

# GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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**UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2024**  
**Reporting from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024**

## 1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

### 1.1 Project Details

<b>GEF ID:</b> 10204	<b>Umoja WBS:</b> SB-018526
<b>SMA IPMR ID:</b> 95093	<b>Grant ID:</b> S1-32GFL-000712
<b>Project Short Title:</b> SABAL	
<b>Project Title:</b> Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance	
<b>Duration months planned:</b>	60
<b>Duration months age:</b>	26
<b>Project Type:</b>	Full Sized Project (FSP)
<b>Parent Programme if child project:</b>	
<b>Project Scope:</b>	National
<b>Region:</b>	Asia Pacific
<b>Countries:</b>	India
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	Biodiversity, Land Degradation
<b>GEF financing amount:</b>	\$ 6,266,883.00
<b>Co-financing amount:</b>	\$ 68,590,000.00
<b>Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:</b>	2021-05-28
<b>UNEP Project Approval Date:</b>	2021-12-22
<b>Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):</b>	2022-05-09
<b>Date of Inception Workshop, if available:</b>	2022-07-06
<b>Date of First Disbursement:</b>	2022-09-12
<b>Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:</b>	\$ 2,292,203.00
<b>Total expenditure as of 30 June:</b>	\$ 1,110,863.00
<b>Midterm undertaken?:</b>	No

<b>Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:</b>	
<b>Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:</b>	2025-03-01
<b>Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:</b>	2027-03-31
<b>Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:</b>	
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:</b>	2027-09-30
<b>Expected Financial Closure Date:</b>	2028-12-31

## 1.2 Project Description

The project's objective is to reduce land degradation and conserve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, by promoting sustainable agricultural production, supply chains, and public-private finance. Project executing organizations are: Rainforest Alliance (RA - lead EA); Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare (MoAFW - national nodal agency); Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC); State government of Andhra Pradesh; State government of Karnataka; Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) and the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES).

**Component 1:** Enabling LDN and biodiversity conservation in priority landscapes through national fiscal and agriculture policies and multi-stakeholder landscape management. The first component addresses barriers related to the effective implementation of policies to promote the government's commitment to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation through integrated land and water management. Additionally, it strengthens structures enabling local participation in landscape-based natural resource planning and management, in line with government policy.

**Component 2:** Scaling up of sustainable agriculture and SLM to restore degraded land, conserve biodiversity and improve human wellbeing in priority landscapes. The project's second component focuses on land use techniques and the people who live on and from the land at farm and landscape scales. It focuses on mobilizing technical expertise in sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation and integrated land use and water management to promote and facilitate the uptake, and progressively upscaling, of sustainable agricultural production, restoration of degraded land and biodiversity conservation in the project landscapes.

**Component 3:** Market mechanisms and public-private finance for scaling up sustainable agriculture and landscape-scale SLM. Component 3 addresses the commodity and financial markets for agricultural products, which are two critical enablers of Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) at farm and landscape scales. The project's theory of change is that the transformation of agriculture will require a combination of supportive and enabling policies for SLM (Component 1), farmer access to knowledge, technology and services that enable them to grow their businesses and engage with markets (Component 2), and the commitment of commodity and financial markets to SLM because it can deliver positive business and financial results (Component 3).

**Component 4:** Knowledge management and outreach to scale-up sustainable value chains and landscape-scale SLM. Component 4 of the project serves three purposes. First, it provides the knowledge base for the project to review and adjust its strategy and measures its impact performance and progress as part of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan. Second, it generates data on the economic returns to farmers from adopting sustainable agricultural practices. Third, it communicates externally to

key stakeholders verified information that supports the scale-up of sustainable production, supply chains and SLM through government policies, company commitments, farmer adoption and private investment.

### 1.3 Project Contacts

<b>Division(s) Implementing the project</b>	Ecosystems Division
<b>Name of co-implementing Agency</b>	IUCN
<b>Executing Agency (ies)</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW); Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC); State government of Andhra Pradesh; State government of Karnataka; Rainforest Alliance; Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS); Foundation for Ecological Security
<b>names of Other Project Partners</b>	Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN)
<b>UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)</b>	Johan Robinson
<b>UNEP Task Manager(s)</b>	Kavita Sharma
<b>UNEP Budget/Finance Officer</b>	Paul Vrontamitis
<b>UNEP Support Assistants</b>	Peerayot Sidonrusmee
<b>Manager/Representative</b>	Madhuri Nanda
<b>Project Manager</b>	Aniruddha Brahmachari
<b>Finance Manager</b>	Stefanus Bramandhie Laksayuda
<b>Communications Lead, if relevant</b>	Nurul Wara Firda

## 2 Overview of Project Status

### 2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	
PoW Indicator(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature: (iii) Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas</li> <li>• Nature: (iv) Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration</li> </ul>
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	<p><b>Linkage Between the Project and the UNSDCF</b></p> <p>The five components of the project align closely with the objectives and principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Here are the linkages between each component and the UNSDCF:</p> <p><b>1. Policy</b></p> <p><b>UNSDCF Linkage:</b></p> <p><b>SDG 15 (Life on Land):</b> By strengthening policies that promote LDN and biodiversity conservation, the project aligns with efforts to protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and halt biodiversity loss.</p> <p><b>SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):</b> Conserving water resources through policy adjustments aligns with goals to ensure sustainable water management.</p> <p><b>SDG 13 (Climate Action):</b> Reducing agrochemical use and promoting natural farming approaches contribute to climate resilience and mitigation strategies.</p> <p><b>2. Sustainable Agricultural Practices</b></p> <p><b>UNSDCF Linkage:</b></p> <p><b>SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):</b> By demonstrating cost-benefit and improving access to services, the project enhances agricultural productivity and food security.</p> <p><b>SDG 1 (No Poverty):</b> Enabling access to technical and financial services helps improve the economic situation of smallholder farmers, thereby reducing poverty.</p> <p><b>SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):</b> Strengthening farmer producer organizations and supporting business planning aligns with promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth.</p> <p><b>3. Participatory Landscape Management</b></p> <p><b>UNSDCF Linkage:</b></p> <p><b>SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions):</b> Building on existing participatory structures aligns with promoting peaceful and</p>

	<p>inclusive societies, providing access to justice, and building effective, accountable institutions.</p> <p><b>SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):</b> Developing sustainable land management plans supports sustainable community development.</p> <p><b>SDG 15 (Life on Land):</b> Facilitating sustainable land use planning and management directly supports the conservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems.</p> <p><b>4. Market Development</b></p> <p><b>UNSDCF Linkage:</b></p> <p><b>SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production):</b> Promoting responsible sourcing and enabling value addition to commodities aligns with ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.</p> <p><b>SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):</b> Creating market demand for sustainably produced commodities supports economic growth and decent work.</p> <p><b>SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure):</b> Enhancing value addition through packaging and messaging aligns with promoting industry innovation and infrastructure development.</p> <p><b>5. Blended Finance</b></p> <p><b>UNSDCF Linkage:</b></p> <p><b>SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals):</b> Leveraging public-private financing aligns with strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.</p> <p><b>SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):</b> Facilitating financial investments for sustainable land management supports economic growth and investor confidence.</p> <p><b>SDG 15 (Life on Land):</b> Ensuring SLM delivers value from sustainable management aligns with efforts to combat land degradation and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Summary</p> <p>The five components of the project contribute to the UNSDCF's overarching goals by:</p> <p>Promoting sustainable land and water management (SDGs 6, 13, 15).</p> <p>Enhancing food security and reducing poverty through sustainable agricultural practices (SDGs 1, 2, 8).</p> <p>Strengthening institutions and fostering participatory governance (SDG 16).</p> <p>Supporting responsible consumption and production, and fostering innovation (SDGs 9, 12).</p> <p>Leveraging partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development (SDG 17).</p> <p>This integrated approach ensures that the project not only addresses immediate agricultural and environmental challenges but also aligns with broader sustainable development objectives.</p>
<p><b>Link to relevant SDG Goals</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</li> <li>• Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</li> </ul>

<b>Link to relevant SDG Targets:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning</li> <li>• 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</li> <li>• 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</li> <li>• 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts</li> </ul>
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## 2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
3.1- Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration	35000;	75000	75000	1450 ha
4.1- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity	40000	135000	135000	2628 ha
4.2- Area of landscapes under third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations	55000	75000	75000	4775 ha
4.3- Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems	440000	940000	940000	195338 ha
4.4- Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided	5000	25000	25000	1070 ha
6.1- Greenhouse gas emission mitigated in the AFOLU sector	2000000	5601545	5601545	
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments	375000	770000	770000	435,092
11.1- Male	223000	466000	466000	12150
11.2- Female	152000	304000	304000	422942

Implementation Status 2023: 2nd PIR



### 2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2024	2nd PIR	S	S	M
FY 2023	1st PIR	S	S	M
FY 2022				
FY 2021				
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

#### Summary of status

This summary outlines the extensive efforts of the SABAL project, showcasing the accomplishments and hurdles encountered during its implementation in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The project has made significant strides in biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and improving community livelihoods in the two states. To ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the project, it is important to address the socio-economic stress experienced by farming households, work closely in removing institutional barriers (Policy and Markets), and tackle environmental challenges. Achieving project success requires continuous community engagement, policy integration, and effective resource allocation to overcome these challenges and work towards the project's objectives. In the Eastern Ghats, sustainable agriculture practices (natural farming) and soil conservation techniques have been adopted. Still water scarcity issues have been addressed through implementing innovative water management solutions with RySS, and community engagement has been a key focus area. In the Western Ghats, efforts have been concentrated on biodiversity hotspots, with the implementation of capacity building initiatives on water resource management and community-based conservation. The project successfully integrated efforts at the policy, production, market, finance, and knowledge-sharing levels, resulting in several positive outcomes:

**A. Capacity Building and Training:** 15 training programs were conducted for local communities and government officials on a wide range of topics including sustainable agriculture practices, certification, LDN, biodiversity, and gender equality.

**Fish Enterprises Development:** A two-day skill development training program on “Fish Enterprises Development” was organized under SABAL program support at Araku valley, ASR District, Andhra Pradesh during 19-20 April 2024. A total of 22 numbers of participants from 7 mandals of the ASR district and Vizianagaram were trained on Understanding the importance of adopting rainfed fish farming, Eco-Farm Pond Concept and bund intensification. A demonstration at the farm pond site was shown on water quality parameter testing).

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Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.1\_ 2.3\_Annexure 1\_Fish Enterprises Development

**Indo-German Global Academy for Agroecology Research & learning (IGGAARL):** Residential training programme and field orientation trainings organised to 220 mentors and 700 Farmer scientists across Andhra Pradesh through IGGAARL. APCNF and Digital Green Trust have partnered for developing and imparting training on Digital and Dissemination Skills, Soft Skills, Participative Skills, Management Leadership and Mentoring subjects to cadres of RySS

**B. Sustainable Agriculture Practices:** Sustainable farming techniques were introduced in Andhra Pradesh with the support of a partner NGO, WASSAN at the field level. Over 400,000 farmers are actively involved in natural farming practices in Andhra Pradesh's project districts, and more than 20,000 farmers are interested in adopting RA's certification standards. Furthermore, the SABAL project is implementing sustainable land management in production areas. Soil conservation practices have yielded promising results in enhancing crop yield and improving soil health. Many farmers in micro-landscapes have combined kitchen gardening with poultry management as part of Integrated Farming System (IFS) practices. IFS is a technique involving the management of poultry farms, homestead gardens, and fishponds together to enhance productivity and minimize risks associated with climatic variabilities.

**PMDS Promotion:** A total of 2229 farmers and 1275 acres have been targeted to cover PMDS under the SABAL Project in Andhra Pradesh from April to June 2024. Out of the total a total of 1220 (54.46%) of farmers covered till end of June 2024. Crop cutting experiments were also done in the landscape areas to estimate the production of biomass in an acre. As per the CC Experiments done in the D Gonduru Landscape area and Pinakota Landscape area, the biomass estimated that 5 tones an average production within the 30days period from the date of sowing.

**Models Demonstration:** Under the SABAL Project, a total of 153 farmers have been demonstrated A3 VANAM Models (Poly crop vegetable models) in 5 districts covering 20 Grampanchayats of 46 villages. 48 acres was covered under this cropping system. This is a unique cropping system that farmers generally grow vegetables under Mono/ Solo crop system however through the SABAL Project conducted several training programs for farmers to take up this poly crop systems. With this model farmers grown 9 to 12 varieties of crops plots ranging from 20 cents to 30 cents each and generated Rs.15000 to 25000 from quarter of an acre apart from meeting household's vegetables demand. Through this model soil will also enrich and pest incidences and crop risk and market risks were also coming down.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.1\_ 2.3\_Annexure 2\_Report on NF models

**Eco farmponds and rainfed fisheries:** A total of 139 ponds were identified in the 6 landscape regions of ASR, Manyam and Vizianagaram District. A total of 68 acres of water spread area covered and released 2.04Lakhs fingerlings in these water bodies with 50% community contribution. Fisheries farmers were followed NF principles in fish culture for Katla, Rohu and Grass carp. Conducted Fish harvesting days along with fisheries department and ITDA officers. Promoted bund crops with fruits, vegetables. Results were shared with District collector of ASR district and submitted a proposal to District collector for upscaling fisheries in the ASR district. As part of upscaling activity started mapping of existing waterbodies through fisheries assistants and local community resource team. A total of 1013 water bodies have been identified out of which 765 WB are potential to take up fisheries activities in the ASR district.

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**Bio-Input Resource Center:** Cow urine is to be considered one of the most effective inputs in APCNF practices. Cow urine has advantages in accelerating the natural/bio-activity process in regenerating life in soils. It is one of the ingredients in the preparation of jeevamrutham and other bio-inputs etc. It is not always easy to collect cow urine in adequate quantities for all farmers. Most of the cow urine is lost by seepage into soils (while they graze in open lands) and cracks in the floors of the cow shed (when they are at home). Non-availability of cow urine due to inefficient and inappropriate collection practices is a major hindrance in spreading the APCNF to a large number of farmers. The SABAL has been established 5 Bio-Input Resource Center in 5 micro-landscapes servicing 1600 farmers in 28 villages of 5 mandals. The Pilot aimed at collecting more quantities of cow urine by minimizing loss (through seepage) and improving collection efficiency Expected output of this model are

- Promote chemical-free agriculture
- Abundant access to Biostimulants
- Improve animal health
- More farmers into NF and convert into Bio villages

**Paddy De-huller as Micro Enterprise Model:** As per the data revealed through landscape profiling exercise, nearly 10 to 15% of the micro landscape lands are paddy fields. Paddy is a staple food for local communities and farmers choose Paddy crop to grow where there is irrigation facility to meet the family food demand. Farmers generally sell their raw paddy grain to local vendors soon after harvesting of crop and buy processed rice from local weekly markets this is a common phenomenon across tribal India. Some farmers take their raw grain to Mandal headquarters where Paddy processing facilities are available to get the service from them, processing cost is become high for up and down local transport and hulling cost etc. Due to lack of 2/3 phase electricity in tribal villages, farmers often carry paddy grain to mandal headquarters to exchange with processed rice. This is very unfortunate that farmers who grow paddy under natural farming system and healthy and nutritious grain thrown away from their food basket. One of the Natural Farming principles are farmers must eat food which they grow from their fields to build health security. Assume that in a micro landscape farmers supposed to pay service fee nearly one lakh (@Rs10 per kg processing charges) when they use service from outside of the GP for 10 tons of Paddy grain processing. If farmers utilize the service locally then this money can be retained within the GP and also availability of bran and husk is become abundant for local farmers this could lead to a Circular Economy.

