# Promoting Sustainable Rangeland Management and Restoration Practices and Strategies to Achieve LDN in the Northern Badia of Jordan

**Review CEO Approval and Make a recommendation**

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**
11872
**Countries**
Jordan
**Project Name**
Promoting Sustainable Rangeland Management and Restoration Practices and Strategies to Achieve LDN in the Northern Badia of Jordan
**Agencies**
IUCN
**Date received by PM**
5/11/2026
**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**
Alla Ljungman
**Focal Area**
Land Degradation
**Project Type**
MSP

**PIF**
**CEO**

**Part I - General Project Information**

**1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared. It is noted that the Ministry of Environment of Jordan will execute the project.

May 15, 2026

Yes, however, please add GEF Agency Project ID

| GEF Agency Project ID: | |
|---|---|

and project sector for CCM

| Project Sector (CCM Only): |
|---|

We also noted that the implementing agency has been listed as one of the executing partners, which is not consistent with GEF policies.

| | |
|---|---|
| **GEF Agency(ies):** | IUCN |
| **Project Executing Entity(s):** | MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT |
| | IUCN |

The GEF Implementing Agency has been identified as one of the executing agencies for this project. During the PIF review, concerns were raised regarding the proposed dual execution arrangement. The relevant policy provisions should be communicated to the OFP and the executing partners during the PPG phase to ensure that an appropriate organization is identified and assessed to undertake project execution.

The proposed partial execution of the project by the GEF Implementing Agency has not been adequately justified. Please review **Section V. Exceptions for GEF Agency Provision of Executing Services** in **Annex 7: Project Budget and Implementation and Execution Functions** of *GEF/C.70/Inf.18, October 2025, Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy (2025 Update)*, and provide a justification demonstrating that the proposed arrangement meets one of the exception criteria outlined in the policy.

Agency Response
Agency project ID added. Thanks

Thank you for the comment. The GEF Agency has received confirmation from the OFP and identified the Executing Entity, the **Ministry of Environment (MoE)**, that it has the capacity to serve as the **sole Executing Entity** for the project. Consequently, **IUCN will act only as the Implementing Agency (IA)** for the project. Corresponding adjustments has been made. Please review the updated CEO EA, ProDoc, and Appendix budget plan, Implementation arrangement, and procurement plan.

August 21 IA response.

**b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?**

## Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared. The Rio Markers have been reassessed and revised accordingly.

**July 17, 2026**

? Land Degradation Scored 1, this is a GEF-8 Land Degradation focal area project. The primary focal area should, as a rule, receive a score of 2 (Principal Objective). Scoring LD at 1 (Significant Objective) is inconsistent with standard GEF-8 practice and requires explicit justification.

? Biodiversity Scored 0 . CI4.1 explicitly targets 18,731 ha of "landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity," and the project includes activities in Key Biodiversity Areas. A Rio Marker score of 0 for Biodiversity (No Contribution) is inconsistent with these elements. Please reassess whether a score of 1 is warranted and provide a brief justification either way.

? Climate Change Mitigation Scored 2. CCM is scored as a Principal Objective (2), which in a LD focal area project means it should be as central to the design as land degradation itself. The project's CCM case rests primarily on carbon sequestration from rangeland restoration. If CCM is truly a co-equal principal objective, please identify which specific outputs are designed primarily for mitigation rather than land restoration, or consider whether a score of 1 is more accurate.

## Agency Response

August 21 IA response.

The Rio Markers have been reassessed against the project's actual objectives, results chain and planned interventions. The Land Degradation marker has been revised to 2 (Principal Objective), reflecting that achieving Land Degradation Neutrality through avoidance, reduction and reversal of land degradation is the central environmental objective of the project.

The Biodiversity marker has been revised to 1 (Significant Objective), recognizing the project's intentional biodiversity outcomes, including improved management of approximately 18,000 ha of Key Biodiversity Areas and 731 ha of the Surra and Al-Khanasri rangeland reserves, restoration of native vegetation and biodiversity-friendly sustainable rangeland management.

The Climate Change Mitigation marker has been revised to 1 (Significant Objective). Although the project is expected to generate substantial climate mitigation benefits. These benefits arise primarily as an integrated outcome of land restoration and sustainable land management rather than from stand-alone mitigation activities. The revised marker therefore more accurately reflects the project's results chain and hierarchy of objectives.

