

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Strengthening the governance of National Parks for the sustainable management of ecosystems in Northern Algeria

Region

Africa

GEF Project ID

12360

Country(ies)

Algeria

Type of Project

MSP

GEF Agency(ies):

FAO

GEF Agency ID

747770

Executing Partner

DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES FORÊTS (DGF)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Biodiversity

Submission Date

5/27/2026

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Stakeholders, Local Communities, Consultation, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Beneficiaries, Awareness Raising, Communications, Community Based Organization, Civil Society, Private Sector, SMEs, Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Financial and Accounting, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Influencing models, Gender Equality, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Access and control over natural resources, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, Conference, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Training, Innovation

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

48

GEF Project Grant: (a)

1,776,483.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

168,766.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

1,945,249.00

Total Co-financing

11,700,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

50,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

4,750.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

54,750.00

1,999,999.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The GEF-funded project entitled “Strengthening the governance of National Parks for the sustainable management of ecosystems in Northern Algeria” aims to protect the ecosystems and biodiversity of three National Parks in Northern Algeria by implementing participatory governance systems with local stakeholders – particularly communities – and promoting sustainable, nature-based livelihoods to improve resilience to changing climate.

National Parks in the mountainous ecosystems of Northern Algeria were created to protect terrestrial flora and fauna biodiversity¹. More than 200,000 inhabitants live in corresponding communes. Uncontrolled tourism, wildfires, overgrazing, overexploitation of forest products (NWFPs), and climate change are leading to ecosystems’ degradation and biodiversity loss. The barriers preventing the efficient protection and sustainable management of the National Parks include the absence of communities’ consultations and involvement in parks’ creation, gaps in the policy framework, low experience in implementing participatory processes, and insufficient cross-sectoral cooperation and collaboration between parks, among others. This GEF-funded project will focus on addressing these barriers, building upon current investments from DGF, GIZ, WWF, EU, and other partners.

The project will improve management practices on 121,238 hectares of protected land. Approximately 130,000 people including 50% of women and 30% of youth will benefit directly from the project: as for example through co-management arrangements of natural resources and respective value chains with focus on the outer zones of the three parks that are open to sustainable use of natural resources (buffer zones and transition zones). The project will also contribute to achieving Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 19(d), 21, 22 and 23; and SDGs targets 2, 6, 8, 13 and 15.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To protect the ecosystems and biodiversity of three National Parks in Northern Algeria by implementing participatory governance systems with local stakeholders – particularly communities – and promoting sustainable, nature-based livelihoods to improve resilience to the changing climate.

Project Components

1. Creating an enabling environment for the participatory governance and management of National Parks

Component Type

Trust Fund

Technical Assistance

GET

GEF Project Financing (\$)

469,979.00

Co-financing (\$)

3,100,000.00

Outcome:

1. Strengthened institutional and policy frameworks support towards sustainable management of biodiversity in and around National Parks.

Output:

1.1 National institutional and policy framework pertaining to the management of National Parks – including sustainable uses and cross-sectoral collaboration – strengthened, and at least one new/updated policy submitted for validation

1.2 Technical and operational capacities of at least 100 staff (50% women) from relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations strengthened for harmonious, cross-sectoral management of National Parks

1.3 Three governance frameworks (one per pilot National Park – 121,238 ha in total) revised and validated using a participatory approach with communities and relevant sectors, with at least 40 percent of the participants included in the revision and validation efforts being women)

1.4 At least three guidance notes produced to address priority knowledge gaps on natural resources in the parks, corresponding recommendations for conservation formulated, and research collaborations between parks and universities.

1.5 One conference organized with private sector actors operating in the vicinity of the parks and at the central level, General Directorate of Forests (DGF), General Directorate of Biodiversity (DGB), NGOs and park management teams to identify opportunities for their contribution to National Parks' management through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) or Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)

2. Piloting and out-scaling of sustainable, nature-based sources of income for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning and climate resilience

Component Type

Technical Assistance

Trust Fund

GET

GEF Project Financing (\$)

722,532.00

Co-financing (\$)

4,600,000.00

Outcome:

2. Climate-resilient income-sources based on the sustainable use of the parks' resources and developed jointly by associations, parks, local communities and/or private companies have been tested and are under replication.

Output:

2.1 At least three innovative microprojects piloted for the sustainable management of National Parks and the development of sustainable income-generating activities (at least 800 beneficiaries, including 50% of women and 30% of youth)

2.2 One financial mechanism developed to attract private sector funding (e.g. PES, CSR) for National Parks' management in alignment with the National Financing Strategy for Forests 2022-2035, with specific attention to facilitating access for women and youth.

3. National Parks network and awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of biodiversity and the role of protected areas

Component Type	Trust Fund
	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
341,818.00	1,500,000.00

Outcome:

3. Knowledge-sharing and collaboration between National Parks are strengthened, and communities' awareness on the importance of National Parks is increased.