As a part of enterprize promotion in the micro-landscapes, SABAL project has made a road map to establish Paddy de-hullers under women led Enterprises. In the above context, SABAL project established eight paddy dehullers all managed by tribal women in Pinakota, DGonduru, M.Nittaputtu, Jaderu & Kondabaridi micro- landscapes . These units run through single phase electricity or through solar energy. Young women have been encouraged with this kind of micro enterprise to sustain their livelihoods

**C. Resource Management:** In the eight Andhra Pradesh micro landscapes including Kandabaridi, D-Gonduru, and Pinakoti, the construction of watersheds and fishpond units has become a major livelihood activity for 600 farmers in ten Village organizations (VO). VO is a federation of women at the village level who undertake economic activities through thrift and bank linkages. VO has its roots in women's self-help groups (SHGs). SHGs collect savings and provide credit to their group members. This enables farmers to easily access credit to improve their farming practices. This also removes smallholder farmers' dependence on external inputs and market vagaries.

With the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development's (NABARD) support, a proposal is being developed to aid in rejuvenating traditional and natural water bodies, which can lead to improved water availability and quality in the project areas.

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**D. Multisectoral convergence:** The Karnataka State Biodiversity Board and the Karnataka Forest Department have given consent to the project to conduct a state-level workshop on Human Wildlife Conflict to dialogue with communities, coffee companies and government to develop wildlife-friendly solutions since the coffee estates and gardens are in the territories of wildlife corridors. The Coffee Board Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director also agreed to support coffee growers in the project area with training and relevant subsidy schemes. Kodagu University in Karnataka signed a non-financial MoU to serve as a SABAL project knowledge partner supporting different studies, research, farmer-FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations) training, guidance to Multi Stakeholder Landscape Management Bodies (MSLMBs) etc. The College of Forestry (CoF), Ponnampet also signed an MoU and agreed to provide resources as a project knowledge partner.

#### **E. Benefits from the application of SLM and landscape approaches**

**Environmental Benefits:** Significant improvement in soil health, water availability, and biodiversity conservation was recorded in 77 villages in nine micro-landscapes. Enhanced ecosystem services have been reported, contributing to the overall resilience of the landscape.

**Economic Benefits:** 400,000 farmers have adopted sustainable practices that reduce input costs and enhance profitability leading to increased agricultural productivity, increased income and diversification of income sources.

RySS has facilitated to establish weekly Markets at the district headquarters and Mandal headquarters in Andhra Pradesh within the government office complexes. While in the municipalities, they are set up in the city centres. These weekly markets sell Naturally grown vegetables and food supplies directly to the customers. As of June 2024, 22 Weekly markets are established at District level, 432 Markets stalls at Mandal level. Similarly, weekly markets stalls were set up in 29 Municipalities.

in the 45 Raythu Bazars across the state, dedicated NF produce stalls have been established to sell vegetables and fruits grown naturally.

In 32 Cheyutha Mahila Marts being run by Women SHGs, dedicated shelves for Natural Farming commodities have been established.

**Social Benefits:** Training and capacity-building programs have empowered local communities to take active roles in sustainable land management. This has strengthened community institutions and improved their means of livelihoods.

**Knowledge and Awareness:** The project enhanced local communities, government officials and other stakeholders' awareness and knowledge of sustainable land management practices and has served as a model for other regions. RySS and the Society for the Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) signed an MoU for scaling up the Natural farming initiatives in the eight mandals of the Eastern Ghats project landscape in Andhra Pradesh. From now on, the VO will have oversight of the project in Andhra Pradesh and will oversee the project initiatives on the field.

**Policy and Institutional Changes:** The project has influenced policy changes at local and regional levels through the establishment of SHGs and FPOs promoting sustainable land management and conservation practices. Strengthened institutional frameworks have been established to support the long-term adoption of SLM approaches, participatory governance, and integrated markets and finance systems.

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## F. Challenges:

**Community Engagement:** Ensuring consistent and meaningful participation of local communities in the project has been a challenge. There are varying levels of awareness and interest among community members, impacting project implementation.

**Climate Change Impacts:** Unpredictable weather patterns and extreme climate events have posed significant challenges to the sustainability of agricultural practices and biodiversity conservation efforts in the micro-landscapes.

**Funding and Resource Allocation:** Leveraging diverse funding sources, including government funds, can help but bring their own challenges including complex application processes and compliance requirements. Funding availability can be affected by changes in political priorities and economic conditions, leading to unpredictability in securing and maintaining government support. Budgets released at the end of the year can hinder timely project initiation, rush spending, and cause inefficient use of funds.

**Coordination Among Stakeholders:** Ensuring effective coordination and collaboration among stakeholders is a challenge.

**G. Finance:** The project will seek the donor's approval to reallocate unutilized funds from the Year One and Year Two budget lines to support activities in Years Three, Four, and Five. In Years One and Two, the team encountered unexpected delays due to various reasons including a delay in signing the agreement between IUCN and FES which impacted activities in Component One and Two. As a result, some of the allocated budget for these years remains unspent. The team is proposing reallocating the unspent funds from Years One and Two to enhance and expand activities in the upcoming years. The reallocation will help in achieving project goals more effectively and ensure the sustainability of the project's efforts. The total project budget will remain unchanged. **Note:** The first disbursement happened in September 2022 which pushed back the Y1 planned activities. We have utilized some of the resources which were allocated in year 1 in year 2 which has a reflection in the expenditure reports.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.2\_ 2.3\_Annexure 1a\_Appendix\_8A\_Inventory\_of\_Non-expandable\_Equipment\_Report\_as\_of\_June\_2024

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.2\_ 2.3\_Annexure 1b\_Appendix\_13\_Quarterly\_expenditure\_statement\_Q2\_June\_2024

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.2\_ 2.3\_Annexure 1c\_Appendix\_14\_Cofinance\_Report\_as\_of\_June\_2024

## 2.4 Co Finance

<b>Planned Co-finance:</b>	\$ 68,590,000
<b>Actual to date:</b>	41,220,918
<b>Progress</b>	<p><b>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</b></p> <p>As of June 2024, co-financing amount of \$41,220,918 has been materialized from RA &amp; RySS. Of this, \$138,328 from Rainforest Alliance and \$41,082,590 from RySS.</p> <p>This funding has been utilized by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) &amp; RA to strengthen the implementation of the APCNF project in Andhra Pradesh and Sustainable Agriculture practices in Karnataka. The co-finance amount has been allocated towards several key activities:</p> <p><b>Capacity Building Training Programs:</b> Extensive training programs have been conducted to equip farmers with the knowledge and skills required for natural farming practices. These programs are designed to enhance farmers' understanding of sustainable agricultural methods, soil health management, pest control, and water conservation techniques.</p> <p><b>Salaries for Ground Cadre:</b> The project has employed a dedicated cadre of field workers who work directly with farmers to implement and monitor natural farming practices. These cadres play a crucial role in providing continuous support, guidance, and troubleshooting for farmers transitioning to natural farming.</p> <p>In the third and fourth years of the project, the strategy includes tapping into private investment once landscape-scale sustainability claims are achieved. This approach aims to attract private sector funding by demonstrating the environmental and economic benefits of natural farming practices on a large scale. Achieving these sustainability benchmarks will provide confidence to private investors about the viability and long-term benefits of investing in the APCNF project.</p> <p>The co-finance report of RySS for 2024 is delayed due to Andhra Pradesh's May 2024 election which resulted in a change of government.</p>

## 2.5. Stakeholder

<b>Date of project steering committee meeting</b>	2024-03-18
<b>Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)</b>	<p>Program Management Unit (PMU) Meetings: During the reporting period, three PMU meetings were held in September, December and March with all PMU members participating. The topics discussed at the meetings included strengthening Information Technology (IT) systems to capture project data better, improving accessibility of the knowledge management system using Geographic Information System (GIS) effectively to report on key indicators, improving team coordination, establishing partnerships with other project stakeholders, streamlining operational issues and building the capacity of the project team.</p> <p>A Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was convened during the project. With three PSC meetings from the last reporting period, this is the fourth PSC meeting held under the chairmanship of Mr. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, an Additional Secretary, the Natural Resource</p>

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Management, and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (NRM, DA and FW). The PSC approved the formation of the Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) to provide advice and guidance on how to solve specific project technical challenges. The TCC will also support the project team to identify and partner with relevant institutions, to build synergy and share lessons learned. In addition to the PSCs, RA met with the PMU project partners monthly. In the next quarter, the MoA and FW senior officials will visit the project site to familiarize themselves with field operations.

Refer to Annexure: PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_2.5\_Annexure 1\_Minutes of fourth PSC, for details.

Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Management Workshops, Andhra Pradesh: District stakeholder engagements were organized in the Nandyal, Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR), Vizianagaram, and Kadapa Parvatipuram Manyam districts in the Eastern Ghats project landscape. These events, chaired by the district collectors and top district officials, promoted collaboration and coordinated efforts among all project stakeholders. They also provided the opportunity for stakeholders to develop a comprehensive sustainable landscape management strategy.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_2.5\_Annexure 2a\_Nandyal\_District level workshop.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_2.5\_Annexure 2b\_Vizainagaram\_District level workshop.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_2.5\_Annexure 2c\_ASR\_District level workshop.

Consultative meetings with stakeholders for MSLMB formation: In continuation of the workshops held in the six project districts in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in 2023 and 2024 with all district departments, orientation meetings were organized with key stakeholders from Gram panchayat, women collectives, CSOs and the community in all the project's micro-landscapes. During the meetings, primary stakeholders were identified, the purpose of multi-stakeholder processes was defined, and the capacity of stakeholders was strengthened. Forming and strengthening the MSLMBs is key to achieving the project's outcomes at the landscape level, as this will ensure a synergistic approach across all stakeholder groups. Inputs from stakeholders during the landscape consultations helped refine the MSLMB strategy. The MSLMBs formation will be a key activity to be implemented in the next two quarters of the project.

District Level Multi Stakeholder workshop in Karnataka landscape: A consultative workshop was organized in Ponnampet with key stakeholders including the College of Forestry, the Coffee Board, Tata Coffee, the Kodagu Model Forest Trust (KMFT), and the Agricultural Department in the Tithimathi-Devarapura micro conservation landscape in Kodagu district. The workshop aimed at promoting the conservation agenda. During the workshop the key stakeholders were sensitized on the project, essential updates on the MSLMB initiation process were given, discussions on community mobilization and consultations took place, and a pioneering

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performance measurement framework for landscapes known as the 'LandScale' (<https://www.landscape.org/>) was introduced. A LandScale baseline is being planned for the next quarter. Similar workshops are being planned in Madikeri, Hassan and Chikkamagaluru.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_2.5\_Annexure 2d\_Kodagu\_District level workshop.

Engagement with Government, Private, and CSOs in Karnataka: The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) discussed the Human-Elephant Conflict at a forum in the Western Ghats and planned a Human-Animal Conflict Consultation workshop, identifying institutions like A-Rocha India, Wildlife Research and Conservation Society (WRCS) Pune, Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and independent researchers who can collaborate on Soil Carbon Monitoring in the village commons to generate open-source knowledge on soil carbon accounting. ATREE will provide training and capacity building on soil sampling and protocols. RA, the Watershed Development Department (WDD), the Government of Karnataka and FES met with WDD's Assistant Director of Agriculture to discuss the upcoming consultation workshop. WDD suggested meeting district officials and the commissioner for support in FPO activities. Also, RA and FES met with the Environment Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) Bangalore to discuss the upcoming workshop and ongoing studies on structures to minimize human-animal conflict. EMPRI agreed to participate in the Human-Animal Conflict workshop and suggested additional participants. EMPRI also shared information on their work on sacred groves and climate change.

RA and FES discussed potential collaboration with the Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) Bangalore in organizing guest lectures, internships, and training for farmers and FPOs on topics including export, climate resilience, labor management, etc. In line with this, RA gave a guest lecture on certification to IIPM students at a Framework Workshop. Also, FES organized an event 'Role of Forests as Social Protection and Safety Nets for Forest-Dependent Communities' on 14th May 2024 in Bangalore. The workshop covered a World Bank study on the impact of the Recognition of Forest Rights (RoFR) Act in six states. It highlighted various case studies and issues, including human-wildlife conflicts in the Western Ghats of Karnataka.

NABARD, Regional Office, Bangalore Meeting: RA and FES met with NABARD officials to discuss the GEF Project and to request details of FPOs promoted by NABARD. NABARD suggested follow-up meetings with district officials and the new Chief General Manager at RA's request.

Visit to the Karnataka Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Wildlife, Forest Department, Bangalore, WCS and Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) Meeting: RA and FES discussed the GEF Project in the Western Ghats and the upcoming Human-Wildlife Conflict workshop. RA provided contacts of other topic experts for the workshop.

WELL Labs, Bangalore Meeting: RA and FES explored potential collaboration on the GEF Project, including using the "Jal Tol" app for water budgeting.



