

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9772
Project Name:	Landscape Planning and Restoration to Improve Ecosystem Services, and Livelihoods, Expand and Effectively Manage Protected Areas
Countr(ies):	Gambia
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Landscape Planning and Restoration to Improve Ecosystem Services, and Livelihoods, Expand and Effectively Manage Protected Areas

Country

Gambia

GEF ID

9772

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

National Environment Authority (NEA)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/14/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 5th PIR

Objective

Ecosystem services in productive and protected land/seascapes conserved by improved land use and marine spatial planning policies and land/seascape level management in Gambia.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

6,180,930.00

Cumulative Disbursement

3,801,821.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

3/28/2020

Agency Approval

5/22/2020

Implementation Start 9/4/2020	First Disbursement 9/4/2020
Expected MTR 6/26/2025	Actual MTR 7/1/2024
Expected Completion 4/30/2026	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

Project implementation progress was constrained by delayed fund disbursement; for about eight months during the reporting year, several field activities were paused. Notwithstanding this interruption, an important outcome was achieved: the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources declared four Indigenous Community Conserved Areas—Niani Sukuta, Niani Kayayi, Jailani Bakadagi, and Jarumeh Koto swamplands—together with the Kartong/Allahein Marine Park, as protected under the Biodiversity and Wildlife Act, 2003. These designations mark a substantive milestone for the project and expand the national protected areas system. Government figures reported terrestrial protection at ~8.06% as of 2020; the newly declared Allahein River marine protected area is ~40 km², adding to national marine coverage. Collectively, these actions align with the GEF-6 Land/Seascape Planning and Ecosystem Restoration Project objective to establish ICCAs and a marine protected area while strengthening land- and seascape governance.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project has operated without a dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officer since the previous incumbent left, creating a capacity gap for routine results tracking, PIR data quality assurance, and indicator follow-up. At its July 2025 sitting, the Project Steering Committee agreed remedial measures.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders consulted during the reporting period for the establishment of the Bansang wetlands as an ICCA included local land and sea resources users (including farmers, forest-dependent populations, other populations with dominantly wetland-dependent livelihoods, fisherfolk, and other actors involved in the fisheries value chain). They were presented the wetland area and through open discussions, contributed ideas for the conservation of Biodiversity in the Area to meet local-level relevance and acceptability.

A key engagement within this reporting period involved consultations on the Bansang wetlands. This location was endorsed by the 2024 Project Steering Committee to be explored for the possibilities of creating an IICA, in replacement of that lost in the Bahama Sifoe (West Coast Region).

Community user groups (lowland rice and garden producers; water-user committees; youth groups). Purpose: validate ICCA boundaries and management objectives; identify livelihood-compatible conservation practices. How engaged: village meetings, participatory mapping, and focus groups convened by the PMU with local authorities. Outcome: agreed boundary sketch, priority rules on dry-season abstraction, and a shortlist of community actions for wetland protection (internal minutes). Rationale in policy: aligns with GEF Stakeholder Engagement Policy and its guidance on inclusive identification of roles and responsibilities

Traditional and local authorities (Alkalolu; district and ward representatives). Purpose: secure administrative endorsement; clarify complementary roles with the ICCA governance structure. How engaged: district-level meetings with record of decisions. Outcome: formal meeting notes acknowledging ICCA process steps and nominating focal persons (internal). Rationale in law: consistent with decentralized mandates for local authorities

Environment and natural resources departments (forestry, parks/wildlife, agriculture, water). Purpose: align ICCA rules with sector policies; identify technical support and monitoring roles. How engaged: technical sessions and field walk-throughs. Outcome: agreement in principle on technical backstopping and integration with routine patrols/extension (internal). Basis: ICCA governance sits within national biodiversity legislation and PA system coordination.

Resource-user associations and civil society (producer organizations, women's groups, youth associations, CBOs active in wetlands). Purpose: identify risks to access/benefit sharing, especially for vulnerable groups; validate social safeguards. How engaged: separate women's and youth consultations; plenary feedback. Outcome: list of context-specific measures (e.g., transparent permit rules; grievance contacts) to feed into the site governance note (internal). Basis: GEF guidance emphasizes inclusive, iterative engagement and documented feedback loops.

At the district level, similar engagements were had with administrative officials in landscape and seascape management. During these consultations, the role of district administrative resources were discussed, as well as the potential for their support of the project through resources leverage for the benefit of the K-LGA and local communities around CRR-North.