Output:

3.1 One National Parks' network created and operationalized to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing on good practices and innovation for biodiversity conservation and NP management

3.2 Two awareness-raising and environmental education campaigns on the importance of biodiversity, threats, climate change and the role of National Parks and other protected areas implemented at the local and national levels to support biodiversity conservation

3.3 One communication and knowledge management strategy developed and implemented

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
80,754.00	1,500,000.00

Outcome:

The project's M&E plan is designed and implemented to measure the impact of the interventions and identify best practices (include gender disaggregated data where applicable and ensure integration of relevant GAP aspects)

Output:

Mid-term, terminal evaluation, as well as additional reports disseminated

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Creating an enabling environment for the participatory governance and management of National Parks	469,979.00	3,100,000.00
2. Piloting and out-scaling of sustainable, nature-based sources of income for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning and climate resilience	722,532.00	4,600,000.00
3. National Parks network and awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of biodiversity and the role of protected areas	341,818.00	1,500,000.00
M&E	80,754.00	1,500,000.00
Subtotal	1,615,083.00	10,700,000.00
Project Management Cost	161,400.00	1,000,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	1,776,483.00	11,700,000.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

A large country with most of its population living in the North

1. Algeria is the largest North African country (fifth largest African country). It covers 2,381,741 km². It is a semi-arid country which is bordered to the North by the Mediterranean Sea, Tunisia and Libya in the East, Morocco, Western Sahara and Mauritania in the West, and Mali and Niger in the South. According to the National Office of Statistics, 46,7 million people lived in the country in 2024 with annual growth rate varying from 1,99% to 2,17% between 2010 and 2020. 45% of the population are less than 25 years old .

2. In the last three decades, living conditions, access to education, and access to social and health services have increased significantly in the country. With a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.748, Algeria is in the 91st position out of 189 countries, when measuring the HDI. However, unemployment rates remain high with 14.5% in 2021 and 14.9% in 2023 .

3. The population is heterogeneously distributed in the country, with 87% of the population found in the Northern wilayas which cover 11% of the national territory. Within the northern wilayas, there is also an imbalance between inland and coastal areas with 40% of the population living in the coastal area (1,7% of the country surface area). Approximately three quarters of the population live in urban areas and this proportion is increasing. Agricultural land represents 3% of the country and is located in the North, which is therefore densely populated and under high anthropogenic pressure.

A wide range of ecosystems that harbor rich biodiversity of global importance

4. The country harbours a wide diversity of ecosystems including marine, littoral, forest, mountainous, plains, desert and wetland ecosystems. Saharan ecosystems dominate the country (87% of the surface), followed by steppes (~8%), mountainous ecosystems (~4%), forests and shrubs (<2%). In fact, forests and shrubs cover 4,1 million hectares – including 41% of forests, 17% of wooded shrubs and 42% of shrubs – which correspond to less than 2% of the country.

5. Because of the diversity of its ecosystems, the country has high biodiversity levels with 16,000 species identified to date including about 5,000 animal species and 11,000 plant species. Plant species include 1,670 species considered rare and 226 threatened species (e.g. Atlas cedar *Cedrus atlantica* classified as endangered by IUCN, *Allium trichocnemis* - Vulnerable, *Digitalis atlantica* - Endangered). Animal species are divided into 300 fish species, 70 reptiles, 378 birds and 108 mammals. These include threatened species such as endangered Algerian Nuthatch *Sitta ledanti*, Barbary Macaque *Macaca sylvanus* – Endangered). Most of these species are found in National Parks.

6. Despite an absence of reliable data on the trend in the loss of natural forests in Algeria, a general regression of several types of forest systems has been observed in the country since the 1980s, particularly for systems dominated by Holm oak *Quercus ilex*, Cork oak *Quercus suber*, Atlas cedar *Cedrus atlantica* and Barbary Thuya *Tetraclinis articulata*. The main causes of forest loss are the combined effects of drivers such as droughts, increased temperatures, logging and overgrazing.