**2. Project Summary.**
**a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?**
**b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?**

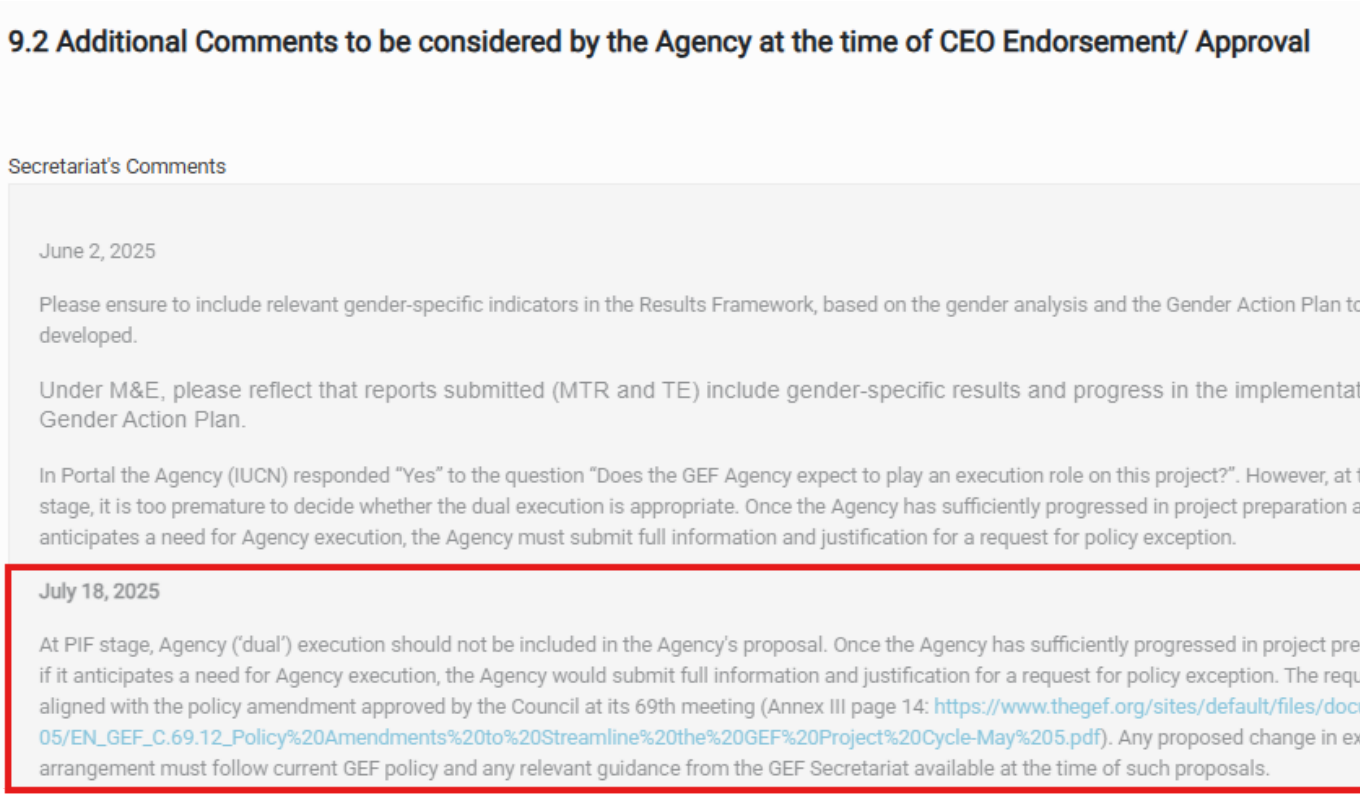
## Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared. Addressed. The dual execution request was discussed with the GEF OFP and the executing partner - Ministry of Environment.

**July 17, 2026**

a)-b) Yes. However, the Project Summary indicates that IUCN will serve as the executing agency for this project: *"The project will be implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through a total budget of USD 13,784,862 (GEF USD 1,784,862 and co-financing USD 12,000,000)."*

Concerns regarding dual execution were raised with the agency during the PIF review (see the screenshot from the PIF review sheet below). The relevant policy provision should be communicated to the OFP and the executing partners during the PPG phase so that an appropriate organization can be identified and assessed to undertake the project's execution.