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	<p>The Coffee Board and the Precision Development (PxD) Meetings: RA met with PxD to discuss the Coffee Krishi Taranga platform, potential support for its management, training of extension officers on regenerative agriculture practices and social topics, and planning collaboration with the Coffee Board.</p> <p>BCK Intermark, Bangalore Visit: RA discussed collaboration on the GEF Project and BCK's engagement with a startup for European Union Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) mapping.</p> <p>Kodagu Bee Farmers (FPCL) Meeting: RA discussed the GEF Project with the FPCL agreeing to participate and to explore opportunities for further collaboration after the project launch.</p>
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## 2.6. Gender

<p><b>Does the project have a gender action plan?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):</b></p>	<p>The project adheres to the 2018 GEF Policy on Gender Equality, addressing gaps and empowering women through planned activities. It commits to gender mainstreaming, empowering women, and enhancing resource ownership and management. The project team integrated the gender mainstreaming action plan into the Results Framework before the project started.</p> <p><b>Workshop on Building Perspectives on Gender:</b> Gender has been mainstreamed in the entire SABAL project cycle, especially for activities being implemented in the tribal landscapes. As part of efforts to develop a Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan, RA facilitated a three-day workshop to understand the field teams' perspectives on gender. RySS's master trainers and the field teams of RA's partners participated in the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪To create awareness of the concept of gender and gender discrimination.</li> <li>▪To sensitize participants on the various forms of gender inequality and their root causes.</li> <li>▪To enable participants to identify ways of implementing the SABAL project in a gender-sensitive way.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.4_2.6_Annexure 3a_Gender Training</p> <p><b>Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan (GMAP):</b> The GMAP analysis aim to identify opportunities for gender equality and social inclusion within activity objectives to help improve outcomes for historically marginalized groups in the project's target regions. A project gender action plan was developed to guide project activity planning and implementation. If implemented, the action plan will ensure that women are empowered to actively participate in all activities in the micro landscapes. In addition, it will give women access to and control over resources thereby helping them to take part in decision making in the family and community. The SABAL team organized an internal workshop to prepare a GMAP document.</p> <p>As per the GMAP document, the SABAL team will implement several initiatives including gender-sensitive training programs, gender analysis of project activities, and equal participation and representation of genders in decision-making processes within the project to promote gender equality and empower all individuals involved in the project. These initiatives also aim to create a more inclusive environment that promotes equal opportunities for all genders. Already, efforts have been made to raise project staff awareness of gender equality and to empower them with the knowledge and skills needed to address gender-related challenges.</p>

	<p>Refer to Annexure: PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.4_2.6_Annexure 3b_Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan, for details.</p> <p>The project aims to involve women in various initiatives, but accurately capturing their involvement remains challenging due to limited ownership of assets, lower literacy levels, limited mobility and social norms. Women are prioritized in MSLMBs, ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes. This promotes gender equality and diverse perspectives for implementing more effective landscape management practices.</p> <p>The project has started collaborating with VOs to update them on the project's progress. VOs play a key role in the selection of beneficiaries for project interventions. The involvement of VOs is part of the initial phase of integrating them into the project's framework. By involving VOs, the project aims to cultivate a sense of ownership and partnership, gradually encouraging them to engage with and support the project's long-term goals.</p> <p>The project is centred around a gender-disaggregated management information system developed by two implementation partners RySS and WASSAN, which collects and analyzes data separately for men and women. This approach allows the project to pinpoint and cater to the specific needs of each gender, ensuring that both men and women benefit from its initiatives. This method also aids in monitoring gender equality and promoting inclusive development.</p>
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## 2.7. ESSM

<b>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)</b>	<p><b>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage?</b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?</b></p>
<b>New social and/or environmental risks</b>	<p><b>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b>If yes, describe the new risks or changes?</b></p>
<b>Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts</b>	<p><b>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</b></p> <p>No</p> <p><b>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?</b></p>
<b>Environmental and social</b>	

<b>safeguards management</b>	<p>During the PPG (Project Preparation Grant) phase of the project, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) conducted an Environmental, Social, and Economic Review based on its Sustainability Framework. However, this process was later replaced by the UNEP Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF). The assessment conducted using SRIF indicated that there were no major risks associated with the project, and overall, it is expected to have positive impacts on reducing land degradation in the project landscape. In the PIF (Project Identification Form) submission, two risks were identified and rated as Medium. These risks were related to Safeguard Standard 5 concerning Indigenous Peoples and Safeguard Standard 6 regarding Labor and Working Conditions. During the PPG phase, both risks were further investigated through research and consultation and were subsequently downgraded to Low. The details of the status of these risks can be found in sections 4.2 and 4.3 of this document. The project actively engaged with tribal communities in the Andhra Pradesh Landscape, and micro-landscapes were selected based on their tribal population. RA has been working in Karnataka's Kodagu district where indigenous people reside for over a decade, and one micro-landscape is aligned with their needs. Regarding Safeguard Standard 6, a potential risk related to child and forced labor was identified during the PPG phase. The risk arises from the increasing cost and scarcity of labor in the agricultural sector, especially during harvest times. However, this risk is mitigated since the project primarily works with smallholder farmers. Both RA and RySS explicitly prohibit the use of child or forced labor on farms. RA's 2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard (SAS) requires producers to assess the risk of child labor and establish an Assessment Committee to review and take appropriate actions if a risk is identified. Auditors review documentation when farms or smallholder groups apply for certification. The established systems for farm training, technical assistance, and monitoring by both organizations ensure that farms receiving the project's services are regularly monitored to prevent labor exploitation. The project is maintaining alignment with the checklist developed during the PPG phase, and will address any additional requirements that may arise</p>
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## 2.8. KM/Learning

<b>Knowledge activities and products</b>	<p><b>Communications and Campaigns:</b> The project team made a film introducing the project and showcasing the initial stages of project implementation in the field and stakeholder engagement to highlight how the team engaged with stakeholders and created awareness of the project. The film showed the efforts put in by the team to gather feedback and inputs from various stakeholders and incorporate them into the project. The team took great care to ensure that the film accurately captured the critical aspects of the project i.e. sensitizing farmers on the less tangible but critical values of sustainable agriculture for the ecosystem in which they farm (climate resilience, soil quality, water retention and the increased security of a more diversified cropping system) and effectively conveyed the message to the intended audience. Through this film, the team hoped to generate interest in the project.</p> <p><b>Refer to:</b>  <a href="https://raorg.sharepoint.com/sites/AsiaPacific/_layouts/15/stream.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FAsiaPacific%2FShared%20Documents%2FIndia%2FField%20Visit%20pictures%2FDec2022%2DHerbs%20and%20spices%2FGEF%5Fedit%5FV04%2Emp4&amp;ga=1&amp;referrer=StreamWebApp%2EWeb&amp;referrerScenario=AddressBarCopied%2Eview">https://raorg.sharepoint.com/sites/AsiaPacific/_layouts/15/stream.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FAsiaPacific%2FShared%20Documents%2FIndia%2FField%20Visit%20pictures%2FDec2022%2DHerbs%20and%20spices%2FGEF%5Fedit%5FV04%2Emp4&amp;ga=1&amp;referrer=StreamWebApp%2EWeb&amp;referrerScenario=AddressBarCopied%2Eview</a></p> <p><b>Karnataka Baseline:</b> In the third quarter of 2023, a Baseline study was conducted in three project districts in the Karnataka landscape. This research was conducted when the landscape was dealing with high rates of land degradation which had caused food insecurity, high food prices, climate change, environmental hazards, and</p>
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loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Baseline study covered 886 coffee farmers in the districts of Chikmagalur, Kodagu and Hassan. The team recorded data on socio-demographics, sustainability practices, farm management and training of coffee farmers. Also, the project team documented the Cost Benefit Analysis of coffee production and economic growth.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_2.8\_Annexure 4a\_Karnataka Baseline Report

**APCNF Baseline:** A baseline assessment for APCNF has been conducted in Andhra Pradesh. The baseline study will produce findings against two key objectives: to assess the degree to which APCNF's new target smallholder farmers apply Community-based Natural Farming (CNF) crop management practices and to assess the cost-benefit of those smallholder farmers considered in objective one and divide them into two groups. The project is employing a quasi-experimental design using the mixed method approach for the baseline assessment. For the assessment, farmers from both the treatment and comparable control categories will be covered. The treatment category refers to farmers applying at least 50% CNF practices and the control farmers are those using chemicals. The comparison will help the project team understand the prevalence of CNF crop management practices and cost-benefit analysis. The Propensity Score Matching (PSM) will be used to match the treatment and comparison pairs, and the attributable impact will be discerned using a Difference-in-Difference estimator. Difference-in-differences (DID), also known as the 'double difference' method, compares the changes in outcome over time (pre-post intervention) between treatment and comparison groups (with-without intervention) to estimate impact.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_2.8\_Annexure 4b\_APCNF\_Baseline\_Inception report

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_2.8\_Annexure 4c\_Inception Report\_Market Research

**Market Study:** A Market study has been initiated in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The study has three main objectives: firstly, to assess the status of production and value chains for key crops within the project's target areas, with a focus on crop yields, production practices, and distribution channels to identify areas for improvement and establish linkages. Secondly, to understand stakeholders' perceptions of sustainably produced agricultural commodities through surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions, uncovering attitudes, motivations, and potential barriers to adoption. Thirdly, to identify key drivers that can stimulate market uptake and engagement/investment in sustainable agriculture by leveraging insights from production assessments and stakeholder perceptions to inform strategies for promoting sustainable practices and fostering stakeholder buy-in.

**Augmenting information system for APCNF:** An integrated Management Information System (MIS) and GIS-enabled digital platform is necessary for monitoring CNF activities regularly. In support of this initiative, RA organized a two-day thematic workshop for relevant stakeholders, which included partners such as the Government of Andhra Pradesh, RySS, FES, and others. With the implementation of this new system, RySS's scaling-up plan can be effectively planned and executed. Three initiatives are being undertaken in collaboration with RySS:

- **Augmenting Digital information system (Integration):** This activity is to integrate existing RySS systems including Agro advisory services, Urvi (MIS), Marketing, Certification, and capacity building to create a unified platform for decision making.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of Knowledge management platform: For RySS/ Indo-German Global Academy for Agroecology Research and Learning (IGGAARL) to promote natural farming. In line with the project’s vision to facilitate a sustainable and resilient regenerative agricultural sector in India, it is imperative to scale up the project by bridging gaps and transferring knowledge of benefits and best practices in natural farming. In this regard, the project aims to leverage innovative digital and technological solutions to increase efficiencies across the entire farm-to-fork value chain.</li> <li>• GIS based decision making: To contribute to scientific knowledge on using remote sensing and GIS tools for analyzing vegetation growth patterns in natural farming systems and to promote their application in sustainable agriculture. The terms of reference were issued inviting agencies to bid for implementing the system.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_2.8_Annexure 4d_Hyderabad MIS &amp; GIS Workshop.</p> <p><b>GIS Based Studies:</b> Land use/Landcover Analysis was undertaken to assess Andhra Pradesh’s land use and land cover within the Project Landscape. The primary objective was to identify barren/degraded land within the region. Maps with barren/degraded lands were developed for the micro landscape mandals in eight micro landscapes. High-resolution satellite data was used for time series land use/land cover analysis. This advanced approach provided insights into the dynamic changes occurring over time. The team investigated the relationship between moisture, vegetation indices, land surface temperature, and their impact on crop health in Compact Blocks through a detailed study to understand the intricate interplay of environmental factors for the RYSS. Normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) analysis was done for eight micro landscapes from 2017 to 2023 along with ground truthing for the Bairluty Micro Landscape which was crucial for validating the accuracy of time series land use/land cover analysis. A detailed study was conducted on sacred groves within the high conservation value forests (HCVF) in the Bairluty micro landscape, highlighting the importance of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_2.8_Annexure 4d_GIS NDVI Analysis</p> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_2.8_Annexure 4e_GIS_Time series LULC Analysis</p>
<b>Main learning during the period</b>	<p><b>Guidelines for Multi Stakeholders Landscape Management bodies (MSLMBs) formation:</b> MSLMBs are inclusive governance bodies that exist at different levels, comprising representatives from peoples’ federal bodies, government bodies, private institutions/companies who work together to achieve the shared objective of sustainable landscape management. Draft guidelines for positioning the MSLMBs strategically in the landscapes were prepared and presented at various forums with key stakeholders to refine and adapt to local conditions.</p> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_2.8_Annexure 5a_MSLMB position paper &amp; Strategic Note</p> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_2.8_Annexure 5b_MSLMB draft guidelines</p>

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**Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) approach synthesis:** A case study in Andhra Pradesh was prepared to document the process of improving ecosystem services through participatory landscape profiling and community engagement. A comprehensive profiling and planning exercise was conducted in eight micro-landscape areas situated in the Eastern Ghats Region of Andhra Pradesh. The process employed social research tools such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and technological tools including remote sensing and GIS producing significant observations. The exercise facilitated valuable data sharing, information exchange, and resource analysis by bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders. This collaborative approach enabled collective decision-making for comprehensive planning. RA partnered with RySS and other agencies to support the communities, providing them with cutting-edge technology to better understand ecosystem services. Moreover, as part of knowledge management, RA introduced some indicative measures to assist communities in moving towards sustainability.

**SABAL's Targeted Action Plan for Third Year (2024-2025):** From June 20th, RA facilitated a four-day workshop for all project partners in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for finalizing the annual action plan for the third year of the project. The emphasis was on aligning all activities with the broader GEF-7 project plan, ensuring seamless execution, diligent monitoring, and progress reporting. During this workshop, in-depth discussions took place on planning of activities and budgetary allocations for the 2024-2025 fiscal year

The annual planning exercise set the stage for a year of impactful and well-coordinated endeavors to advance sustainable development. In addition to strategic planning, the project staff underwent intensive training in key thematic areas including commons development, natural resource management, biodiversity promotion, and integrated farming systems. This immersive training equipped the team with the knowledge and expertise required to launch diverse project initiatives and guide communities effectively towards the successful completion of planned activities.

**Empowering Indigenous Farmers Through Sustainable Water Harvesting:** In the lush tribal landscapes blessed with abundant streams, farmers face water scarcity during the dry season despite the abundance of seasonal and perennial streams in these high-rainfall zones. To address this challenge, the project team, through its field partner WASSAN, initiated a hands-on training program for cluster coordinators and APCNF field teams on optimizing existing water resources to benefit tribal communities.