Climate conditions and climate trends in Algeria

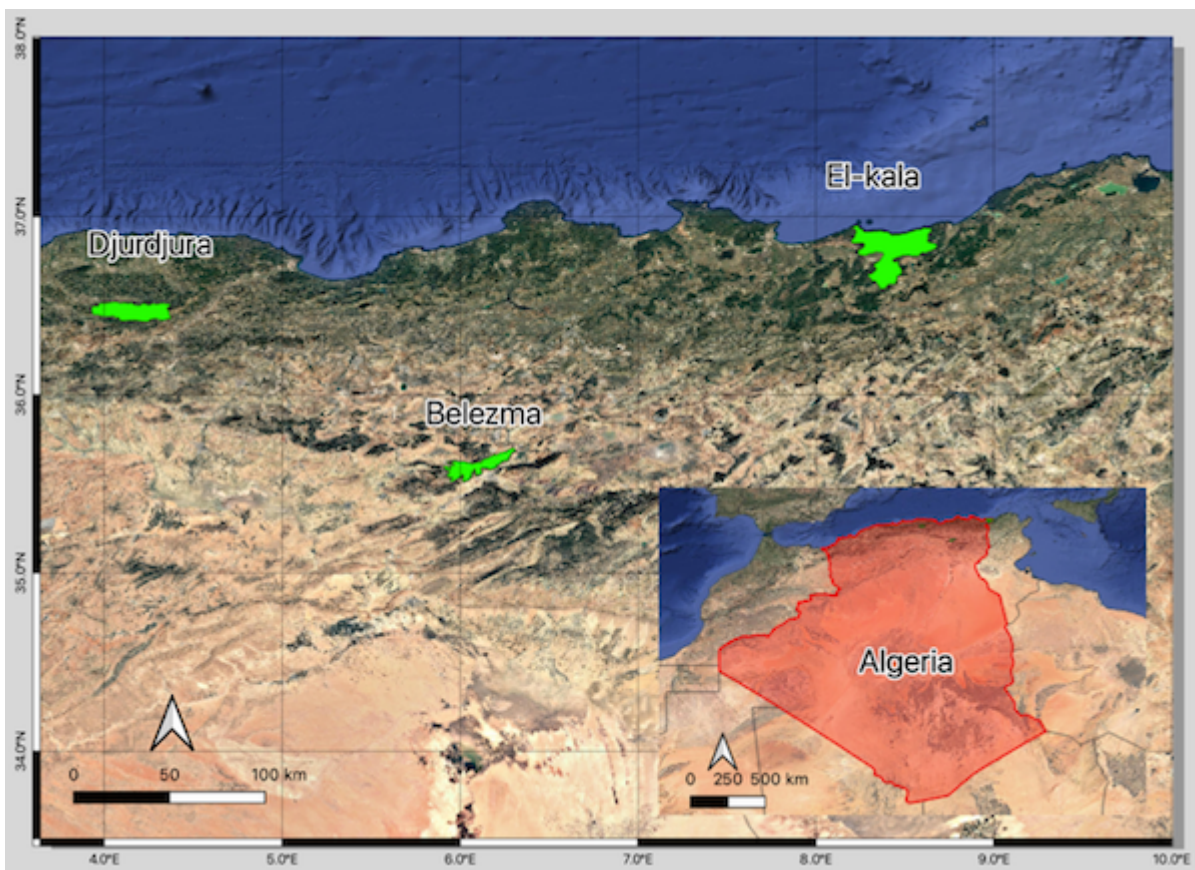
7. Because of the variations in elevation and its geographic location, Algeria has a diversity of climatic conditions. The mountain ranges of Tellien Atlas and Saharan Atlas divide the country into three strips oriented East to West characterized by specific rainfall and precipitation patterns. The coastal strip has a Mediterranean climate (13% of the country). The high plateaus are semi-arid, and a desert climate is found on the other side of the Saharan Atlas. The Mediterranean climate – which correspond to the targeted project sites – is subhumid, with hot and dry summers, and wet and fresh winters with rare frost episodes. Temperatures range between 5°C and 15°C in winter and 25°C to 35°C in summer. Rainfall reduces from East to West from 1,000 to 400 mm.

8. Between 1970 and 2019, mean annual temperatures have increased by 0.5°C per decade and minimum temperatures by 0.2°C. The World Bank's ENSEMBLE climate model predicts that an increase in average annual temperature ranging between 0.9°C and 3°C is expected by 2060. Trends regarding average annual precipitations are unclear but the frequency of flash floods have significantly increased since 2000 and the frequency and duration of drought episodes has increased combined with 30% of rainfall deficit overall. Precipitation has also reduced and is expected to further decrease.

9. Wildfires are one of the most destructive natural disasters in Algeria. Thousands of hectares have been lost to fires in recent years – e.g. in the Kabylie region in 2021 and in the East of the country in 2022. More than 30,000 ha of forest/shrub land burn annually. A National Strategy for Forest Fires management was developed by the General Directorate of Forests (DGF) in 2021.

