	Baseline	End Target	Progress	% Actual vs Plan	Remarks
Impact Reverse land degradation processes, conserve and sustainably manage land and water resources in degraded marshland ecosystems in Southern Iraq for greater access to services from resilient ecosystems and improved livelihoods	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF Core Indicator 4.3)	0 ha	10,000 ha	Will be measured towards the end of the project implementation	0	Crop production is yet to commence
	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (GEF Core Indicator 11)	Male: 0 Female: 0	Male: 1,250 , Female: 1,250	421 Females and 2049 Males targeted to date for the project. Beneficiary data base development is in progress	60	Registration is in progress to achieve the planned target of 2500 beneficiaries.
Outcome 1 Enhanced policy, legal, and institutional frameworks support SLM	Number of national and governorate staff reporting higher SLM management capacity.	MOA: 0, MoH&E: 0, Mow: 0, Muthanna Gov.: 0, Thi Qar Gov.:0	10: MOA, 12: MoH&E, 5: MOW, 5: Muthanna Gov., 5: Thi Qar Gov.	37 Participants from key ministries and Government departments were nominated for the training on Policy and Decision Making	20	Recruitment in progress of an Expert Trainer to train selected participants on Policy and Decision Making in SLM
	Number of Government staff exclusively mandated to support implementation of SLM programming, including agriculture and wetlands	CAD Staff: 0, MoH&E Staff: 0	40 CAD Staff, 40 MoH&E Staff	A Specific curriculum for Decision Policy makers has been finalized and approved to train government personnel on SLM; challenges have been encountered regarding the participants' nomination. 66participants (inclusive of CAD and MoE staff) were nominated for the training on Policy and Decision Making. A request is made to MoE to nominate the remaining balance of 14 participants	20	Recruitment in progress of an Expert Trainer to train selected participants on Policy and Decision Making in SLM.
	A national SLM strategy action plan developed with implementation financed by government.	SLM action plans developed and financed 0	1 SLM action plans developed and financed	Terms of Reference developed and recruitment in progress of an Expert on Natural Resources Management and Policy Making, who will facilitate the planned workshops to develop a National SLM strategy and action plan	10	Recruitment in progress of an Expert on Natural Resources Management and Policy

Description	Indicators	Baseline	End Target	Progress	% Actual vs Plan	Remarks
						Making who will lead on the development of a national SLM strategy
	A national strategic action plan for agriculture and marshlands developed with implementation financed by government.	Agriculture and Marshlands action plans developed and financed 0	1 Agriculture and Marshlands action plans developed and financed	Terms of Reference developed and recruitment in progress of an Expert on Natural Resources Management and Policy Making, who will facilitate the planned workshops to develop a National strategic action plan for agriculture and marshland conservation	10	Recruitment in progress of an Expert on Natural Resources Management and Policy Making who will lead on the development of a national agriculture and marshland conservation action plan
	Number of annual users reported for project emplaced capacity and knowledge tools.	0 users of project social media (e.g. Facebook), 0 users of project emplaced knowledge management website	300 users of project social media (e.g. Facebook), 1,000 monthly visitors of project emplaced knowledge management website	166 monthly users/followers of FAO Iraq Tweeter actively visit the FAO-GEF related tweeters. Once the different trainings are implemented the beneficiaries will start using the knowledge management tools and visit the KM website	40	
	Number of annual national SLM progress reports delivered based upon information generated by GIS-based monitoring and knowledge platform.	0 national SLM progress reports	4 National SLM progress reports.	0 National SLM reports produced to date. A consultant is being hired to set up the GIS platform to derive these SLM reports	0	
Output 1.1 National SLM training program established Output 1.2. National SLM strategy and action plan developed and implemented Output 1.3 National strategic action plan for agriculture and marshlands developed and implemented						