## Agency Response

Thank you for the comment. The GEF Agency has received confirmation from the OFP and identified the Executing Entity, the **Ministry of Environment (MoE)**, that it has the capacity to serve as the **sole Executing Entity** for the project. Consequently, **IUCN will act only as the Implementing Agency (IA)** for the project. Corresponding adjustments has been made. Please review the updated CEO EA, ProDoc, and Appendix budget plan, Implementation arrangement, and procurement plan.

August 21 IA response.

**3. Project Description Overview**
**a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?**
**b) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the**

**project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?**
**c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?**
**d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?**
**e) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?**

## Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**August 26, 2026**

Cleared. All comments have been addressed.

**July 17, 2026**

a) Please revise. Currently the project objective statement duplicates the Project Summary. It should be concise, clear and measurable.

b) Yes, although linking the expected results to specific outputs and outcomes would significantly improve understanding of how the proposed activities (particularly GIS, market studies, and capacity building) will translate into practical results on the ground.

The values for some results at CEO approval still need to be added (e.g., Indicator 3.3). In addition, the total area of the two reserves under improved management (731 hectares) should be reported under Indicator 1.2, Terrestrial Protected Areas Under Improved Management Effectiveness

c) Yes.

d) PMC for Co-Financing contributions is not indicated.

e) PMC for the GEF financing is below 10%.

## Agency Response

a) The project objective has been revised as follows: ?*To restore degraded rangelands and promote Land Degradation Neutrality in the northern Badia of Jordan through evidence-based land-use planning, sustainable management practices, and strengthened institutional capacity*?. This is concise and clear and is focused on improving the condition and sustainable management of degraded rangelands in the northern Badia of Jordan, thereby promoting LDN.

b) A results-chain narrative has been added to Section B.Project Description to explicitly link key activities, including GIS and land degradation assessment, market studies, value-chain development, capacity building and knowledge management, to their respective outputs and outcomes and ultimately to the project objective and GEBs. The revised text clarifies how technical information will translate into targeted restoration, evidence-based land-use decisions, sustainable livelihood incentives, adoption of SLM practices and sustained community and institutional capacity. (see description in the ToC).

The 731 ha combined area of the Surra and Al-Khanasri Rangeland Reserves has been reflected under GEF Core Indicator 4.1 (Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity). This adjustment is based on below findings:

•1). Within the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, formal "Protected Areas" eligible for CI 1.2 tracking are under the regulatory purview of the Ministry of Environment and managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). However, Surra and Al-Khanasri are strictly managed by the *Range and Badia Development Directorate* under the Ministry of Agriculture. Their primary legislative mandate is sustainable land management (SLM), forage enhancement, and rural livelihood stabilization, not strict wildlife or habitat conservation.
•2). In strict compliance with the GEF Results Measurement Framework Guidelines, any land reported under Core Indicator 1.2 must possess a designated IUCN protection category and a verified ID number in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) (OR) should be able to meet the rigorous protection criteria concordant with ecological or wildlife reserves (including government management, staffing, official budget allocation and oversight/monitoring). In most cases, such reserves are managed by national Ministries of Environment or Wildlife. Now, although Surra and Al-Khanasri are officially recognised, this recognition is under Jordan?s Ministry of Agriculture as *Agricultural Forage and Rangeland Reserves* rather than the Ministry of Environment. Consequently, these reserves cannot fit into the IUCN categories and do not even hold WDPA ID numbers.
•3) Reporting under CI 1.2 triggers a mandatory legal requirement to submit a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scorecard at baseline, mid-term, and terminal evaluation. The METT framework is structurally designed for classic biodiversity protection zones (such as Jordan's Dana or Shaumari Nature Reserves) and heavily penalizes sites that permit extractive natural resource use. Because Surra and Al-Khanasri are legally designed to facilitate managed, rotating livestock production and community grazing, their operational setups cannot map to wildlife-focused METT scoring criteria. These reserves are managed through community alHIMA approaches which prioritise community access (including) grazing rights.
•4) To maintain methodological integrity, the 731 hectares have been accounted for under Core Indicator 4.1 ( Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity). The GEF guidelines explicitly state that Core Indicator 4 captures "landscapes under improved practices *excluding protected areas*" to avoid double-counting productive agricultural lands as conservation strongholds. This accurately captures the project?s actual interventions: (a) implementing *Hima* community charters, (b) reversing desertification, and (c) regulating seasonal livestock stocking rates within an active agro-pastoral production landscape, among others. Since these 731 hectares function as rotating silvopastoral zones where local Bedouin communities hold seasonal grazing rights.