D. Gender Equality

1. Women's gardens supported (fencing, borehole, water distribution; SLM training). What was done: rehabilitation or upgrading of women-managed gardens; installation of borehole and reticulation; training on sustainable land management. Why it matters: horticulture gardens in The Gambia are widely documented as a critical livelihood for women, linked to income, nutrition, and resilience; infrastructure such as boreholes reduces time burdens and stabilizes dry-season production. How we will track: sex-disaggregated membership; share of plots under improved practices; proxy income from vegetable sales.
2. Tree-seedling support to women's groups during the 2024 planting season (beneficial native fruit and other economic trees). What was done: distribution of seedlings and field advice to women's groups; species selected for food, shade, and sale (internal distribution lists). Why it matters: fruit-tree and agroforestry investments are used in Gambian programs to strengthen women's resource rights and incomes when paired with community governance and gender-transformative approaches. How we will track: survival rates at 12 months; numbers of women receiving seedlings; group-level revenues from tree products; representation of women in micro-nursery management
3. Focused meetings with women's groups to assess quality and challenges of project support. What was done: multiple feedback sessions on garden infrastructure performance, market access, and training needs; minutes logged with follow-up actions (internal). Why it matters: GEF Gender Policy requires sex-disaggregated data, documented participation, and responsiveness to constraints identified by women; UN system guidance also supports tagging and tracking of gender-responsive investments.

E. Knowledge Management

KM approach in use: The project has applied the GEF knowledge-and-learning model of capturing practice, packaging lessons, and sharing through multiple channels. Activities included periodic knowledge products (e.g., the Ecoscape Chronicles project magazine), project social media (X/Twitter and Facebook), structured exchange visits, and timed outreach around global observances (e.g., International Women’s Day on 8 March, International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May, World Environment Day on 5 June, and World Tourism Day on 27 September).

Out social media handles:

X: https://twitter.com/gef_6ingambia

Whatsapp: https://chat.whatsapp.com/FNaHxr2yg5mKcZOw71tHU2?mode=ac_t

The project's signature outlet for news and developments is the Ecoscape Magazine. Ecoscape Magazine volumes published during this last reporting period include:

Issue 6 - Climate at a crossroads: navigating change in The Gambia

Issue 7 - Waste management in The Gambia

Issue 8 - Grassroots conservation initiatives in CRR-North

Issue 9 - Local Tourism in the Central River Region

Issue 10 - Youth and the environment in The Gambia

Issue 11 - Safeguarding The Gambia's water resources

Issue 12 -The Great Green Wall in the Gambia

Issue 13 - Protecting The Gambia's forests.

Focus landscapes and learning loops: Field learning has been concentrated in a limited set of land- and seascapes—including the pilot location in Fula Kunda, Touba Mourit, and Kerr Maila to generate site-tested practices before scaling.

Regional knowledge networks: The project engaged with the West Africa MPA network, which provides a FB: <https://facebook.com/61551044982856>

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	

Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kartong Allahein Marine Protected Area	13.075632	-16.738679	

Location Description:

Marine protected area

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dankunku Fula Kunda	13.578792	-15.326571	

Location Description:

Borehole/Women's garden

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dankunku Touba Mourit	13.589847	-15.327387	

Location Description:

Borehole/Women's garden

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sambel Kunda	13.650324	-14.954624	

Location Description:

Biodiversity watchtower and monitoring station

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Chamen	13.709843	-15.173272	

Location Description:

Mangrove restoration

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Wasu	13.692050	-14.877822	

Location Description:

Traditional courtyard for local environmental crimes

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bati Ndar	13.704615	-15.186625	

Location Description:

Mangrove restoration

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jailan Bakadaji	13.712954	-15.019791	

Location Description:

Indigenous Community Conserved Area

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Niani Kayai	13.571575	-14.880981	

Location Description:

Indigenous Community Conserved Area

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Niani Sukuta	13.630222	-14.945097	

Location Description:

Indigenous Community Conserved Area

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jarumeh Koto	13.551509	-14.783993	

Location Description:

Indigenous Community Conserved Area

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lamin Koto	13.546293	-14.762412	

Location Description:

Navy post

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bushtown	-14.642265	-14.642265	

Location Description:

Forest ecolodge

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID

Kartong	13.073229	-16.749666	
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Location Description:

Mangrove restoration

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kerr Maila	13.735988	-15.332249	

Location Description:

Women's garden

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Buduk	13.727495	-15.127449	

Location Description:

Borehole/Women's garden

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Koli Kunda	13.562600	-14.772265	

Location Description:

Borehole/Women's garden

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sanyang	13.242053	-16.784130	

Location Description:

Turtle conservation information center

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sanyang	13.241827	-16.784618	

Location Description:

Protected turtle breeding ground

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Buduk	13.736684	-15.086552	

Location Description:

Tree Planting

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bushtown	13.442143	-14.642211	

Location Description:

Tree Planting

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dankunku Fula Kunda	13.562392	-15.322809	

Location Description:

Tree Planting

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dankunku Touba Mourit	13.586847	-15.324323	

Location Description:

Tree Planting

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category
M and E Document

Title
9772-PIR-UNEP-2025-Gambia Land Seascapes