Conservation approach and National Parks in Algeria

10. Eight National Parks were established between 1983 and 1993 in the North of the country to protect rare species and systems including as examples Atlas cedar *Cedrus atlantica* forests, Barbary Macaque *Macaca sylvanus* and oak forests (*Quercus ilex* and *Quercus suber*), and this project will focus on the following three National Parks: El Kala, Djurdjura and Belezma [please see Map 1]. These parks cover a total surface area of 121,238 ha. All three parks are classified as biosphere reserves. Each park is divided into three zones: central zone, buffer zone and transition zone. The central zone has the highest level of protection. Activities are mostly restricted to research. Exploitation activities are generally prohibited. The buffer zone allows the sustainable exploitation of NWFPs and PAMs. The commercialisation of these products is regulated. The transition zone is dedicated to ecodevelopment and recreation. Natural resource exploitation is allowed if the rules defined by the parks are followed. Notably, these parks were mapped and established without consultation of local communities. This has led to some tension with communities – who have seen multiple interdictions imposed on them – and subsequent difficulties to manage the parks. Furthermore, this is not aligned with the principles of international agreements (i.e. ----, Global Biodiversity Framework 2050 Goals B and C , Kunming-Montreal agreement Target 9) and the government has therefore been working towards improving the management of the parks. For example, the law 11-02 of 2011 on Protected Areas provides for communities' consultations in the creation of protected areas.



Map 1: Project Locations (National Parks)

11. The targeted National Parks are managed by DGF under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development (MADRP and Fisheries) . These parks have an annual management budget provided by the government. The current governance structure of the parks includes a Guidance Council and a Scientific Council . The Guidance Council discusses the situation of the parks, analyses the progress with the implementation of the Management Plans, and makes regulatory, technical and economic proposals for

improvement. It is presided by a representative from MADR and the General Director of DGF (or substitute). It includes members from relevant sectors, local authorities, other government and parastatal structures (e.g. army, university), NGOs, and scientific and technical partners. However, it does not include community representatives. The Scientific Council includes 10 members from universities, research structures and specific experts, and no community representatives. This Council guides, proposes and evaluates scientific projects in support of the management of the park resources. The management team of each National Park is responsible for the day-to-day management of the park as well as information sharing, awareness raising and training (in collaboration with relevant sectors at Wilaya level, and with Popular Assemblies of the Communes – APC – government authorities at communal level). Communities are often the recipients of awareness-raising activities, but they are rarely engaged in decision-making processes. For example, Parks' 15-year Master Plans and five-year Management Plans have been developed with very limited involvement of neighbouring communities.

Baseline information on women and gender equality

12. The country has made considerable progress pertaining to gender equality in recent decades through a set of policies in favour of women. For example, the Constitution 2016 states that all citizens have the same rights and women are encouraged to work in leading positions in administration and enterprises (Article 36). The law 20-05 of 28 April 2020 caters for the prevention and fight against discrimination. The Law 12-03 of 12 January 2012 define that 30% of the candidates for elections should be women. Today, the policy framework is considered gender equal, except for a few elements of the Family Code (e.g. polygamy allowed for men, loss of children custody for women in case of remarriage). However, these rights that women have by law are not always a reality on the ground because of strong socio-cultural norms. This is particularly visible in rural areas. However, a significant change in mentality is being observed with an increase in the average age of marriage, increase uptake of contraceptive measures and a reduction of fecundity, that has enabled women to reach higher education levels which enables a social and economic empowerment of women. Maternal mortality rate has reduced from 76.8/100.000 in 2010 to 48.5/100.000 in 2019 .

13. In rural areas of Algeria, household roles are traditionally unequally distributed between men and women. Women are in charge of taking care of the family, fetch water if the drinking water supply doesn't work, collect raw material and wood for handcrafting activities (e.g. pottery), and – in some households who do not have access to energy supply in remote areas – wood harvesting (e.g. El Kala, Belezma). Cooking activities are generally time consuming and include producing couscous, bread, milk, traditional cakes, jams and dry fruits, and other local specialties based on wheat or barley (e.g. mermez, d'chicha and frik). Wheat and barley are harvested in summer and transformed in couscous and bread (or harvesting in spring to make frik). In addition, women are actively involved in production activities. In agricultural activities, they often manage vegetable gardens at household level and small livestock (including harvesting and processing wool). The harvesting and/or small-scale cultivation of NWFPs and PAMs is also undertaken by women. Women workload is particularly intense in winter (November to January) which is the harvesting season for olives, acorns and mastic. Women also work as free labour on large familial exploitations in some rural areas. Women entrepreneurship is limited despite the existence of government support systems such as ANADE, ANGEM and CNAC. Among the entrepreneurs registered with the National Business Registry in 2021, there were 8.7% of women. The project will actively engage women through targeted activities, especially under (but not limited to) outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 and 2.1 as well as 2.2. **A detailed Gender Assessment and Action Plan will be produced during the PPG stage.**

Private sector engagement

14. The project will be designed to engage the private sector across project outputs and activities: One conference will be organized with private sector actors operating in the vicinity of the parks and at the central level. Together with the General Directorate of Forests (DGF), General Directorate of Biodiversity (DGB),

NGOs and park management teams private actors will be invited to identify opportunities for their contribution to National Parks' management through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) or Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES). Key private sector entities will be kept up to date on the progress made on national parks community co-management frameworks and will also be closely engaged (for mobilizing potential additional co-finance) during the implementation of output 2.1 (At least three innovative microprojects piloted for the sustainable management of National Parks and the development of sustainable income-generating activities (at least 800 beneficiaries, including 50% of women and 30% of youth) and the design of output 2.2 (One financial mechanism developed to attract private sector funding (e.g. PES, CSR) for National Parks' management in alignment with the National Financing Strategy for Forests 2022-2035, with specific attention to facilitating access for women and youth).