Please see the updated core indicator table and narratives in CEO EA and PROOC. The ANNEX Core indicator sheet has been aligned accordingly.

c) Thanks.

d) Thanks for pointing it out. As per the received co-financing letter from IUCN, USD 50k will be provided as in kind co-financing and contributing to PMC. Additional USD 1 million from Ministry of Environment as in-kind co-financing will be contributing to PMC. In total USD 1.5 Million has been reflected on the portal and in Appendix 2 co-financing budget.
e) Well noted.

August 21 IA response.

**4. Project Outline**
**A. Project Rationale**
**a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?**
**b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?**
**c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?**

## Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**July 27, 2026**

a)-b) Yes. c) n/a

## Agency Response
Thanks.

August 21 IA response.

**5 B. Project Description**
**5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?**
**b) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?**
**c) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?**
**d) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?**

**e) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?**
**f) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?**
**g) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?**
**h) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?**
**i) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?**
**j) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?**
**k) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?**
**l) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?**

## Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

**July 27, 2026**

a)-e) Yes.

f) Yes, the PMC for the GEF financing is below 10%.

g) The project strengthens resilience through adaptive management based on integrated LDN data, predictive modelling, and an Environmental Decision Support System, supported by

continuous monitoring, stakeholder feedback, institutionalized knowledge management, diversified financing, and flexible, evidence-based prioritization of restoration and sustainable land management interventions.

h) -i) Yes.

### Agency Response
Thanks.

21 August IA responded.

**5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project**
**a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?**
**b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?**
**c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).**

### Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

**July 27, 2026**

a) Yes, however, the Implementing Agency seems taking executing partner role, which is not justified as per the GEF guidelines. Please clarify if IUCN will participate in the project Steering Committee and if yes, please confirm IUCN will not exercise any voting rights in the PSC.

b) Dual role of implementation and execution functions by IUCN: IUCN is proposing dual role of implementation and execution functions for the project. Please provide justification with supporting documentation which clearly indicates for which exception IUCN is seeking waiver to provide execution services, in compliance with
the https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2025-10/GEF_C.70_Inf.18_Guidelines_Project_Program_Cycle_Policy_1.pdf

c) Yes.

### Agency Response
a) and b) .Thank you for the comment. The GEF Agency/IUCN has received confirmation from the identified Executing Entity, the **Ministry of Environment (MoE)**, that it has the capacity to serve as the **sole Executing Entity** for the project. Consequently, **IUCN will act only as the Implementing Agency (IA)** for the project.

21 August IA responded.

**5.3 Core indicators**
**a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)?**
**b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?**

**Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?**

## Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

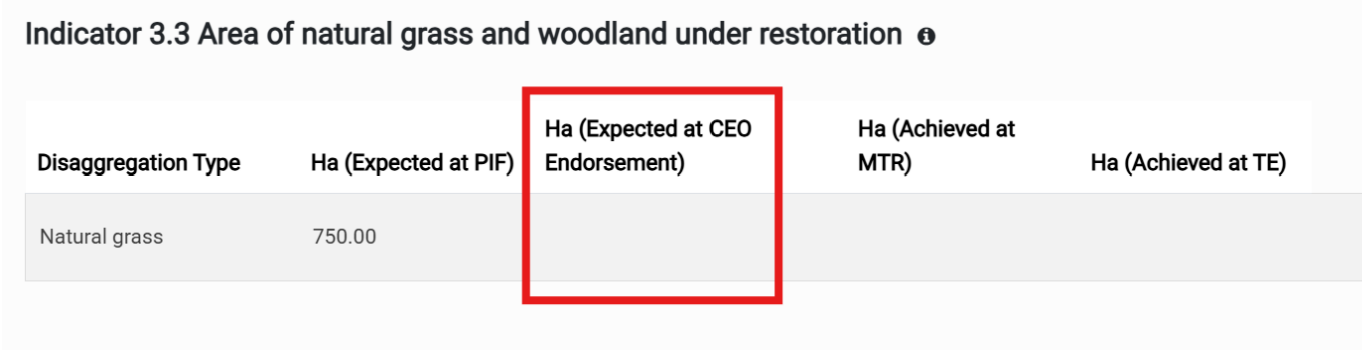
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