Description	Indicators	Baseline	End Target	Progress	% Actual vs Plan	Remarks
Output 1.4 National monitoring and knowledge management platform to inform SLM decision-making established						
Outcome 2 SLM best practices promoted and delivering global environmental benefits	Number of extension officers with proven capacity to implement FFS SLM training programs.	0 extension officers	50 extension officers	60 Extension Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Thi Qua and Al Muthanna Governorates were trained as Facilitators for Farmer Field School for Conservation Agriculture Demonstration Plots	120	To reduce the Extension Officer to Farmer ratio, more extension officers were trained.
	Number of hectares of degraded agriculture and grazing lands under improved SLM management as a result of FFS implementation.	0 ha	6,000 ha	0ha of land recorded improved SLM as a result of FFS implementation. Out of the planned 30 FFS Demonstration Plots for Conservation Agriculture, 34 FFS Demonstration Plots were identified where a group of 50 farmers per Demo Plot will converge now and then for the look and learn activities of Conservation Agriculture. Crop planting, and training on each Demonstration Plot are still to commence	0	Out of the planned targeted to train 1500 farmers on Conservation Agriculture, each farmer would be expected to adopt Conservation Agriculture and improved SLM on at least a minimum of 4 ha per farmer.
	Number of agricultural producers reporting higher economic returns based upon participation in FFS SLM training programs.	0: men 0: women	150: men 150: women		0	Training of the beneficiaries will commence on FFS sites as soon as the Demo Plots set up is completed. Procurement of Agricultural Inputs for use on Demonstration plots is in progress
	Number of agriculture hectares (degraded and under SLM) monitored annually as a	0 ha monitored and reporting to national KM	30,000 ha monitored and	Recruitment in progress to engage a consultant to lead on setting up a KM platform and a KM strategy to monitor	10	

Description	Indicators	Baseline	End Target	Progress	% Actual vs Plan	Remarks
	result of FFS programming with linkages to the national KM system.		reporting to national KM	land use and land cover through GIS and Remote Sensing techniques		
Output 2.1 Locally adapted SLM best practices described and prioritized for target areas Output 2.2 SLM extension training program established Output 2.3 SLM production systems established with FFS program						
Outcome 3 Measures to restore and sustainably manage marshland ecosystems adopted	Number of extension officers with proven capacity to implement FFS agroecological training programs that support marshland conservation.	0 extension officers	20 extension officers	60 Extension Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Thi Qua and Al Muthanna Governorates were nominated for the training as Facilitators for Farmer Field School for Agroecology Demonstration Plots	10	Development of training curricula on Agroecology and Marshland Conservation is in progress
	Number of marshland dependent agricultural producers reporting higher economic returns based upon participation in FFS agroecological training programs.	0: men 0: women	100: men 100: women	The agroecological training program of farmers will be implemented after the LTO clearance of curriculum	0	Training of the beneficiaries will commence on FFS sites as soon as the Demo Plots set up is completed. Procurement of Agricultural Inputs for use on Demonstration plots is in progress
	Number of hectares of wetlands restored and sustainably managed as a result of FFS agroecological implementation.	0 ha restored	4,000 ha restored	0ha of wetland restored as a result of AE FFS implementation. Out of the planned 20 FFS Demonstration Plots for Agroecology, 18 FFS Demonstration Plots were identified where a group of 50 farmers per Demo Plot will converge now and then for the look and learn activities of Conservation Agriculture. Crop planting, and training on each Demonstration Plot are still to commence	0	Out of the planned targeted to train 1000 farmers on Agroecology and Marsland Conservation, each farmer would be expected to adopt Agroecology and improved SLM

Description	Indicators	Baseline	End Target	Progress	% Actual vs Plan	Remarks
						on at least a minimum of 4 ha per farmer.
	Number of wetland agriculture hectares monitored annually to promote SLM practices and reporting to national KM system.	0 ha monitored and reporting to national KM system	20,000 ha monitored and reporting to national KM system	Recruitment in progress to engage a consultant to lead on setting up a KM platform and a KM strategy to monitor land use and land cover through GIS and Remote Sensing techniques	10	
Output 3.1 Agroecology best practices described and prioritized for marshlands Output 3.2 Agroecology and marshlands extension training program established Output 3.3 Marshland agroecology production systems established with FFS program						
Outcome 4 Monitoring and evaluation informs knowledge management with best practices upscaled	Percentage of intended outputs and indicators reported by the project's mid-term and final report as delivered and/or on-track for delivery.	0% delivered 100% on-track for delivery	100% delivered 0% remaining for delivery	Mid -term evaluation is being finalized	90	The MTR document is going throigh the technical clearance process
	Number of annual KM tool reports uploaded into regional and international KM tools.	0: reports submitted to WOCAT 0: reports submitted to Regional SLM FAO Unit	4: reports submitted to WOCAT 4: reports submitted to Regional SLM FAO Unit	Draft Concepts Notes shared with Universities of ThiQar and Al Muthanna for discussions on possible LoA to do 8 research studies on SLM related thematic subjects.	10	
Output 4.1 Project M&E system operationalized Output 4.2. Project lessons and practices captured and disseminated						