Problems faced by National Parks in fulfilling their mission for conservation

- The targeted National Parks are increasingly under pressure from anthropogenic activities. The main threats for biodiversity conservation in National Parks include unsustainable tourism, fires and overexploitation. The number of tourists visiting the National Parks seasonally is constantly increasing.
- Fires require constant vigilance in each of the parks with a particularly high risk in summer and during peak tourist season. With significant investments in fire prevention and response, the losses to fires have reduced in several parks based on the review made for the design of the last Management Plans (PG5) but the risk remains high.
- Overexploitation – including overharvesting of NWFPs and PAMs, and overgrazing – leads to biodiversity loss (including wildlife) and soil degradation.
- Land tenure issues are common in several of the targeted parks. These include for example private landowners that have been including in the parks at their creation, who want to develop their land (e.g. building) which is prohibited by park authorities thereby creating conflicts.

15. Other issues faced by National Parks include the mortality and limited recruitment of some species such as the Atlas Cedar . During the community consultations conducted during the design of this project (July/August 2024), it was systematically pointed out that in the last few decades rainfalls have significantly decreased and become irregular. Pests (e.g. pine trees' processionary caterpillars, Cedar trees' processionary caterpillars, and Scolytes on Alep pine trees and cypresses) are affecting several tree species in the parks, with implications for entire ecosystems if not addressed with targeted action.

Baseline situation

16. The three National Parks have a key role in the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, the development of ecotourism, and socioeconomic and cultural development. As mentioned, the ecosystems and biodiversity of these parks are under multiple threats and the limited public funding they receive is insufficient to manage them effectively. As mentioned, the targeted parks were created without adequately consulting communities, which has caused conflicts with surrounding inhabitants and absence of ownership of the parks. Nowadays, communities are not part of decision-making structures (Guidance Council) for the parks, which limits the opportunities for them to contribute to park management and their willingness to do so. In addition, under the current legislation, National Parks may have other sources of funding from the development of activities within the park – such as from ecotourism activities – but these resources do not directly benefit the parks because of the status of the park administration as “public establishment of an administrative nature ” (EPA). Any revenue would be added to general government budget. The five-year Management Plans are only partially implemented, and many interventions are rescheduled to the following period. Besides, parks are functioning independently from each other with limited knowledge sharing and with low cross-sectoral collaboration with environment, tourism, water and agriculture sectors. Limited resources impede the capacity of the parks to fulfil their mission regarding the conservation of species and ecosystems (e.g. inadequate knowledge of species present and their repartition, insufficient capacity to

manage tourism and prevent infractions, inadequate resources and capacity to engage with communities to define sustainable management plans for natural resources). Climate change is further complicating the situation with the observed reduction in snow cover in winter, intense rains, snowstorms, droughts and overall reduction in precipitations. These changes are potentially responsible for high oaks mortality (e.g. in Belezma).

17. The government is making progress towards improving the way protected areas are being established and managed to enable them to successfully fulfil their conservation goal. The policy framework (e.g. Law 03-10 of 19 July 2003 on environment protection for sustainable development, Law 23-21 of December 2023 on forests and their resources) promotes participatory processes with communities for the management of natural resources, and the 15-year Parks' Master Plans ("Schémas Directeurs") are currently in the process of being updated, following the guidelines of IUCN Green List, with different levels of progress in each of the three parks.

18. Under this new framework, individual parks created before the law 2011 need support to transition from the current governance system to an improved, integrated system capable of fostering an efficient response to the multiple threats faced by National Parks. An improved governance system whereby local communities have a feeling of responsibility towards the conservation of the parks are an integral part of the decision-making process regarding sustainable development within and on the border of the park, is paramount to the long-term preservation of the unique biodiversity of the parks.