It is noted that the CEO-stage value for CI1 is zero and that area of the 731ha is added to the value of CI4.1. The CEO endorsement values were also added to CI3 and CI11.

**August 26, 2026**

Please add the CI values at CEO Endorsement for Indicator 3.3, In addition and Indicator 11.



**Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration**

| Disaggregation Type | Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Natural grass | 750.00 | | | |

**July 27, 2026**

1) It is noted that the values for some results at CEO approval still need to be added (e.g., Indicator 3.3). In addition, the total area of the two reserves under improved management (731 hectares) should be reported under Indicator 1.2, Terrestrial Protected Areas Under Improved Management Effectiveness. Under CI.1, CI. 3 and CI. 11, the values at CEO endorsement are missing in the core indicator table. They are mandatory at this stage.

2) Under CI6 the document reports an indirect GHG emissions mitigation target of 4,372,109 metric tons CO?e (shifted to AFOLU/Indicator 6.1 using Ex-ACT at CEO stage). This figure of approximately 2,186 tCO?e per USD of GEF investment is exceptionally large for a USD 2M technical assistance project. The methodology narrative from the Ex-ACT tool should be included in full as an annex or attachment to substantiate this figure, including key assumptions on lifetime emissions, area coverage, and sequestration rates. Without this, the target is not independently verifiable.

a)-b) Yes.

## Agency Response

1) - The CEO-stage value for CI.1/Indicator 1.2 in the Portal has been retained at 0 because the 731 ha combined area of the Surra and Al-Khanasri Rangeland Reserves are not nature reserves in the strict sense of CI 1.2. Rather, they are production zones and have been reported under CI 4.1 (see further explanation above ? response to comments under section 3b) with the project narrative and Portal values reconciled to avoid double counting.

- The CEO-stage value for CI.3 has been confirmed and populated in the Portal as 750 ha, consistent with the project's defined restoration target and methodology

- The CEO-stage value for CI.11 has been populated in the Portal as 10,000 beneficiaries, disaggregated as 4,000 men and 6,000 women, consistent with the project beneficiary estimates in the project narrative and the gender-responsive Results Framework.

2) The CI6 calculation has been reviewed to a more realistic value (Appendix 17) and substantiated using the FAO Ex-Ante/Ex-ACT methodology (Appendix 17). The full calculation methodology and underlying assumptions, including baseline and project scenarios, area coverage, sequestration rates and calculation period, have been added as supporting documentation. The CI6 target has been revised based on the methodology and underlying assumptions contained in Appendix 18.

21 August IA responded.

Thank you for pointing this out. The values at CEO Endorsement for CI 3.3 and CI 11 have been added. (25th August IA responded)

**5.4 Risks**
**a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?**
**b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?**
**c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

**July 27, 2029**

c)

1. ESS: We note that IUCN has attached ESMS Screening & Clearance Form and stakeholder engagement plan. An overall ESS risk is classified as Moderate.

i. Please provide ESMF with clear mitigation measures for potential environmental and social risks, particularly access restriction and impacts on Indigenous Peoples including budget, timeline, and responsibility, at CEO Approval stage.

ii. Please clarify whether the project obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from Indigenous Peoples about the project design.

iii. Please clarify how the project consulted with vulnerable population including Indigenous Peoples and pastoralist, and how results of consultations were integrated into the project design.

iv. Please clarify how Indigenous population are involved in the project and ensure recognizing and including Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Peoples groups in the stakeholder engagement plan They are not a part of ?Stakeholder Analysis Table ? Jordan Northern Badia Project? in the Stakeholder engagement plan so far.

v. Please also consider engaging Indigenous Peoples and pastoralists not only as beneficiaries of the project, but also as partner of the project.

vi. Please consider integrating monitoring indicators related to 1) integration of traditional and local governance and traditional and local knowledge, and 2) capacity building on Indigenous Peoples and pastoralists in the project, particularly on Component 1 and 2.