The training equipped field cadres with essential skills to identify and convert seasonal and perennial streams, along with farm ponds, into innovative Eco Farm ponds. The ponds integrated fish farming with horticulture crops grown along the bunds, offering the dual advantage of enhanced nutrition and increased household income. This transformative approach tackled water scarcity and promoted sustainability by combining fish farming with crop farming, ensuring household nutrition security for tribal communities. Through the convergence of water management and Eco Farming, tribal farmers found a resilient path towards prosperity amidst the challenges of their high rainfall zone.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_2.8\_Annexure 6\_MSLMB draft guidelines\_ Ecofarmponds\_Training

## 2.9. Stories

<p><b>Stories to be shared</b></p>	<p><b>1. Case Study- Breaking Drudgery</b></p> <p>In Doddipalli village in Andhra Pradesh’s ASR District, SABAL introduced motorized coffee pulpers, improving women's lives by decreasing considerably the amount of manual labor needed to grow coffee. This innovation improved productivity and empowered women giving them time to pursue interests beyond farming including spending more time with their children. The initiative illustrates the transformative impact of technology on rural livelihoods and community empowerment in agriculture.</p> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_ 2.9_Annexure 6a_Case Study_ Breaking Drudgery</p> <p><b>2. Case Study – Eco-farm Pond Initiative</b></p> <p>In Paderu, Andhra Pradesh, a local farmer’s Eco- Farm Pond was supported by the SABAL project. The pond containing vegetables, fruit crops, and fish has sustained the environment and the community by reducing fodder shortage and women's labor and has enhanced livestock by providing access to balanced feed. Paderu’s shift to sustainable farming promises a prosperous, eco-friendly future.</p> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_ 2.9_Annexure 6b_Case Study_ Nurturing Nature through Eco-farm Pond Initiative</p> <p><b>3. Case Study – A-3 Model</b></p> <p>In the hilly Jaderu landscape in Andhra Pradesh's ASR district, primarily inhabited by tribal communities, efforts to restore degraded lands through sustainable farming are underway. Mapping of a local farm revealed opportunities for improved land and water management. The case study identifies key strategies for improved land and water management that includes better maintenance of mango and coconut plantations, water conservation, and community training on natural farming practices.</p> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_ 2.9_Annexure 6c_Case Study_A-3 MODEL</p> <p><b>4. Case Study – Community Ownership</b></p> <p>Through MSLMBs, the SABAL project promotes IFS and ecosystem regeneration. Stakeholder engagement increases mutual learning and community-led initiatives, enhancing agricultural productivity and livelihoods sustainably.</p> <p>Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_ 2.9_Annexure 6d_Case Study_Community Ownership</p> <p><b>5. Case Study - Pre-Monsoon dry Sowing (PDMS) International in Konda Gangupudi Pudi Landscape</b></p>
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Covering soil with live plants rapidly increases soil organic matter and carbon through rhizodeposition, improving soil health and crop resilience. In Konda Gangupudi, Andhra Pradesh, mixed cropping systems and covering the soil with live plants have positively impacted soil health and productivity, as evidenced by the NDVI analysis. This case study discusses how sustainable practices enhance environmental resilience and crop yields.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6e\_Case Study\_PDMS INTERVENTION IN KG Pudi LANDSCAPE

#### **6. Case Study – PMDS Lifeline for Natural Farming (NF)**

In Kondabaredi, Andhra Pradesh, PMDS introduced in 2023 covered 356 farmers planting on 560.70 acres of farmland, yielding diverse crops and enhancing soil health. By 2024, up to 26 crop varieties were sown, promoting agro-biodiversity and ecosystem services. This approach supports Natural Farming Farmers (NFF) and promotes sustainable agriculture all year round, ensuring ecological resilience and nutritional security.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6f\_Case Study\_PMDS Lifeline for NF

#### **7. Case Study- Sacred Groves**

The study highlights the vital role sacred groves (SGs) play in Bairlutu, Andhra Pradesh's Nandyala district; preserving cultural and biological integrity. SGs dedicated to deities like Veerabhadra Swamy and Anjaneya Swamy foster community cohesion. Modernization threatens these practices and biodiversity. Integrating traditional knowledge with conservation strategies is important for sustainability and cultural preservation.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6g\_Case Study\_Sacred Groves

#### **8. Case Study – Sustaining Farmer**

In Kottalacheruvu, Andhra Pradesh, Mrs. Pulicharla Divya spearheads a transformative initiative supported by the SABAL project. Her Natural Farming Input Supply Center, established in 2023, supplies essential inputs like Ghana Jeevamrutham to promote sustainable agriculture in ten villages. This community-driven effort empowers women, enhances soil health, and promotes sustainable farming practices for future generations.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6h\_Case Study\_Sustaining Natural Farming

#### **9. Case Study – Transforming Weeding with Technology**

In G. Nittaputtu Tribal Habitation, Andhra Pradesh, SABAL's cono weeder intervention changed paddy farming. Women, traditionally burdened with

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manual weeding, now employ efficient tools, reducing labor time from 18 to six days per acre. This innovation increases productivity, gives women additional time for livelihood activities, and exemplifies sustainable agricultural practices fostering community prosperity and gender equity.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6i\_Case Study\_Transforming Weeding with Technology

#### **10. Case Study – PMDS in Pinakota**

In the Pinakota Landscape in Andhra Pradesh’s ASR District, PMDS under the SABAL project experienced remarkable growth from 18 to 124 hectares over the 2023-2024 period. This initiative significantly enhanced soil health and biodiversity, demonstrating its effectiveness in promoting natural farming and sustainable agriculture. This is an example of a model that can be used in regional environmental conservation efforts.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6j\_Comparative Study\_PMDS in Pinakota

#### **11. Guide Material – HCVF**

The SABAL Action Plan for High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) focuses on sustainable non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvesting, land management with agroforestry, and community engagement. Key strategies include forest fire management, alternative energy solutions, and biodiversity conservation. The plan included in this guide material outlines pathways for identifying, mapping, and managing these units through community discussions, expert consultations, and integration with state and central government schemes.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6k\_Guide Material\_ HCVF

#### **12. Guide Material- Biodiversity**

Biodiversity is the foundation of ecosystem services and is important for human well-being, genetics, and ecosystem diversity. The SABAL project aims to integrate biodiversity across sectors and landscapes, addressing challenges in linking land development schemes. This guide material mentions key activities with a focus on natural farming, agro-forestry, and using pollinator habitats to mainstream biodiversity in agriculture and community practices.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6l\_Guide Material\_Biodiversity

#### **13. Guide Material – LDN Localization**

The SABAL project uses a bottom-up approach to landscape management with a strong community focus. In Andhra Pradesh, a Self-Help Women’s Group and the Gram Sabha lead actions for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). This guide material introduces key pathways to landscape management including

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GIS mapping, participatory planning, model demonstrations, capacity building, and scaling up through government and private partnerships.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6m\_Guide Material\_LDN Localization

#### **14. IUCN ROAM Study**

In Karnataka, IUCN and national partners collaborated on restoring landscapes using degradation polygons. The case study analyzes micro-landscapes in Chickmangalur, Hassan, and Kodagu districts to prioritize restoration efforts. Detailed spatial analysis guides targeted restoration working towards ensuring SLN in the two micro landscapes in Karnataka.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6n\_IUCN ROAM Study

#### **15. Insights- Understanding Convergence**

This case study provides insights into how convergence in the SABAL project integrates farming systems and natural practices, fostering community understanding through capacity-building. It combines interdisciplinary planning with stakeholder engagement, enhancing ecosystem services across landscapes.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6o\_SABAL Insights 1\_Understanding Convergence

#### **16. Insights – Integrated Planning**

These insights discuss how the SABAL project uses holistic planning for sustainable landscape management emphasizing integrated approaches. It engages women SHGs and FPOs to encourage community leadership, knowledge sharing, and cooperative principles. Challenges including stakeholder alignment and institutional integration are mitigated through inclusive planning and adaptive management practices.

Refer to Annexure PIR 2\_Project 10204\_STEP 1.3\_ 2.9\_Annexure 6p\_SABAL Insights 2\_Integrated Planning

#### **17. Strategy Plan for Scaling-up**

Scaling-up involves systematically expanding successful innovations and models across communities, ensuring sustainable benefits. Anchored in the theory of change and interdisciplinary collaboration, it prioritizes knowledge management, Information Communication Technology (ICT), and institutionalization. This approach mentioned in the Strategy Plan aims to mainstream Natural Farming practices, aligning with the Andhra Pradesh Government and RA's goals for Sustainable Landscape Management under the SABAL project.



	Refer to Annexure PIR 2_Project 10204_STEP 1.3_ 2.9_Annexure 6q_STRATEGY PAPER ON SCALING UP
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### 3 Performance

#### 3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Objective: To reduce land degradation and conserve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, by promoting sustainable agricultural production, supply chains and public- private finance	O1. Area of landscapes under improved management aimed at achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation (qualitative assessment, non-certified) (GEF 4.1) (excludes value of GEF 4.4)	0 ha.	40000 ha.	135000 ha.	2628	Areas of landscape under improved management include fertile lands and lands which have not been degraded. The total area of land under improved management aimed at achieving biodiversity conservation was calculated for eight crops in the micro-landscapes. The total area was 2628 ha, and the total farm area was 4473 ha. Biodiversity: Guidelines on identifying bio-diversity interventions in micro-landscapes have been shared with the cadres. •These interventions are considered Improved Management through Agro-Biodiversity Interventions. Farmers having agricultural lands in the landscapes and practicing crop diversity in agriculture are considered. Turmeric +traditional cropping+ tubers, NTFP, Intercrops, pastures, bund plantations, border trees, fodder crops, agro-forestry, native species in coffee farms and others. • Coffee and cashew intensification have been considered.	S
	O2. Area of landscapes certified under RA SAS standard, including new requirements for farm	39527 Ha.	55000 Ha.	75000 Ha.	4775 Ha.	75000 Ha. Before the project began, Karnataka's total area under certification was 39,257 Ha. In the	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	planning and climate risk assessments (GEF 4.2) (excludes value of GEF 4.3)					first year of the project, 33,001 Ha was certified. In the second year, 4775 Ha of crop area was certified. More than 40000 Ha of land is in the pipeline for certification.	
	O3. Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems, not yet certified (GEF 3.1 + 4.3)	107098	475000	1015000	196778	The indicator represents GEF 3.1 and GEF 4.3. GEF 3.1 refers to 15,000 hectares of land restored on RA-SAS farms and 60,000 hectares under the RySS 365 days soil cover system. GEF 4.3 represents 940,000 hectares of APCNF. As of June 2024, the progress of APCNF was 195338 ha. It is worth mentioning that RySS aims to achieve the conversion to APCNF of 600,000 hectares out of a total farm area of one million hectares, along with the restoration of 60,000 hectares, as endorsed by the CEO.	S
	O4. Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided (GEF 4.4)	0	5000 Ha.	25000 Ha.	1070	The project has focused on HCVF 5 values (Social). HCVF 6 (Cultural) will be reported from July. Approximately 1070 ha of land under HCVF 5 (RoFR Lands) for 8 Micro Landscapes have been identified for interventions.	S
Outcome 1.1 SLM and biodiversity conservation in production landscapes are successfully integrated into fiscal and agricultural policy instruments and planning processes implemented by key central and State level government agencies and ministries	1.1.1 Number of policy briefs provided relating to agricultural subsidies, commodity production and ecosystem conservation that increase integration of SLM into agriculture production landscapes.	0	0	3	0	Policy and Evidence Building: A thorough review of existing literature was conducted, led by FES team, to understand the current state of sustainable agriculture, relevant policies, and their impact on farmers. The gaps that were identified in this existing knowledge would be filled by	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						undertaking a field survey. This would strengthen the policy component (Component) the draft policy research document is currently being circulated for finalization, and it will serve as the foundation for policy briefs in the upcoming years	
	1.1.2 Number of convergence opportunities between the State governments and the project generated by the project, that are taken up by State government programmes	0	2	2	0	The Sustainable Landscape Management Plans (SLMPs) will be created once the Multistakeholder Landscape Management Bodies (MSLMBs) are established. MSLMBs will be formed during the year 3 of the project which will oversee the implementation of SLMPs.	S
	1.1.3 Research-based evidence of the relationship between fiscal incentives in present agricultural policies and application of agrochemicals leading to land degradation	0	1	1	0	A thorough review of existing literature was conducted, led by FES team, to understand the current state of sustainable agriculture, relevant policies, and their impact on farmers. The gaps that were identified in this existing knowledge would be filled by undertaking a field survey. This would strengthen the policy component (Component 1), where the field study being designed would help to understand areas where existing policies may incentivize farmers away from sustainable agricultural practices. A draft questionnaire is being developed and field-tested in preparation for the actual survey. The results from the field survey would help formulate	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, outlining specific adjustments or new initiatives that could better align agricultural policies with sustainability goals.	
Outcome 1.2 Integrated development of productive agriculture and SLM enabled in two States, through multi-stakeholder participatory landscape planning	1.2.1 Number of agreements in place with local governments to establish MSLMBs in micro-landscapes	0	8	10	8	Multi Stakeholders Landscape Management bodies (MSLMBs) are inclusive governance bodies that exist at different levels, comprising representatives from peoples' federative bodies, government bodies, private institutions/companies who would work together for achieving the common objectives in sustaining the landscape management. Draft guidelines have been prepared for positioning the MSLMBs strategically in the landscapes. These draft guidelines have been presented at various forums with key stakeholders to refine and adapt for local conditions. The project team discussed with five district administrations regarding the formation of 8 MSLMBs in those five districts, with one in each micro landscape. The discussions are currently progressing at the Mandal levels, involving all relevant stakeholders. In principle, all the district administrations have agreed to the proposal. There is a buy-in from the local administration.	S
	1.2.2 Number of MSLMBs established and formally	0	8	10	0	orientation meetings were organized at the community level in three of the	MS



Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	recognized with a mandate to plan and implement SLM and biodiversity conservation at micro-landscape scale					project micro-landscapes with key stakeholders from Gram panchayat, women collectives, civil societies members and community. Activities were undertaken for identifying primary stakeholders, defining the purpose of multi-stakeholder processes, and strengthening stakeholders' capacities. Formation and strengthening the Multi-Stakeholders Landscape Management Bodies is the key to achieve the outcomes at the landscape level, through ensuring a synergistic approach across all stakeholder groups. These consultations at the landscape level generated inputs which helped in refining the MSLMB strategy. MSLMBs formation will be a key activity for the next two quarters of the project	
Outcome 2.1 Land degradation reduced, biodiversity conserved, and increased farmer satisfaction achieved on farms through adoption of sustainable agricultural practices based on CNF and RA-SAS in the project landscapes.	2.1.1 Number of farmers and farm workers applying sustainable agriculture practices, in project landscapes (Gender- and youth- disaggregated.)	233916	375000	765000	435092	There are two agricultural practices planned for the project: RA-SAS and APCNF. The RA-SAS practice targets 65,000 farmers and farm workers, while the APCNF practice targets 700,000 farmers and farm workers. The progress in year-2 led to the additional involvement of 435092 farmers, including 422942 females and 12150 males.	S
	2.1.2 Percentage of farmers reporting increased satisfaction in project landscapes from application of sustainable	0	0	80	0	The assessment will be conducted at the end of the project through a survey of farmers on a representative sample of certified farms that are implementing	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	agricultural practices (disaggregated by gender, youth, and cause of satisfaction)					RA-SAS and CNF practices in the project landscapes.	
	2.1.3 Number of hectares of farmland in project landscapes (certified and non-certified) applying RA-SAS practices to conserve biodiversity and reverse land degradation .	39527	75000	150000	7403	There has been uptake of certification in the landscape along with application of Rainforest Alliance certification practices. There are more than 40000 ha of land in pipeline for certification.	S
	2.1.4 Number of hectares of farmland in project landscapes (certified and non-certified) under CNF to conserve biodiversity and reverse land degradation including 365-days soil cover system	107098	400000	1000000	196778	The indicator represents 60,000 hectares under the RySS 365 days soil cover system. and 940,000 hectares of APCNF. As of June 2024, the additional progress (conversion to CNF) was 195338 ha. As per the CEO endorsement, RySS aims to accomplish the conversion to CNF of 600,000 hectares (out of a total farm area of one million hectares) and restore an additional 60,000 hectares.	S
	2.1.5 Number of farmers in project landscapes adopting agri-technologies for the first time to reduce dependence on labour, water and agro-chemicals. (Gender- and youth-disaggregated.)	0	500	1000	550	A total of 550 farmers, consisting of 335 females and 215 males, have adopted agricultural technologies such as pulpers, water lifting devices, gravity flow-based irrigation systems, milling processing machines, cycle weeders, and grain threshers. This progress is from Andhra Pradesh and as the programme intensification happens in Karnataka, similar focus will be brought in the Western Ghats landscape.	S
	2.1.6 Number of FPOs with strengthened business	0	4	10	5	Five Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) are strengthened in the Eastern	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	management, including a digital information system					Ghats Landscape with business management, digital information system, and RA-SAS certification.	
	2.1.7 Estimated likely annual GHG emissions reductions up to the end of the project, from adopted best agricultural practices, especially from reduced use of agrochemicals, and achieved restoration on farm and off-farm in KA and AP (tCO2e)	TBD	2000000	5601545	0	The baseline values have been estimated for Karnataka Landscape using the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)'s ex-ACT tool based on Coffee farmers' practices. The same will be undertaken in Andhra Pradesh for APCNF principles from Jan- March 2025.	S
Outcome 2.2 Multi-stakeholder landscape management bodies (MSLMBs) plan and implement off-farm sustainable lands management (SLM) activities that restore degraded land and conserve biodiversity and high conservation value forest (HCVF).	2.2.1 Number of hectares of land incorporated into sustainable landscape management plans (SLMPs) that integrate land use for restoration and biodiversity conservation and HCVFs.	0	10000	100000	0	The MSLMB formation process is under process, and once the MSLMBs are formed, they will be capacitated to create SLMPs integrating restoration, biodiversity conservation, and management of HCVFs	S
	2.2.2 Number of people in micro-landscapes represented in activities undertaken	0	1000	5000	500	m) Natural Farming models and experiments: Validation trials are being set up for understand the reduction in chemical use and soil and water management. concept notes have been created for undertaking validation trails and demonstration fields in the eastern ghats project landscape. Models that are being grounded include Any Time Money (ATM) model, Drought proofing model (DPM) 5-Layer model, Annapurna model and Giri Lakshmi models	S
	2.2.3 Number of Business Plans for sustainable growth in micro-	0	1	2	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	landscapes through public-private finance, presented for blended finance						
	2.2.4 Number of MSLMBs with an assigned and implemented LandScale-based performance monitoring system to record and report changes in landscape performance	0	3	10	0	Preparations are currently underway to pilot the LandScale-based performance monitoring system in one micro-landscape, and it will be scaled up to three micro-landscapes by the mid-term	S
	2.2.5 Number of new initiatives undertaken to reduce human-wildlife conflict	0	1	1	0	The project team is in discussions with the Karnataka Biodiversity Board regarding the Tithimathi area of Karnataka. SABAL team met with Mr. Kumar Pushkar, Addl PCCF to seek support on the letter to be issued to Biodiversity Board and their consent to conduct State Level Workshop on Human Wildlife Conflict, planned in the month of August 2024.	S
Outcome 3.1 Companies increase their buying of commodities sourced from sustainably managed landscapes.	3.1.1 Number of buying companies making new commitments to responsible sourcing from farmers in project landscapes	0	10	20	0	Market and value chain study is expected to be completed by Aug 2024, this report will investigate the key value chains and identify the key levers to accelerate the dialogue with the companies. • Engagement with domestic companies: The project team has actively informed the companies of the initiatives undertaken by the project team and facilitated dialogue to enable long term sourcing commitments from the project, the companies are Akay Spices, Growcoms, Bon-fiction, Amul, Phalada	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
						Agro, Wipro consumers, Big -Haat, Tata Coffee. • Similarly, we are also discussing with international companies such as Verstegen, Ritter sports, Producers market, Raddis etc. and exploring collaborations.	
	3.1.2 Number of FPOs reporting sales increases of at least 10% resulting from project activities	0	3	10	0	Initially, five Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) have been targeted from the Eastern Ghats landscape of Andhra Pradesh (AP), while the identification of the remaining FPOs is still ongoing. Once identified, they will be supported through sustainable sourcing of produce. Some of these FPOs have also done the business transaction of Rainforest Alliance coffee and pepper.	S
Outcome 3.2 Private and public institutions make investments to incentivize scaled-up adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and landscape-scale SLM, contributing to LDN, biodiversity conservation and human well-being	3.2.1 Value (US\$) invested through private and blended financing mechanisms in project landscapes	0	1000000	5000000	0	Discussions are underway with Samunnati and Heifer International. Samunnati is willing to provide credit support, while Heifer International is willing to provide a grant.	S
	3.2.2 Number of FPOs in project landscapes accessing loan capital to invest in sustainable agricultural practices	0	2	5	0	• Especially for RA-SAS practices, the team is currently exploring viable loan capital opportunities in the Eastern Ghats landscape of Andhra Pradesh. The same strategy will be replicated in the Western Ghats landscape of Karnataka.	S
Outcome 4.1 Scale-up of project experience is enabled by key decision makers convinced by the evidence-based Monitoring,	4.1.1 IAs confirm that project management is served by high quality of data from MEL system	0	2	4	2	In the first year of the project, the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system was designed and operationalized. This involved the	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Evaluation & Learning (MEL) system of the environmental, technical and socio-economic benefits from application of SLM and landscape approaches and of the strategies to achieve that.						establishment of a results framework, development of the MEL plan, training of staff and project partners on the MEL process, finalization of indicators and data collection methodology, maintenance of evidence-based progress monitoring through the SharePoint-based Project Management (PMP) system, preparation of a five-year project plan, and detailed annual plan, which were approved by Project Steering Committee and UNEP. Consequently, the progress is marked as 2 (successfully completed two years) with the successful design and implementation of the MEL process, as confirmed by the completion of these documents and processes.	
	4.1.2 Percentage of participating farmers with positive cost-benefit. from the application of sustainable agricultural practices	TBD	50	80	0	The baseline study is currently underway, and the TBD value will be confirmed based on the findings	S
	4.1.3 Project activities have led to improved restoration and conservation in project landscapes	0	0	Data from landscapes shows increase in vegetation	0	For vegetation changes NDVI indices and remote sensing analysis for spatially extensive and continuous information on vegetation changes are being used using high-resolution satellite imagery for the landscape areas from the beginning of the project. The results will be produced at the end of the project	S
	4.1.4 Project results and learning about project approach success factors convincingly showcased	0	10 media products and events	20 media products, publications	5 media products, publications and events	The celebration of Biodiversity Day in the AP landscape was covered in the Times of India and two local Telugu	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	to provoke replication through new programme investment by government and financial service organisations.			and events		newspapers. District level events were also covered in Regional Telugu daily newspapers including Eenadu and Saakshi in Andhra Pradesh. The APCNF Project received positive media coverage for implementing the largest Agro-ecological project in the world.	

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

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Component 1. Enabling LDN and biodiversity conservation in priority landscapes through national fiscal and agriculture policies and multi-stakeholder landscape management	Output 1.1.1 Proposals developed and advocated to lead Government agencies and key landscape stakeholders to improve policy coordination and better integrate SLM and biodiversity conservation in project landscapes	2027-06-30	30	40	Two activities were scheduled for the first year: one aimed at conducting ongoing awareness discussions with key government officials, and the other intended to generate a research report showing how agricultural subsidies contribute to heightened land degradation. Moreover, a stakeholder meeting at the state level was held in Bangalore to collect feedback on the challenges and issues facing the coffee production system. The meeting was attended by key participants such as the Coffee Board, the Karnataka Coffee Research Station, the Karnataka State Biodiversity Board, NGOs like the Kodagu Model Forest Trust (KMFT), and a diverse representation of private coffee	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					growers, both large and small. Additionally, representatives from the trading sector, including Blackbaza Coffee, were in attendance.	
	Activity 1.1.1.1 Develop and maintain sensitization dialogue with key government officials to promote their interest and consideration of proposed policy adjustments.	2027-06-30	0	100	Regarding the first activity (1.1.1.1), dialogues have commenced with the Rural Development Department of Andhra Pradesh for land restoration through MGNREGS. In Karnataka, discussions were held with the Administrative Training Institute of the Department of Social Welfare and Rural Development in Mysore, and dialogue with the government was conducted to design a comprehensive plan like the Gomala sub-plan for common lands development. The Panchayati Raj Department endorsed the mapping and registration of common property resources in Gram Panchayats' asset registers.	S
	Activity 1.1.1.2 Conduct research to ascertain the correlation between fiscal policies and incentives such as subsidies and land degradation and increased fertilizer application in project landscapes.	2023-06-30	0	50	For the second activity (1.1.1.2), a study is underway to assess the economic impact of manure from extensive livestock systems on coffee production. The study seeks to evaluate the acquisition process of manure from these systems and investigate how a shift to organic coffee production can improve economic sustainability. It examines the advantages of using manure and promotes organic farming practices. Additionally, the first draft of a study report	S



Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					analysing agricultural policies and their effects on achieving land degradation neutrality in Andhra Pradesh is finalized for activity 1.1.1.3. The report aims to provide insights and recommendations to promote natural farming. A survey will be conducted in mid-July 2023 to gather data from farmers and key stakeholders, including government officials.	
	Activity 1.1.1.3 Undertake survey in project landscapes to identify areas where policies incentivize farmers away from sustainable agricultural practices and use findings to inform activity 1.1.1.1	2023-12-31	0	50	The study methodology has been finalized and draft questionnaire prepared. The field study will be conducted in July-Sept 2024	S
	Activity 1.1.1.4 Draft proposals so that agricultural policies better meet LDN targets and incorporate SLM and biodiversity conservation, and engage appropriate political authorities to take them forward.	2024-12-31	0	10	A thorough review of existing literature was conducted, led by FES team, to understand the current state of sustainable agriculture, relevant policies, and their impact on farmers. The gaps that were identified in this existing knowledge would be filled by undertaking a field survey. This would strengthen the policy component (Component 1), where the field study being designed would help to understand areas where existing policies may incentivize farmers away from sustainable agricultural practices. A draft questionnaire is being developed and field-tested in preparation for the actual survey. The results from the field survey would help formulate	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, outlining specific adjustments or new initiatives that could better align agricultural policies with sustainability goals.	
	Activity 1.1.1.5 Engage with government and partners to identify opportunities for converging project activities with government schemes.	2027-06-30	0	0	Planned from year-3 onwards	S
	Output 1.2.1 Micro-landscapes agreed in consultation with representatives from Gram Panchayats and representatives of all key stakeholders, and structures established to enable multi-stakeholder planning and management of SLM at landscape scale.	2023-09-30	29	35	The comprehensive participatory micro-landscape profiling has been successfully conducted in nine out of ten micro-landscapes, with eight in Andhra Pradesh and one in Karnataka. This process involves delineating and validating boundaries with stakeholders, followed by creating a detailed profile that encompasses a general overview, problem analysis, and the formulation of a perspective plan. The ten Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Management Bodies (MSLMBs) that were planned for year 1 have not been formed yet. Currently, discussions are ongoing with all relevant stakeholders, and the formation of MSLMBs is now scheduled to take place in year 2 and year 3.	S
	Activity 1.2.1.1 Prepare participatory profiles of proposed micro-landscapes including baseline analysis of biodiversity and land use and polygon of proposed area	2023-03-31	0	90	One micro-landscapes have been identified using Restoration opportunities Assessment methodology (ROAM) study	S
	Activity 1.2.1.2 Engage authorities to identify existing participatory bodies that can take responsibility for planning and management of	2023-06-30	0	90	This activity will be taken up for the tenth micro-landscape once the profiling	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	land use in the selected micro-landscapes				exercise will be completed as this activity will be taken up. This is linked to 1.2.1.1.	
	Activity 1.2.1.3 Hold orientation meetings with stakeholders in target areas to build understanding of and support for concept, validate micro-landscape selection and form MSLMBs	2023-09-30	0	50	Draft guidelines for MSLMBs have been formed and stakeholder consultations have been conducted in 4 micro-landscapes. The final modalities are being worked out and MSLMBs will be formed during July – Dec 2024.	S
	Activity 1.2.1.4 Develop MoUs for signature by the MSLMBs and local government to formalize structure, clarify responsibilities, limits of authority and operating mechanisms.	2023-09-30	0	0	There is already support from district administration, Gram panchayat bodies and women groups for formation of MSLMB. As this is linked to activity 1.2.1.3, it will be undertaken during July – Dec 2024.	S
2 Component 2. Scaling up of sustainable agriculture and SLM to restore degraded land, conserve biodiversity and improve human wellbeing in priority landscapes	Output 2.1.1 Capacity building and technology transfer delivered towards successful adoption of CNF and RA-SAS practices by 765,000 farmers and farm workers	2024-06-30	62	100	In the 2nd year, trainings have been conducted as planned for master trainers, lead farmers, staff, and cadres. The trainings include sustainable agriculture practices in both APCNF and RA-SAS agriculture systems.	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	Activity 2.1.1.1AP Set up validation trials for practices to reduce chemical use and manage soil and water, and measure results.	2023-30-09	0	50	Validation trails have already been set up by the Science team of RySS in the farmers' fields for Natural farming models. The final report will be compiled after calibrating the results during end of Kharif and Rabi crops during April and Nov 2024.	S
	Activity 2.1.1.1KA Set up validation trials for practices to reduce chemical use and manage soil and water, and measure results	2023-09-30	0	0	The on-farm activities in Karnataka couldn't be undertaken as planned as the previous technical partner KMFT couldn't obtain necessary government clearance for receiving foreign contribution. Now, BIAF is being onboarded as partner for Western Ghats landscape in Karnataka. Validation trails will be initiated in new coffee farms once the proposal with the partner BIAF is finalized.	S
	Activity 2.1.1.2AP Undertake technical capacity assessment of partners and provide guidance training for technical support to farmers.	2023-03-31	0	50	Partners have been assessed and brought into Partnership in Andhra Pradesh. For the new partnerships that are being evolved, A detailed technical assessment based on the Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) tool guide will also be administered during July – Aug 2024	S
	Activity 2.1.1.2KA Undertake technical capacity assessment of KMFT and provide guidance training for technical support to farmers.	2023-03-31	0	60	BIAF is being onboarded as partner for Western Ghats landscape in Karnataka. Precision Development is also being onboarded as partner for providing Agro-advisory services for Coffee and Pepper farmers. For the new partnerships that are being evolved with BIAF & Precision Development, technical	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					assessment has been undertaken. Once the partners are onboarded, a detailed technical assessment would be undertaken based on ILM tool guide	
	Activity 2.1.1.3AP Develop context-specific training curriculum and materials to incorporate incremental elements on biodiversity, soil, water, IPM and agroforestry systems.	2023-06-30	0	50	APCNF draft handbooks have been prepared by the project team and sent for circulation. We are awaiting feedback and for making the final changes to the report. This will be completed during July – Sept 2024 quarter.	S
	Activity 2.1.1.3KA Develop context-specific training curriculum and materials to incorporate incremental elements on biodiversity, soil, water, IPM and agroforestry systems.	2023-06-30	0	50	The training materials of RASAS developed by Rainforest Alliance are being updated and will be ready July – Dec 2024 quarter. The materials would also incorporate European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) regulations. The European Union (EU) has introduced the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), including requirements on deforestation for some products like coffee that are imported into the EU.	S
	Activity 2.1.1.4AP Build the capacity of the field cadre, resource pools, Community Institutions, NGOs, district, and State government personnel in sustainable agricultural practices and SLM.	2024-06-30	0	90	Training programs are being implemented as per the plan. Training programs were conducted for local communities and government officials on a wide range of topics including sustainable agriculture practices, certification, LDN, biodiversity, and gender equality	S
	Activity 2.1.1.4KA Build the capacity of the field cadre, resource pools, Community Institutions, NGOs, district, and State government personnel in sustainable agricultural practices and SLM.	2023-09-30	0	33	Discussions are with coffee board to train their extension workers as Associate Trainers Network (ATN). BIAF	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					is being onboarded as partner for Western Ghats landscape in Karnataka. Trainings are being planned during the next two quarters of 2024. Trainings would undertake once the proposal with the partner BIAF is finalized.	
	Activity 2.1.1.5AP Hold Train the Trainer courses to select and orient best practitioner field technicians and lead farmers with skills and knowledge to train farmers and to follow up afterwards; monitor their performance.	2023-09-30	0	35	Model makers have been identified and are being trained through mentors. The trainings are underway and will be reported next reporting period. The targets will be completed during July–Sept 2024 quarter.	S
	Activity 2.1.1.5KA Hold Train the Trainer courses to select and orient best practitioner field technicians and lead farmers with skills and knowledge to train farmers and to follow up afterwards; monitor their performance.	2023-09-30	0	66	New Trainers are being identified under ATN (Associate Trainers Network) model of Rainforest Alliance. Experienced farmers would be selected and trained. This will be completed during July – Sept 2024 quarter.	S
	Activity 2.1.1.6AP Set up demonstration fields for farmer exchanges and engagement with governmental and other programmes operating in the project landscapes.	2024-03-31	0	50	Protocols for demonstration plots have been prepared and various models have been grounded in the fields. These plots would be available for demonstration during Kharif of July 2024	S
	Activity 2.1.1.6KA Set up demonstration fields for farmer exchanges and engagement with governmental and other programmes operating in the project landscapes.	2024-03-31	0	0	The on-farm activities in Karnataka couldn't be undertaken as planned as the previous technical partner KMFT couldn't obtain necessary government clearance for receiving foreign contribution. Now, BIAF is being onboarded as partner for Western Ghats landscape in Karnataka. Protocols for demonstration plots are being prepared and these plots would be	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					available during Kharif of June 2024. Demonstration plots will be initiated in new coffee farms once the proposal with the partner BIAF is finalized	
	Activity 2.1.1.7AP Establish tree nurseries in local communities and facilitate their ownership and management.	2024-06-30	0	80	Materials required for the nursery have been procured and being set up in enterprise mode by community resource persons.	S
	Activity 2.1.1.7KA Establish tree nurseries in local communities and facilitate their ownership and management	2024-03-31	0	70	Two nurseries have been established in Hassan and Chikkamagaluru in Karnataka under One Tree planted project by Rainforest Alliance	S
	Output 2.1.2 Innovations in agri-tech and digital information systems tested for scaling up adoption of sustainable agriculture and directly benefitting 1000 farmers.	2024-12-31	0	10	2 ToRs were published on ICT-enabled Project Management Services (PMS) & Knowledge Management Systems (KMS).The scope of the work is to provide consulting and Project Management services for RySS to promote Natural Farming. The selected firm is expected to provide ICT consulting and Project management services to procure and implement IT applications and solutions. RySS and RA had identified suitable agency to undertake this assignment. In addition, an agency has been identified to take up the KMS assignment. The scope of the work is to develop a Knowledge Management System for RySS/ IGGAARL to promote Natural Farming. The selected firm is expected to review the Knowledge Management System (KMS) landscape and develop a	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					dynamic system. Both agencies are at the initial stage of the assessment. Also, a GIS team is constituted to conduct an extensive review of GIS needs, data harmonization, creating a standardized data value chain, and integrating GIS applications in farm planning and monitoring, mapping, and reporting.	
	Activity 2.1.2.1 Consult with farmer representatives, Coffee Board of India and ICAR on proposed technologies, and pilot test them with interested farmers	2023-12-31	0	40	Discussions have been initiated with National Institute for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (NI-MSME), An Organization of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India for introducing new technologies in processing of Natural farming produce. Discussions are going on with Coffee board and Precision Development (PxD) to implement value add services to Coffee farmers and pilot of these activities would be implemented during the quarters from July to Dec 2024	S
	Activity 2.1.2.2 Facilitate adoption of successful technologies in coordination with target producer groups and financing organizations	2024-12-31	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project. New technologies like paddy dehullers, Kono weeders & Coffee eco-pulpers have already been piloted by farmers. FPO will adopt the technology based on the feedback from farmers	S
	Activity 2.1.2.3 AP Establish a Natural Farming digital platform(s) and digital architecture for scaling-up Community-based natural farming (CNF)	2024-06-30	0	30	Three initiatives being undertaken in collaboration with RySS.a. Augmenting Digital information system (Integration) ; This activity is to integrate existing	S



Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					systems of Agro- advisory services, Urvi (MIS), Marketing, Certification, Capacity building, etc. of RySS to create a unified platform for decision making.b. Creation of Knowledge management platform: to develop a Knowledge Management System for RySS/ IGGAARL to promote Natural Farming. Knowledge sharing, active learning management system, managing research and data, digital library & forums for generating discussions and exchange of ideas are key activities. c. GIS based decision making: To contribute to the scientific knowledge on the use of remote sensing and GIS tools for analyzing vegetation growth patterns in natural farming systems and promote their application in sustainable agriculture.	
	Activity 2.1.2.4 KA Develop, test and roll out a digital Farmer Information system to coffee farmers	2024-06-30	0	10	Rainforest Alliance developed the Farm Intelligence App, a new digital tool to help ensure a smooth implementation of the program at the farm level. This mobile and web-based application is designed to provide producers with access to the tailored data, tools, knowledge, and support they need to improve their practices. It was created to support certificate holders at the farm and farm group level with data collection, data management, and	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					analysis to identify risks, gaps, and opportunities. Farm intelligence application will be rolled out on a pilot basis in Karnataka during September to December through Farmer producer organizations	
	Output 2.1.3 Farmer organizations' capacities strengthened in business management and product development to drive adoption of sustainable agriculture by 3,000 farmers on 10,000 ha of farmland	2025-12-31	0	10	A ToR was published to understand the Strengths, Gaps, Opportunities and Challenges concerning the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO) in AP and KA which shall encompass Institutional level capacities in the areas of Membership Mobilization, Internal Management including MIS, External Stake Holder Management, Commodities Produced (Pre Production, Production, Post Production), Services Rendered, Business Operations, Access to finance in the landscapes of AP and Karnataka. We are in the process of recruiting an agency, and they will be expected to conduct a situation analysis of the FPO landscape in India with a deep dive into AP and Karnataka States, design a suitable assessment framework with rating rationale, conduct an assessment, recommend prospective FPOs for collaboration with RA and furnish key findings.	S
	Activity 2.1.3.1AP Identify and make agreement with farmer producer organizations (FPOs)	2024-03-31	0	10	Collaboration with 5 FPO in the micro-landscapes is underway. These FPO have opted for certification in the	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					second year. RFP have been issued inviting agencies for undertaking a detailed assessments of FPO landscape in the project geographies. This study would help identify more FPO with potential for collaboration.	
	Activity 2.1.3.1KA Identify and make agreement with farmer producer organizations (FPOs)	2024-03-31	0	10	FPO will be identified through the FPO study. Preliminary discussions are being held with potential FPO from the coffee growing regions to increase the reach of farmers	S
	Activity 2.1.3.2AP Support FPOs to increase management skills and develop business plans that incorporate commitment to sustainable agriculture	2024-03-31	0	10	FPO will be identified through the FPO study. A baseline study of the FPOs would be undertaken by the agency engaged for this activity.	S
	Activity 2.1.3.2KA Support FPOs to increase management skills and develop business plans that incorporate commitment to sustainable agriculture	2024-03-31	0	10	FPO will be identified through the FPO study. A baseline study of the FPOs would be undertaken by the agency engaged for this activity.	S
	Activity 2.1.3.3AP Facilitate new product development with FPOs that adds value to sustainable agriculture production	2025-12-31	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S
	Activity 2.1.3.3KA Facilitate new product development with FPOs that adds value to sustainable agriculture production	2025-12-31	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S
	Activity 2.1.3.4KA Introduce digital system for internal auditing to participating groups that opt for Rainforest Alliance certification.	2023-09-30	0	5	Digital systems are being explored for implementing this activity. This will be undertaken during quarter July - September 2024	S
	Output 2.2.1 Technical support provided to the MSLMBs to develop a Sustainable Landscape Management Plan in each micro-landscape.	2024-09-30	0	10	We have initiated a LandScale baseline assessment in the Tithimati landscape in Karnataka. The objective is to uncover new facts about farmers' current practices in production, ecosystems,	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					human well-being, and governance. We are in the process of deploying an agency for this assessment. Common Land Mapping (CLM) is a technology that employs geo-referencing to locate and identify common land resources. A training program was conducted for cluster coordinators and RySS field cadre by FES to build expertise in identifying common lands and mapping of the identified lands using the CLM tool in and around the micro-landscapes. A draft guideline for High Conservation Value Forest has been prepared, and district-level orientations are planned. Research partners had also prepared a case study on saving sacred groves to ensure farmers' cultural practices remained intact. Capacity-building events for community animators are also organized on the importance of sacred grove practices.	
	Activity 2.2.1.1 Conduct capacity development activities for both the Community Animators and MSLMBs in participatory planning and decision-making, ensuring inclusion of all social groups.	2023-12-31	0	20	Regular capacity building activities have been conducted for community animators. For the MSLMBs, as this is linked to activity 1.2.1.3, it will be undertaken during July-December 2024 once the MSLMBs are formed	S
	Activity 2.2.1.2 Provide technical assistance to MSLMBs on setting goals, developing an action plan, converging with government programmes, monitoring progress and establishing operational procedures.	2023-12-31	0	0	As this is linked to activity 1.2.1.3, it will be undertaken during April – June 2024 once the MSLMBs are formed	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	Activity 2.2.1.3 Develop guidelines and best practices for HCVF in production landscapes, including Protected Area categories 5 and 6 and Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas	2023-09-30	0	80	Guidelines have been formulated for HCVF activity in category 5 & 6 at after undertaking pilot exercise in Gram Panchayat of ASR District in consultation with forest department officials, elected representatives at the Gram panchayat and community stakeholders. The status of land degradation is being used as base for HCVF Activity.	S
	Activity 2.2.1.4 Facilitate elaboration and adoption by MSLMBs of SLMPs and disseminate plans to stakeholders.	2024-09-30	0	0	As this is linked to activity 1.2.1.3, it will be undertaken once the MSLMBs are formed	S
	Activity 2.2.1.5 LandScale based performance monitoring system to record and report changes in landscape performance	2024-09-30	0	30	RPF has been issued inviting agencies to undertake baseline assessment using LandScale for Tithimathi micro-landscape in Karnataka. Guidance has been sought form LandScale team for assessment	S
	Output 2.2.2 Landscape management bodies guided and mentored to implement their SLMPs at landscape scale to conserve 25,000 ha of HCVF	2027-05-31	0	10	Workshop on human wildlife conflict with biodiversity board. engagement with district authorities at Kadapa.	S
	Activity 2.2.2.1 Coach MSLMBs in developing and implementing participatory SLMPs that include: land and water management, restoring degraded land, conserving biodiversity, protecting HCVF, and a system to track and evaluate progress in their implementation	2024-12-31	0	0	As this is linked to activity 1.2.1.3, it will be undertaken once the MSLMBs are formed	S
	Activity 2.2.2.2 Undertake continuous engagement with key State government departments, companies and other stakeholders to define opportunities for convergence and investment in SLMPs	2027-06-30	0	0	As this is linked to activity 1.2.1.3, it will be undertaken once the MSLMBs are formed	S
	Activity 2.2.2.3 Provide ongoing technical assistance to MSLMBs for financing, implementing, monitoring, and adjusting plans.	2027-03-31	0	0	As this is linked to activity 1.2.1.3, it will be undertaken once the MSLMBs are formed	S
	Activity 2.2.2.4KA New initiatives undertaken by MSLMBs to reduce	2027-06-30	0	10	Karnataka Forest Department - SABAL team	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	human-wildlife conflict				met with Mr. Kumar Pushkar, Addl PCCF, Karnataka Forest Department in Feb 2024 to seek support on the letter to be issued to Biodiversity Board and their consent to conduct State Level Workshop on Human Wildlife Conflict.	
	Output 2.2.3 Technical support provided to micro-landscapes with potential for scale to develop comprehensive business plans for their effective and sustainable operation and implementation of their SLMPs.	2026-05-31	0	0	Planned from year-3 onwards	S
	Activity 2.2.3.1 Support MSLMBs to develop financial plans, including convergence with government programmes	2024-12-31	0	1	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S
	Activity 2.2.3.2 Select two micro-landscapes for targeted private investment, based on potential for scale and planning and management capacity of MSLMBs	2025-06-30	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S
	Activity 2.2.3.3 Hold workshop(s) with selected MSLMBs to quantify potential revenue sources and investments needed for expanded operation	2025-10-30	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S
	Activity 2.2.3.4 Conduct feasibility design, piloting and review, and refine business plans based on external consultation with target companies and financial services organizations	2026-06-30	0	0	Planned from year-3 onwards	S
3 Component 3. Market mechanisms and public- private finance for scaling up sustainable agriculture and	Output 3.1.1 Private sector engaged and incentivized through improved producer organization and increased sustainability of supply to strengthen its commitment to responsible sourcing.	2026-06-30	0	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Markets study underway by Sambodhi to assess the value chain of the key crops, key stakeholders and the levers which can help drive market linkages and access to finance to FPOs.</li> <li>• FPO assessment study underway</li> <li>• Participation in national and international conferences to present to project to the potential buyers and networking.</li> </ul>	S
	Activity 3.1.1.1 Research market opportunities for agricultural	2023-12-31	0	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the 2023 World Coffee</li> </ul>	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
landscape-scale SLM.	products and NTFPs and develop market contact plans.				conference and National Spice Conference, many companies have interest to source commodities from the landscapes especially the certified products and crops grown through natural farming. Ongoing market study will also help identify the market linkages opportunities.	
	Activity 3.1.1.2 Inform target international companies of project implementation and identify best opportunities for collaboration in market development.	2026-06-30	0	30	The project team has utilized the international forums like the World Coffee conference, International Spices conference and National Spice Conference to disseminate information about the project. Based on the interest, we are also discussing with international companies such as Verstegen, Ritter sports, Producers market, Raddis etc. and exploring more collaborations.	S
	Activity 3.1.1.3 Contact target companies in domestic urban markets to inform of project, motivate engagement and identify specific product development opportunities to fit market interest.	2026-06-30	0	30	Engagement with domestic companies: The project team has actively informed the companies of the initiatives undertaken by the project team and facilitated dialogue to enable long term sourcing commitments from the project, the companies are Akay Spices, Growcom, Bon-fiction, Amul, Phalada Agro, Wipro consumers, Big -Haat, Tata Coffee.	S
	Activity 3.1.1.4 Facilitate linkages for producer organizations and FPOs with their target markets and enable agreements by liaising with producer organizations on supply of produce.	2025-06-30	0	40	Ten FPOs based in the Micro-landscapes have been identified. The agreements with these FPOs have not been signed. Once they are signed, the activity will be undertaken. Sales data from FPOs	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					were analyzed to explore certified transaction volumes from RA-certified FPOs and non-RA-certified FPOs. Some FPOs have also received better prices for their RA-certified coffee and pepper sold to companies. For instance, Maathota Tribal Farming and Marketing Producer Company Limited sold 100,000 kg of RA-certified spices and 20,000 kg of certified green coffee to SAFF BIOTICS PVT LTD.	
	Activity 3.1.1.5 Provide marketing communications support to companies sourcing from the landscape to describe the landscape and producers.	2026-06-30	0	10	This activity will be undertaken once the linked activities are completed. Storybird application is being designed in pilot phase for a few FPO by Producers Trust. This support will be further intensified as we build more network of partners supported by in-house communication person and RySS media and communications team.	S
	Output 3.2.1 Portfolio of feasible impact investments and financial instruments developed and negotiated with financial services providers, combining investment in SLM at farm and landscape scales.	2026-06-30	0	5	Two rounds of discussions have been held with Samunnati. The team from Samunnati has visited the office of RySS to understand the potential for investment in FPOs across Andhra Pradesh involved in Sustainable Agriculture and commodities	S
	Activity 3.2.1.1 Conduct updated feasibility studies to promote SLM in the project landscapes and develop draft investment proposals, together with production units and agri-enterprises.	2025-09-30	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S
	Activity 3.2.1.2 Build dialogue with the target landscape financing facilities to discuss and refine draft proposals	2024-06-30	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S



Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	Activity 3.2.1.3 Determine target financing facility for each proposal and provide close facilitation of its negotiation with landscape entity to enable investable proposal to be concluded	2026-06-30	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S
	Activity 3.2.1.4 Coordinate with financial institutions to finance selected producer organizations	2024-06-30	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S
4 Component 4. Knowledge management and outreach to scale-up sustainable value chains and landscape-scale SLM that contribute to LDN, biodiversity conservation and human well-being.	Output 4.1.1 MEL system implemented to track project progress and measure performance against targeted outputs, outcomes, GEF Core Indicators and GEBs.	2027-06-30	30	40	In the project's second year, the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system was executed by field partner WASSAN. They have designed mobile app-based data collection and, using complex algorithms, an entire data value chain was established to create reporting outputs. RA team monitored progress and challenges using a results framework checklist, periodic review of the MEL plan, and training of staff and project partners on the MEL process. We provided inputs during the finalisation of indicators and data collection methodology, maintenance of evidence-based progress monitoring through the SharePoint-based Project Management (PMP) system, preparation of a five-year project plan, and detailed annual plan, which were approved by the Project Steering Committee and UNEP. During this second year, we documented case studies from field and farmer collaboratives; we got to know the farmers' motivations, driving forces and the level of hindrances they face.	S
	Activity 4.1.1.1 Hold a Project M&E workshop on methods, data	2022-09-30	0	100	The MEL Workshop has been organized for	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	collection, analysis and reporting including for knowledge management (KM) and communications (Output 4.1.3) with M&E staff of implementing partners				all project partners at the beginning of the project in July 2022.	
	Activity 4.1.1.2 Undertake data collection and analysis according to MEL plan.	2027-06-30	0	80	Data collection is being undertaken as per the MEL plan. A workshop on has been organized for Optimising existing digital information systems of RySS. ToRs are being issued. Once the new systems are designed, data collection will also be geo-referenced.	S
	Activity 4.1.1.3 Prepare integrated annual project plans and semestral narrative and financial reports in approved templates within approved timelines to present to UNEP and IUCN as Co-IAs and to Project Steering Committee; make revisions as requested.	2027-06-30	0	100	integrated annual project plans and semestral narrative and financial reports in approved templates are submitted to UNEP and IUCN within approved timelines	S
	Activity 4.1.1.4 Using LandScale, undertake baseline and end of project assessment of selected micro-landscape(s) to measure landscape performance.	2027-06-30	0	20	The LandScale baseline implementation plan has been drawn with inputs from RA's Global LandScale team. LandScale baseline's fieldwork is scheduled for Sept-Dec 2024. The selection and shortlisting of agencies is in progress.	S
	Activity 4.1.1.5 Organize independent internal mid-term evaluation and external end of project evaluations (via UNEP)	2024-12-31	0	0	Will be undertaken during Year-3	S
	Output 4.1.2 Evaluations of cost-benefit undertaken on the economic returns to farmers from adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, as well as environmental benefits on- and off-farm, and improvements in human well-being in the project landscapes	2026-12-31	10	20	APCNF Baseline: A compressive baseline for Andhra Pares Community Natural farming (APCNF) has been executed in Andhra Pradesh by Sambodhi. Baseline study will unfold key findings against two key objectives. Objective 1: To assess the degree to which APCNF's new, target smallholder farmers in the project landscape in Andhra Pradesh	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					<p>apply CNF crop management practices and Objective 2: To assess the cost-benefit of those smallholder farmers considered in the objective 1 and then divide them into two groups for the project landscape in Andhra Pradesh: o those not applying any or applying just a few of CNF practices o those applying at least 50% CNF practices during the cultivation. Karnataka Baseline: In the third quarter of 2023, a Baseline study was undertaken in three project districts of the Karnataka landscape. This research is conducted amidst a backdrop of land degradation, resulting in food insecurity, higher food prices, climate change, environmental hazards, and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Baseline study covered total 886 coffee farmers in the districts of Chikmagalur, Kodagu and Hassan. We gathered baseline results on socio-demographics, sustainability practices, farm management and training aspects of coffee farmers. Also, we have documented Cost Benefit Analysis of coffee production and economic growth.</p>	
	Activity 4.1.2.1AP Conduct in-house and third-party crop cutting experiments, panel studies, and best-practitioner and selected village-level studies at regular intervals to assess and analyze productivity, costs, incomes and other benefits from applying CNF on CNF farms.	2026-06-30	0	60	Crop cutting experiments (CCEs) have been conducted both internally and externally in the fields of farmers following Natural farming methods. These were undertaken in house by RySS field	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					cadre under the supervision of RySS MEL team. External CCEs were undertaken by Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Vishakhapatnam. Field technical partner WASSAN has also undertaken CCEs	
	Activity 4.1.2.2 Undertake data collection and analysis on the two sustainable agricultural systems operating in the project (CNF and RA-SAS) using survey based on statistical design for sampling and data collection methodology.	2026-06-30	0	70	Baseline for Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard (RA-SAS) is completed. The baseline for APCNF is underway and will be completed in January to March 2024 quarter. Apart from this, data collection in RASAS is being undertaken in Rainforest Alliance Certification portal (RACP) while the APCNF data is being collected in Urvi application implemented at RySS.	S
	Activity 4.1.2.3 Write up results for dissemination through the project KM system (Output 4.1.3) and share with key stakeholders	2026-12-30	0	0	Planned at the 5th year of the project	S
	Output 4.1.3 Learnings from project and conditions for scalability prepared and presented to central and State governments and target financial services organizations and companies and disseminated through selected events and publications.	2027-06-30	0	0	Planned at the 4th and 5th years of the project.	S
	Activity 4.1.3.1 Select and undertake case studies	2026-12-31	0	0	Planned at the 5th year of the project	S
	Activity 4.1.3.2 Prepare communications materials on lessons learnt and key success factors, tailored to target audiences: farmers, central and State governments, companies in international and domestic markets, financial services organizations and wider stakeholder groups.	2026-12-31	0	0	Planned at the 5th year of the project	S
	Activity 4.1.3.3 Organize participation in selected events in India and internationally to present project results	2026-12-31	0	0	Planned at the 5th year of the project	S
	Activity 4.1.3.4 Maintain regular flow of communication on project achievements through partners' media channels and coordinate with the Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	2027-06-30	0	0	Planned at the 5th year of the project	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	and Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change), UNEP and IUCN for communications within their network					
5 Component	Activity 5.1 Recruit project staff and consultants	2022-06-30	0	90	All the project staff are recruited for the project	S
5. Project Management	Activity 5.2 Revise work plan, results framework and budget for approval by PSC and UNEP	2022-09-30	0	100	The workplan, results framework and Budget has been approved	S
	Activity 5.3 Propose members of PSC and hold twice-yearly meetings.	2027-03-31	0	100	PSC meetings is being held regularly	S
	Activity 5.4 Preparation of Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan	2022-09-30	0	100	Project MEL plan has been prepared for the project	HS
	Activity 5.5 Prepare and hold Project Inception workshop	2022-09-30	0	100	Project inception workshop has been organized with project partners and government nodal agencies	S
	Activity 5.6 Agree members of PMU and establish project management procedures		0	100	PMU has been established and is meeting regularly for running the project	S
	Activity 5.7 Form Technical Committee and hold twice-yearly meetings.	2027-03-31	0	10	Technical coordination committee is being formed. The committee members composition has been approved in the last PSC meeting	S
	Activity 5.8 Prepare bi-annual reports to submit to UNEP and IUCN	2027-03-31	0	100	Bi-annual reports have been submitted to UNEP and IUCN in Jan 2023 & Jan 2024	S
	Activity 5.9 Undertake annual project reviews and prepare annual work plans and budgets.	2026-06-30	0	80	Annual work plans and budgets are being prepared for Andhra Pradesh. These plans will be prepared for Karnataka from this year	S
	Activity 5.10 Prepare ToR for external mid-term evaluation, recruit and support consultant and respond to the recommendations	2024-12-31	0	0	Scheduled activity will commence in year-3 of the project	S
	Activity 5.11 Prepare ToR for external terminal evaluation, recruit and support consultant and write response to report	2027-06-30	0	0	Applicable at the end of Project	S
	Activity 5.12 Project Communication plan	2023-03-31	0	100	A project communications plan has been developed and activities are being undertaken as per the plan	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	Activity 5.13 Estimate likely total Green House Gases (GHG) emissions reductions up to the end of the project, from the adopted best agricultural practices, especially from the reduction in use of agrochemicals, and achieved restoration on farm and off-farm in KR and AP.	2027-06-30	0	20	The baseline values have been estimated for Karnataka Landscape using FAO Ex-ACT tool based on the farmers practices being undertaken by Coffee farmers. The same would be undertaken in Andhra Pradesh for APCNF principles	S

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

## 4 Risks

### 4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Low	Low
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Low	Low
4 Budget	Low	Low
5 Financial Management	Low	Low
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low	Low

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

### 4.2 Table B. Risk-log

#### Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Policy risk	Outcome 2.1	L	L	L					=	Government policy is favorable to the project's nature-based solutions approach to agricultural growth. In particular, Central and Andhra Pradesh State governments support Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) with resources and

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										top government level pronouncements.
Legal risk	Outcome 1.2. 2.1. 2.2	L	L	L					=	The two identified potential risks during the PPG phase were "the rights of indigenous peoples on lands and territories on land on which the project will work", and "child or adult forced labour occurring in the project landscapes." Both risks are very closely monitored by the project's field teams and are unlikely to occur in the areas where the project operates. A new legal risk became evident as PPG phase closed. The government's 2020 amendment to the 2010 Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act affected the project's plan for partnership with Indian CSOs, requiring in particular the identification of a new technical partner in Karnataka. This has not yet been resolved
Forest conversion risk		M	M	M					=	Agriculture is the largest cause of forest conversion globally, and hence this is a risk area, But it is deemed only moderate because of the focus of the project on agricultural land. See Table C for the mitigation strategy
Climate Change risk		M	M	M					=	Climate change carries many risks for farmers as has been evidenced in



Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										crop losses and landslides caused by prolonged periods of drought and torrential rains in southern India over recent years. See Table C for the mitigation strategy
Finance risk		H	H	H					=	The project aims to attract new public and private finance to farms and to the MSLMBs in the micro-landscapes to demonstrate that SLM can be a financially viable concept. See Table C for the mitigation strategy
Attitudinal risk		M	M	M					=	Farmers may lack motivation or be fearful of changing their traditional farm practices. See Table C for mitigation strategy.
Social risk		M	L	L					=	Equity and social justice are made possible by the project partners' presence in the area and the relationships that they have developed with the Gram Panchayats. Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) and 16 district administrations. Gender sensitization activities are incorporated into all community-level connections. Such as the participatory profiling process. The establishment of MSLMBs, and activity planning. As mandated by the gender mainstreaming action plan. All frontline staff are from the community.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Market risk		L	M	M					=	The marginal decline in the area of certified product in Year 1 indicates the volatility of markets and justifies increasing the risk category. While recognizing that many other factors than markets will also influence uptake of SLM by farmers. See Table C for mitigation strategy
COVID-19 risk		H	L	L					=	The risk of COVID-19 has been significantly lowered through medical advancements. Widespread vaccination in different phases in India and awareness, allowing for regular social and economic activity to be resumed.
Implementation schedule			M	L	L				=	The project got off to a fast start thanks to RA hiring all the team at its cost before the contract with UNEP was signed. The change of Project Coordinator did not cause much disturbance but the loss of the Sr Technical Officer in Karnataka in month 9 has caused a loss of momentum in the State. As has the lack of a technical partner. It has not been possible to build the next stage of the landscape management process following the profiling nor to consolidate State government relationships. As a result, much more progress has been made in Year 1 in

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										Andhra Pradesh.
Capacity to deliver			M	L	L				↓	The risk is related to the Implementation schedule risk and refers primarily to the capacity gap over the last quarter of Year 1 in Karnataka. See Table C for mitigation strategy
Land use risk	Outcome 2.1. 3.1. 3.2	M	M	M						The risk issue is agricultural land being converted to other uses. See Table C for the mitigation strategy
Consolidated Project Risk										
		N/A	M	M					=	This section focuses on the variation. The overall rating is discussed in section 2.3.