Without the project scenario

19. Without the proposed project, communities' involvement in decision making and in the management of the targeted National Parks will remain limited and problems identified during PIF design will remain unaddressed. Communities will not be able to benefit financially from activities in the park and with limited awareness of the role of these parks for biodiversity conservation and for people well-being, local communities will continue to see low value in these Parks. Insufficient capacity of park teams and absence of ownership from communities will prevent the adequate management of tourism activities to benefit people and conservation. In addition, insufficient understanding of the effect of climate change on ecosystem functioning and biodiversity by the park management teams will prevent the implementation of efficient ecosystem management measures to maintain the health of forest ecosystems. This will lead to ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and reduced provision of ecosystems' good and services. The reduction in forest cover through mismanagement, changing climate conditions, fires and degradation from tourism will lead to land degradation, erosion and sedimentation downstream. Failure in addressing human drivers of change will also further reduce the forests' resilience to buffer against climatic hazards effects such as floods, droughts and strong winds. This will lead to increasing vulnerability to climate change hazards such as droughts and increasingly erratic precipitation, decreased people well-being and loss of economic opportunities. The barriers to sustainable park management – as identified during the PIF design (see para. 24) – to be lifted by the project (governance gaps, policy weaknesses, lack of sustainable livelihoods) will be designed to address the anthropogenic and climate change related problems. As for example, under output 1.4 (guidance notes) the project will produce knowledge on best solutions for addressing problems such as wildfires – driven by CC – and other natural resource management challenges. The produced guidance will be integrated in the proposed policy revision (output 1.1) and will inform the new governance frameworks (1.3). Outdated policy documents and inadequate involvement of communities in decision making and park management are major contributing factors to the current problems of overgrazing and wildfire issues. The proposed project will address these problems through the participatory management approach to be established under this project.

Baseline and ongoing investments by the GEF

20. The proposed project will build on several previous and upcoming GEF projects:

- GEF6 project ID 9806 entitled Rehabilitation and Integrated Sustainable Development of Algerian Cork Oak Forest Production Landscapes (GEF6 “Suberaies” project) was launched in 2022 for a period of five years and with a budget of USD 3,400,000. Its objective is to conserve, sustainably harvest and sustainably manage Algeria’s globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems. The project will first be implemented in three pilot sites: Beni Idder in Wilaya Djijil (7,265 ha); Taourirt Ighil in Bejaia (5,108 ha); and Hafir-Tlemcen (10,157 ha). A sustainable participatory management system of the oak forest resources will be piloted in each site as well as the creation of approximately 20 micro and small enterprises. The proposed project will build on this experience with participatory planning processes. This project is designed to facilitate the upscaling of successful approaches tested at pilot sites.
- The GEF7 project ID 10170 Integrated forest and biodiversity management for sustainable development in the Bibans mountain range (GEF 7 “Bibans” project) implemented by ONEDD with a strong collaboration with DGF and FAO is expected to start by the end of the year. With a budget of USD 3,300,000 over four years, the project objective is to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and natural ecosystems, improve the management of natural resources in two communes of the Bibans mountain range and support out-scaling across the Bibans mountain range. The main interventions include SLM and SFM to restore degraded areas and the strengthening of sustainable value chains for agricultural, forest or pastoral products.
- Another GEF-funded project focusing on Pine forests has been developed by DGF and UNDP. The planned budget is USD 4,000,000 for the implementation of four components aiming to promote the conservation, restoration, sustainable management and sustainable use of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest landscapes (265,534 ha) in northern Algeria through integrated inclusive nature-based solutions to climate change. The project interventions include improving value chains for specific wood products (thinning posts) and NWFPs, and promoting green jobs and following a co-management approach with communities. Two pilot sites were pre-selected, including part of Belezma National Park. The pine forests’ project will also support the involvement of the private sector in conservation through PES agreements. The pine forests’ project will benefit from the experience of the proposed project regarding community-based approaches, value chain strengthening interventions and private sector engagement.
- Several UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme allocations were attributed to community associations for the strengthening of climate-resilient value chains. These include for example a grant to strengthen the barbary fig value chain over the period 2019-2021. Based on a national strategy for the development of barbary fig value chain, this project has provided training on production and harvesting techniques, plantation management, entrepreneurship, value addition on the products using a training-or-trainers approach. This project is considered as a success with the creation of microenterprises by dynamic community entrepreneurs which are functioning well. Lessons from these investments will be considered in the selection process for the microprojects to be supported under Output 2.1.
- Past GEF-funded projects relevant to the project include: i) GEF1 Project ID 65 entitled El Kala National Park and Wetlands Complex Management (1994-2001); and ii) GEF4 Project ID 65 entitled Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Services in Algeria’s Cultural Parks (2011-2023).

Non-GEF projects that are particularly relevant to the proposed project have also been identified:

21. The proposed project will build on several previous and upcoming non-GEF projects:

- The Governance, Environment and Biodiversity (GENBI) project supported by GIZ ended in December 2019. El Kala National Park was the pilot site for the establishment of a GIS system to support mapping and monitoring exercises, and the development of sustainable nature-based livelihoods (e.g. mastic and barbary fig value chains) among other interventions. The interventions to strengthen the mastic oil Value Chain are considered a success but still need strengthening to ensure that this resource is sustainably exploited.
- The Protected Area Benefit Tools (PEABAT) project (2020) supported the use of PEABAT in each protected area to evaluate their benefits and value to local and national stakeholders. These assessments informed the design of the proposed project and will further contribute to building the awareness-raising tools on the role of National Parks under Output 3.2.