Agency Response

1. The ESMF (Appendix 25 has been provided with specific mitigation measures for identified environmental and social risks, including access restrictions and impacts on local communities and pastoralists. No Indigenous Peoples were identified in Jordan, as reported in the ESMF..
2. It is to be noted that per IUCN?s ESMS policy, FPIC is required when access restrictions apply ? this applies to all affected people, communities or groups. Responsibilities, implementation timelines and budget requirements have been incorporated in ESFM to enable implementation and monitoring of the safeguards measures.
3. The safeguards/stakeholder sections of the CEO ER and ESMF have been supplemented to document consultations (reported in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan - Appendix 13 and Appendix 21 Stakeholder Consultation & Validation Workshop Report) with vulnerable groups, including local communities and pastoralists, and to show how consultation findings informed site selection, restoration planning, participation arrangements, safeguards, livelihood measures and knowledge-management approaches. As reported above, no Indigenous Peoples were identified in Jordan.
4. The project has clarified that ?local communities? is the appropriate umbrella term for IPLCs in the Jordanian context, including Bedouin pastoralists, settled/semi-settled and mobile pastoral households, pastoralist associations, rangeland users, farmers, cooperatives and traditional knowledge holders. Their participation is reflected in the CEO ER, Section on Stakeholder Participation, and Appendix 13, Sections 5?8, where pastoralists and rangeland user groups are identified as key stakeholders and engaged through consultation, participatory mapping, grazing calendars and co-management.
5. The CEO section on Stakeholder Participation recognizes community participation in planning and implementation, while Appendix 13, Section 8 (Stakeholder Engagement Plan) assigns Pastoralist Associations and Rangeland User Groups a ?Collaborate? role involving co-management, implementation of agreed grazing plans, joint monitoring and conflict resolution.The ESMF explicitly state that local community and pastoralists will participate as partners, rather than solely beneficiaries, in project planning, implementation, monitoring and knowledge management.
6. The revised project has incorporated these requirements into its safeguard and M&E framework. The ESMF explicitly incorporates traditional/local governance and traditional/local knowledge and establishes monitoring indicators covering their integration and capacity building. Appendix 4 (Results Framework) also measures community capacity, community-inclusive land-use planning, stakeholder participation, local-institution training and gender-disaggregated participation. In addition, Component 3 provides for integration of traditional and Indigenous knowledge into knowledge management. These provisions will ensure monitoring captures meaningful participation, knowledge integration and strengthened capacities of pastoralists and local communities.

21 August 2026 IA response as above.

**5.5 For NGI Only: Is there a justification of the financial structure and of the use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Responsethanks.

**6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities**

**6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**July 27, 2029**

Yes.

Agency Responsethanks.

**6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors).**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**July 27, 2029**

Yes.

Agency Responsethanks.

**6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

**July 27, 2026**

Yes, the project will directly contribute to the objectives and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Target 1: ensuring that all areas (including ecosystems of high ecological integrity) are under participatory integrated biodiversity planning and management processes by 2030,Target 2: ensuring that by 2030, at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions, and Target 3: achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030

Agency ResponseThanks.

**7 D. Policy Requirements**

**7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**July 27, 2026**

Yes.

Agency ResponseThanks.
**7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**July 27, 2026**

Yes.

Agency ResponseThanks.
**7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**July 27, 2026**

Yes.

Agency ResponseThanks.
**7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**July 27, 2026**

Yes.

Agency ResponseThanks.
**8 Annexes**
**Annex A: Financing Tables**
**8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**
**STAR allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

**July 27, 2026**

Not fully. The PPG expenditures should be reported in greater detail. In addition, the co-financing allocated to PMC is not reflected.

Agency Response
Thank you. Kindly see the updated **Annex D: Status of Utilization of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**, in which the expenditures and hard commitments have been presented in detail.