#### 4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Land use risk	Making crop production more profitable and secure for farmers is the most important project activity to mitigate this risk. Support is being provided to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) dealing with cash crops to access reliable supplies through	National Spice Conference at Hyderabad: RA was part of the panel at the National Spice Conference where experience on regenerative projects including natural farming practices and the SABAL project were shared. RA facilitated the establishment of an	"Training and technical support to APCNF farmers and Coffee and Spices farmers in KABusiness plan development of FPOs"	"Year-2. Year-3 Year-4 and Year-5Year-2 and Year-3"	"RySS and Partners in AP and Associated Trainers Network in KA Specialist partner"

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	responsible sourcing. Five FPOs in the Eastern Ghats landscape are now sourcing Rainforest Alliance certified crops. which improves market conditions for the farmers. Training in APCNF techniques enables farmers to reduce nut costs and diversify production.	exhibition stall during the National Spice Conference. The directors of producer organizations belonging to D-Gonduru. M. Nittaputtu. and Bairluty micro-landscapes showcased samples of products including turmeric. chilli. pepper. ginger. mango ginger and long pepper. Connections with various companies were established during this event.			
Forest conversion risk	The project is working with all relevant stakeholders to develop Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Management Bodies (MSLMBs) to take responsibility for ensuring that no conversion of forest land to agriculture takes place. As the MSLMBs become more established over the next two years. they will design and implement Sustainable Landscape Management Plans (SLMPs) to ensure the protection of common lands	I) SABAL's Targeted Action Plan for the Second Year (2023-24): In the third quarter of 2023. Rainforest Alliance facilitated a two-day workshop for the staff through which the SABAL team in Andhra Pradesh achieved a significant milestone by finalizing the annual action plan for the second year of the project. spanning from July 2023 to June. 2024. During this workshop. in-depth discussions were conducted	"Enable sustainable land management practices in micro landscapes through MSLMBsPreparation of SLMPs including forest and HCVF"	"Year-2 and Year-3Year-2 and Year-3"	"RySS and Partners in AP and Rainforest Alliance and partners in KA RySS and Partners in AP and Rainforest Alliance and partners in KA "

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	<p>including forests and HCVF. RA-SAS and APCNF have been introduced for the farm scale. These systems have the inherent design to value forests and biodiversity. Robust M&amp;E is strengthened by the certification audit where farms are certified. The risk is estimated to reduce during the project's life.</p>	<p>regarding budgetary allocations for the fiscal year 2023-24. The emphasis was on aligning all activities with the broader GEF-7 project plan ensuring a seamless execution diligent monitoring and transparent progress reporting. The annual planning exercise has set the stage for a year of impactful and well-coordinated endeavors in the realm of sustainable development. In addition to strategic planning the project staff underwent intensive training in key thematic areas. The focus areas included commons development natural resource management. biodiversity promotion and integrated farming systems. This immersive training equipped the team with the knowledge and expertise necessary to not only launch diverse project initiatives but also guide communities effectively</p>			

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
		towards the successful completion of planned activities.			
Climate change risk	The two sustainable farming systems. APCNF and RA-SAS incorporate measures to build climate change resilience while the landscape-scale approach. Initiated in both the landscapes, eastern and western Ghats. incorporates conservation and restoration.	Natural Farming models and experiments: Validation trials are being set up for understand the reduction in chemical use and soil and water management. concept notes have been created for undertaking validation trails and demonstration fields in the eastern ghats project landscape. Models that are being grounded include Any Time Money (ATM) model. Drought proofing model (DPM) 5-Layer model. Annapurna model and Giri Lakshmi models.	Scale up APCNF and RA-SAS in the project landscapes	Year-2. Year-3 Year-4 and Year-5	RySS and Partners in AP and Rainforest Alliance and partners in KA
Finance risk	The project has made progress in Year 1 in attracting new donor income and building a foundation with State level government for public funding convergence. Progress in attracting private investment is		"Enable SHGs and their apex bodies to avail private and commercial bank finance to adopt CNF. Help FPOs to develop business plans and raise finance from the MarketExplore convergence opportunities for SLMPs with government	"Year-2. Year-3. Year-4 and Year-5 Year-2 and year-3 Year-2 and Year-3 Year-3. Year-4 and year-5"	"RySS and partnersRA. RySS and partnersFES. RA. RySS and partnersRA"

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	targeted for Year 3. The aim is to develop blended models of finance in which both private investment and public funding play a key part.		ProgrammesExplore blended financial mechanisms for at least two micro landscapes and create a scalable model"		
Attitudinal risk	The project's interactions with farmers are raising their awareness of the importance of biodiversity for long-term productivity, nutritional requirements, and overall well-being of the family. The training and technical assistance is delivering them value in building their knowledge and delivering solutions to their problems. Their perception of value generates a positive attitude, so the project expects that this risk will be decreased by continuing this approach in the coming years.	The project team prepared a media film showcasing early field implementation and stakeholder engagement. The project team created a film to highlight the initial stages of the field implementation process. The main objective of this film was to showcase how the team was engaging with stakeholders and creating awareness about the project. The film was a comprehensive representation of the efforts put in by the team to gather feedback and inputs from various stakeholders and incorporate them into the project. The team took great care to ensure that the film accurately captured the critical aspects of the	Raising farmers' awareness, mobilising them, and offering them technical assistance and support	Year-2, Year-3, Year-4 and Year-5	"RA, FES, RySS and partners"

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
		<p>project and effectively conveyed the message to the intended audience. Through this film, the team hoped to create a positive impact and generate interest in the project.</p>			
Market risk	<p>Rainforest Alliance is very strong in international markets and through its presence in India has now built relationships in the domestic market. It will give increased attention to market development in Year 2. in line with the work plan. The World Coffee Congress will enable RA to increase its profile as it has negotiated a major role with the Coffee Board of India, including highlighting the importance of sustainability.</p>	<p>The Rainforest Alliance team participated at the 5th World Coffee conference and India. There were about 1500 participants at the conference who visited the RA stall and discussed overall work. Dr. Madhuri Nanda from RA spoke in a panel discussion and presented key facts about RA's project initiatives in South Asia. RA team had organized a side event to deliberate on the importance of using agriculture and coffee scorecards represented by more than 100 participants from the plantation industry.</p>	<p>Promotion of coffee and spices in international and domestic markets; development of value added food products for the domestic market</p>	<p>Year-2. Year-3. Year-4 and Year-5</p>	<p>RA (lead). RySS</p>
Implementation risk	<p>The urgent task is to recruit a new Sr Technical Officer</p>	<p>Senior Technical Officer has been recruited and placed</p>	<p>Develop second micro-landscape; facilitate</p>	<p>Year-2. Year-3. Year-4 and Year-5</p>	<p>RA. FES</p>



Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	for Karnataka- a task that has proved challenging to date to find the right quality candidate. Once in place. the State government will be re-engaged. and the micro-landscape development process in Thithimathi taken forward. It is also planned in Year 2 to identify and profile a second micro-landscape to achieve the project target of 10.	in the state of Karantaka	MSLMBs in both to develop SLMPs		
Capacity to deliver risk	To address the current gap in Karnataka. RA will adjust its approach on the farm-level work and develop a network of Associated Trainers to undertake the support to farmers foreseen to be carried out by a technical partner. Associated Trainers may be individuals or technicians working with another institution or a company. RA will train and support them.	Agreemnets with Two ATNs are being made in Andhra Pradesh	Maintain and support Associated Trainer Network	Year-2. Year-3. Year-4 and Year-5	RA

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

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between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

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## 5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

### Project Minor 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 Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

#### 5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	Yes

Minor amendments

KMFT couldnt obtain necessary government clearance for recieveing foriegn contribution. Hence BIAF is the only partner which we are onboarding for Western Ghats landscape in Karnataka.

#### 5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision

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 Description	Activity Description
Sukuruputtu	18.060039	82.641974		D Gonduru Micro Landscape (Farm Locations)	The Any Time Money (ATM) crop model aids small and marginal farmers in India by boosting income through high-yield crops on just 20 cents of land. It provides immediate and continuous income within the first month of sowing. ideal for those with limited space and investment. The model yields diverse. nutrient-rich crops. enhancing farmer and consumer health while improving soil nutrient levels. water retention. and biodiversity. Under the SABAL project. 155 farmers adopted ATM models over 25 hectares. contributing to

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
					area restoration and biodiversity improvement.
Bakkalapanuku	18.052307	82.631644		BRC Units (Village Enterprises)	The SABAL project supported enterprises in four landscape areas including the Ghana Jeevaamurtham units to improve farmers' livelihoods as a Bio Resource Centre.
Sankulamidde	18.0207976	82.4914549		Coffee Intensification Models (Village wise coffee farms locations)	Coffee intercropping models are five-layer models used in coffee plantations. They improve soil health, control erosion, and enhance biodiversity. These models have been successfully implemented in the D. Gonduru and Nittaputtu micro-landscapes under the SABAL Project.
Mallampeta	18.0591707	82.9431586		PMDS Plots	PMDS is to enhance soil health and biodiversity, serving as a critical step toward natural farming in the landscape. The impressive results from 2023 to 2024 highlight the effectiveness of the PMDS approach. The expansion in coverage and the improvement in soil health demonstrate the potential

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
					for large-scale sustainable agricultural practices.

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

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have revolutionized the way farm locations and extents are demarcated, offering precision and efficiency unmatched by traditional methods. Using tools like Google Earth, farmers and agricultural planners can delineate farm boundaries with remarkable accuracy. By leveraging high-resolution satellite imagery, users can easily mark the perimeters of fields, considering natural features such as rivers, forests, and terrain variations. This precise demarcation is crucial for effective land management, ensuring that each parcel of land is utilized to its fullest potential without encroaching on neighbouring properties or protected areas.

GIS technology also facilitates the integration of various spatial data layers, which can include soil types, topography, climate conditions, and existing land use. This comprehensive approach enables farmers to make informed decisions about crop placement, irrigation planning, and infrastructure development. For instance, by overlaying soil quality maps with farm boundaries, farmers can identify the most fertile areas for planting or recognize regions that may require soil improvement. Additionally, topographical data can guide the construction of terraces or drainage systems to prevent erosion and optimize water usage. Such detailed planning not only enhances productivity but also promotes sustainable land management practices.

GIS plays a pivotal role in monitoring and evaluating land-based activities within farm locations. Through the use of geospatial indices such as the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), farmers can assess the health and vigor of crops over time. NDVI utilizes satellite imagery to measure the difference between near-infrared and visible light reflected by vegetation, providing a clear indication of plant health. Higher NDVI values generally correspond to healthier, more robust vegetation, while lower values may indicate stress or poor growth. By regularly monitoring NDVI values, farmers can identify areas that need intervention, such as additional fertilization, pest control, or irrigation adjustments.

The application of GIS in sustainable agriculture extends beyond monitoring to include the evaluation of restoration efforts. By comparing historical NDVI data with current values, farmers can quantify the improvements achieved through sustainable practices like crop rotation, organic farming, and reforestation. This data-driven approach allows for the precise calculation of restored areas and the effectiveness of different agricultural practices. Moreover, the integration of GIS with other data sources, such as weather patterns and water usage, provides a holistic view of the farm ecosystem, enabling adaptive management strategies that enhance resilience and productivity. In essence, GIS empowers farmers with the tools needed to implement and track sustainable agriculture, ensuring long-term land health and productivity.

**List of initiatives undertaken using GIS & Remote Sensing**

1. The Any Time Money (ATM) crop model aids small and marginal farmers in India by boosting income through high-yield crops on just 20 cents of land. It provides immediate and continuous income within the first month of sowing, ideal for those with limited space and investment. The model yields diverse, nutrient-rich crops, enhancing farmer and consumer health while improving soil nutrient levels, water retention, and biodiversity. Under the SABAL project, 155 farmers adopted ATM models over 25 hectares, contributing to area restoration and biodiversity improvement.
2. Under the SABAL project, supported enterprises in four landscape areas, such as Ghana Jeevaamurtham units, to improve farmers' livelihoods as a Bio Resource Centre.

3. Coffee intercropping models are five-layer models used in coffee plantations. They improve soil health, control erosion, and enhance biodiversity. These models have been successfully implemented in the D. Gonduru and Nittaputtu micro-landscapes under the SABAL Project.

4. PMDS is to enhance soil health and biodiversity, serving as a critical step toward natural farming in the landscape. The impressive results from 2023 to 2024 highlight the effectiveness of the PMDS approach. The expansion in coverage and the improvement in soil health demonstrate the potential for large-scale sustainable agricultural practices.

Geo-tags for all the above interventions are attached to this report as Annexure [PIR 2\\_Project 10204\\_STEP 4\\_ 5.3\\_Annexure 7a\\_Geo Tags - Land Based Activities](#)

Refer Annexure [PIR 2\\_Project 10204\\_STEP 4\\_ 5.3\\_Annexure 7e\\_Geo Tags - 365 Days Green Cover \(1\)](#)

Refer Annexure [PIR 2\\_Project 10204\\_STEP 4\\_ 5.3\\_Annexure 7d\\_Geo Tags - ATM Models \(1\)](#)

Refer Annexure [PIR 2\\_Project 10204\\_STEP 4\\_ 5.3\\_Annexure 7c\\_Geo Tags - Land Degradation \(1\)](#)

Refer Annexure [PIR 2\\_Project 10204\\_STEP 4\\_ 5.3\\_Annexure 7b\\_Geo Tags - PMDS](#)

[\[Annex any linked geospatial file\]](#)

**Additional Supporting Documents:**

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