- The Project to Support National Parks' communities (ACPP) under PAP-ENPARD programme (2016-2020) was EU-funded and implemented by the government with support from NGOs. The pilot areas included Djurdjura National Park. It provided training to rural facilitators and supported participatory planning process to strengthen local economy. The ACPP project supported 17 community groups around National Parks in strengthening value chains for local products (e.g. olive oil, honey).

22. The DGF – which is the Operational Partner of this project – has several funding sources and projects that are directly in line with the proposed project:

- DGF's operational budget for the National Parks has been of USD 900,000 per year on average. This was calculated based on the years 2022, 2023 and 2024. This corresponds to a co-financing budget of USD 3,600,000 over the four years of implementation of the project. It is a conservative amount as this budget is steadily increasing. The activities for 2025 which vary between parks where recently validated (September 2024) and include as example improving park infrastructure, establishing park website, fencing the central zone, creating water points, undertaking feasibility studies, maintaining fire breaks, improving hiking trails, and forest rehabilitation interventions.
- DGF has an investment budget for the development of the Master Plans and forest management interventions dedicated to National Parks for the period 2025 to 2027. The total budget of the project for the eight parks for this period (USD 7,000,000) is considered as co-financing as this decision-making process and actions will be integrated in the participatory governance frameworks, and alignment with (or revisions to) the Master Plans will be proposed following an integrated approach.
- The DGF project for the modernization of forest fire prevention and monitoring system (USD 4,460,000 for the period 2024-2026) focuses on adopting a new decision-making tool information and communication technologies for fire risk management. This will include the establishment of an early warning system to communicate rapidly with all the teams of the forest sector and enable access to real-time information on fires (including fire location, access roads, nearest water points as well as slope and wind direction). The portion of the budget for the 10 wilayas that includes the targeted National Parks (USD 1,100,000) is considered as co-financing for the proposed project as it will support improved fire prevention.

23. FAO has several technical assistance projects that are relevant for the proposed project:

- TCP/ALG/3902 – Support for the development of the cow milk value chain targeting women and youth as a priority. The interventions include inter alia cattle identification, the promotion of improved fodder production (e.g. field schools on fodder production) and sustainable feeding practices, and producers' structuration into cooperatives. This will contribute to addressing the issue with overgrazing in National Parks. The project will end in 2025.
- TCP/ALG/4001 – Preservation and developments of local crop varieties. The project has a budget of USD 239,000 and will end in 2026.
- TCP/ALG/4002 – Strategy to combat zoonoses in Algeria, the case of brucellosis. This national project has a budget of USD 100,000 and will end in 2026.
- FAO technical assistance project TCP/ALG/3701 (2019-2021 with a budget of USD 295,000) focused on the development of micro-enterprises based on PFNLs and PAMs (Aromatic and Medicinal Plants). It supported several studies to better understand the availability of these resources and the opportunities from the sustainable development of pine nuts, carob and rosemary value chains. If these value chains are selected by communities (Output 2.1), these studies will contribute to the value chains' assessment to be undertaken as part of Activity 2.1.3.

Barriers:

24. Several barriers to the sustainable, participatory management of National Parks for biodiversity conservation and local development were identified and will be addressed under the proposed project.

- Key policy documents guiding the management of National Parks (e.g. status of the parks) are outdated. Despite the progress made in integrated park management with the law 2011, currently, the parks

cannot generate revenues to support its preservation. This contributes to a low economic value of National Parks for the locality.

- There is limited technical capacity of park staff and local government staff in implementing participatory processes with local communities and other stakeholders, as well as in awareness raising. This prevents increased engagement of local stakeholders in the parks' activities.
 - The cross-sectoral collaboration for the efficient management of the parks is insufficient. Park authorities are not systematically involved in decision-making processes at wilaya or communal level that could have an impact on the park. As for example, there is little coordination between the water sector in charge of managing the watershed and the National Parks.
 - The absence of community engagement in the process of establishment of the park and day-to-day management of the park hinders the sustainable management of the parks. As previously mentioned, there were no community consultations when the three targeted parks were created.
 - There are multiple knowledge gaps on biodiversity in protected areas including on the species present and their repartition. There is limited knowledge on the effects of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems. Some pests, unusual mortality rates or absence of recruitment are being observed on several plant species but without understanding the cause. This prevents the design of adequate conservation actions.
 - Currently, National Parks have one source of funding which is the government allocation as parks cannot receive income from tourism activities (e.g. entrance fees to some sites, souvenirs, activities organized in the park). There is no system for existing tourism activities (e.g. hiking and camping clubs) to contribute to the maintenance of the park. There is also very limited involvement from the private sector in conservation.
 - The opportunities for communities to benefit financially from the park are limited. No ecotourism activities can be legally undertaken in the central area of the park. The absence of structured ecotourism management systems within the parks prevents the development of sustainable and lucrative livelihoods for local communities (e.g. handcrafting, guided tours, traditional food, organic products). This is further impeded by the low level of organization of local communities – particularly women – in associations and cooperatives for nature-based livelihoods.
 - There is limited knowledge and experience sharing between parks within the country and in the region. The absence of shared database or platform for continuous collaboration is a missed opportunities to improve the effectiveness of management models and conservation interventions.
- Communities have low awareness of the role of the parks on their livelihoods such as the provision of vital ecosystem services and buffering the effects of climate change. As a result, little value is attributed by local communities to healthy ecosystems. This results in little community willingness to participate or support their conservation.