Thanks for pointing it out. As per the received co-financing letter from IUCN, USD 50k will be in-kind co-financing will be contributing to PMC.  An additional 1 million from the Ministry of

Environment as in kind co-financing will be contributing to PMC. The above has been reflected on the portal and in Appendix 2 co-financing budget

21 August IA responded as above.

**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**July 27, 2026**

yes

Agency ResponseThanks.
**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency ResponseNoted.
**SCCF A (SIDS)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency ResponseNoted.
**SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency ResponseNoted.
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency ResponseNoted.
**8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**
**a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

**July 27, 2026**

The PPG expenditures should be reported in greater detail

Agency Response

Thank you. Kindly see the updated **Annex D: Status of Utilization of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**, in which the expenditures and hard commitments have been presented in detail.

21 August IA responded as above.

**8.3 Source of Funds**
**Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?**
**Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

**July 29, 2026**

Yes.

Agency ResponseNoted.
**8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?**
**e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

Agency ResponseNoted with thanks.
**Annex B: Endorsements**
**8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:**
**Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**July 29, 2026**

Yes.

Agency ResponseNoted
**b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**July 29, 2026**

Yes.

Agency Responsenoted.

**c) Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

Agency ResponseNoted.

**Annex C: Project Results Framework**

**8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?**

**b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)**

**c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?**

**d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**August 26, 2026**

Cleared. The response on CIs under 5.3 section of this review sheet is noted.

**July 29, 2026**

a) It is noted that the values for some results at CEO approval still need to be added (e.g., Indicator 3.3). In addition, the total area of the two reserves under improved management (731 hectares) should be reported under Indicator 1.2, Terrestrial Protected Areas Under Improved Management Effectiveness.

b) Yes.

c) Yes.

Agency Response

Kindly see Agency responses to comments under 5.3 Core indicators and further explanation above ? response to comments under section 3b).

21 August IA responded.

**Annex E: Project map and coordinates**

**8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

**August 5, 2026**

1) Under CI1, five locations are listed under CI1 (13,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management), including the Surra and Al-Khanasri Rangeland Reserves and Key Biodiversity Areas. At CEO Endorsement stage, a METT score is required for each Protected Area. No METT scores are provided in the document. Please supply baseline METT scores for each site, along with their WDPA IDs, which also appear to be absent.

2) GeoName IDs Missing for All Locations. Five project locations are, but no GeoName IDs are provided for any of them. GeoName IDs are required at CEO Endorsement stage. Please supply a GeoName ID for each location from geonames.org

Agency Response
1) Please see response to comments under section 3b. Based on a closer check and consultations at PPG stage, the METT is not applicable to these 2 rangeland reserves (Surra and Al-Khanasri Rangeland Reserves, which are not identified as Protected Areas) since their purpose is not ecological conservation per se.

2) Locations and geonames have been updated on protal and included in the CEO ER under Annex E for review.

21 August IA responded as above.

**Annex G: GEF Budget template**
**8.8 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?**
**b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?**
**c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

Cleared.

**July 29, 2026**

a) Yes

b) 1.Please add sub-total lines for each and every expenditure category group.

2.Audit should be charged 100% to PMC but not to project components. Please revise the budget table accordingly.

d) Yes (Annex 23).

Agency Response

b) Kindly see the updated Appendix 1 GEF Budget. Sub-total lines for each and every expenditure has been included, and sub-totals provided.

c) Kindly see the updated Appendix 1 GEF Budget. Audit has been moved under PMC.

21 August IA responded as above.

**Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes**
**8.9 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.**
**b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.**
**c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Responsethanks.

**Additional Annexes**
**9. GEFSEC DECISION**

**9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation**
**Is the project recommended for approval**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
**August 26, 2026**

All comments have been addressed. PM recommends CEO Approval.

**July 29, 2026**

Not yet.

**9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**9.3 Review Dates**

| | CEO Approval | Response to Secretariat comments |
|---|---|---|
| **First Review** | **7/29/2026** | |
| **Additional Review (as necessary)** | **8/26/2026** | |
| **Additional Review (as necessary)** | | |
| **Additional Review (as necessary)** | | |
| **Additional Review (as necessary)** | | |