Incremental cost reasoning:

The project is designed to deliver global environmental benefits (GEBs) and adaptation benefits that would not be realized without GEF intervention, demonstrating clear additionality over baseline initiatives. By strategically complementing and enhancing ongoing efforts, the project leverages GEF resources to address critical gaps in scale, coordination, innovation, and systemic impact.

1. Baseline Scenario without GEF Intervention: In the absence of GEF funding, Algeria's baseline initiatives, while significant, face limitations in scope, coordination, and capacity to deliver GEBs at the scale required to reverse and/ or stabilize globally crucial biodiversity, as can be found in Algeria's historical national parks. Without community co-management and appropriate action to protect biodiversity resources, in close collaboration/ co-management structures with local communities, biodiversity loss is likely to accelerate further.
2. Incremental Contribution of GEF Resources: GEF resources enable the project to bridge critical gaps and amplify baseline initiatives, delivering GEBs and adaptation benefits that would not otherwise accrue. The project's additionality lies in its integrated, multi-faceted approach, which combines policy reform, on-the-

ground interventions, capacity building, and knowledge management to achieve outcomes beyond the baseline's reach.

3. Component 1 - Creating an Enabling Environment for Sustainable Soil Management: GEF funding supports the development of a robust governance framework, addressing the baseline's lack of revised/ updated Governance Frameworks of the three national parks addressed under this project (by using a participatory approach). Without GEF intervention, Algeria's fragmented institutional mandates would persist, with no revised governance frameworks and community co-management being put into place. The GEBs include enhanced biodiversity, as the combination of technical capacity development (1.2) and guidance (1.4) in combination with enhanced policy and governance structures and frameworks (1.1 and 1.4) as well as engagement of private sector (1.5) will facilitate sustainable management of national parks and biodiversity resources. The additionality is evident in the systemic policy shift, which baseline efforts lack the resources and coordination to achieve, ensuring scalability beyond pilot sites.

4. Component 2 - Piloting and out-scaling of sustainable, nature-based sources of income for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning and climate resilience: GEF resources fund innovative microproject pilots in support of national park related income generating activities (2.1). In addition, a financial mechanism will be set-up to attract private sector finance towards biodiversity protection in national parks.

5. Component 3 - Knowledge Management and Learning: GEF's investment establishes a national parks network to share knowledge and enhance collaboration between national parks (Output 3.1) and supports awareness campaigns (Outputs 3. 2), addressing the baseline's inadequate data sharing and stakeholder engagement. Without GEF funding, knowledge dissemination would remain limited to ad-hoc workshops. This GEB is incremental as baseline initiatives lack a systematic approach to knowledge sharing, hindering scalability. Adaptation benefits include empowered communities, particularly women and youth, who gain access to and training, fostering long-term biodiversity stewardship. The additionality is in creating a scalable knowledge ecosystem that baseline efforts cannot sustain due to limited resources and focus.

6. Component 4 - Monitoring and Evaluation: GEF's allocation for a comprehensive M&E system ensures accountability and adaptive management, absent in baseline initiatives. Without this, impacts would remain unquantified, limiting global recognition and scalability. The M&E system tracks progress toward GEBs and informs policy adjustments, enhancing resilience to climate shocks. The additionality lies in providing a data-driven framework that baseline programs lack, ensuring sustained environmental and social benefits.

7. Without GEF funding, Morocco would continue to face escalating biodiversity degradation, with limited global benefits (e.g., minimal carbon sequestration, no significant biodiversity gains, loss of ecosystem services) and adaptation outcomes (e.g., , vulnerable livelihoods). The project's GEF resources, complemented by co-financing catalyzes a "Algerian Model" that delivers GEBs and resilience at a scale and depth unattainable through baseline initiatives alone, positioning Algeria as a regional leader in sustainable national park and biodiversity management.

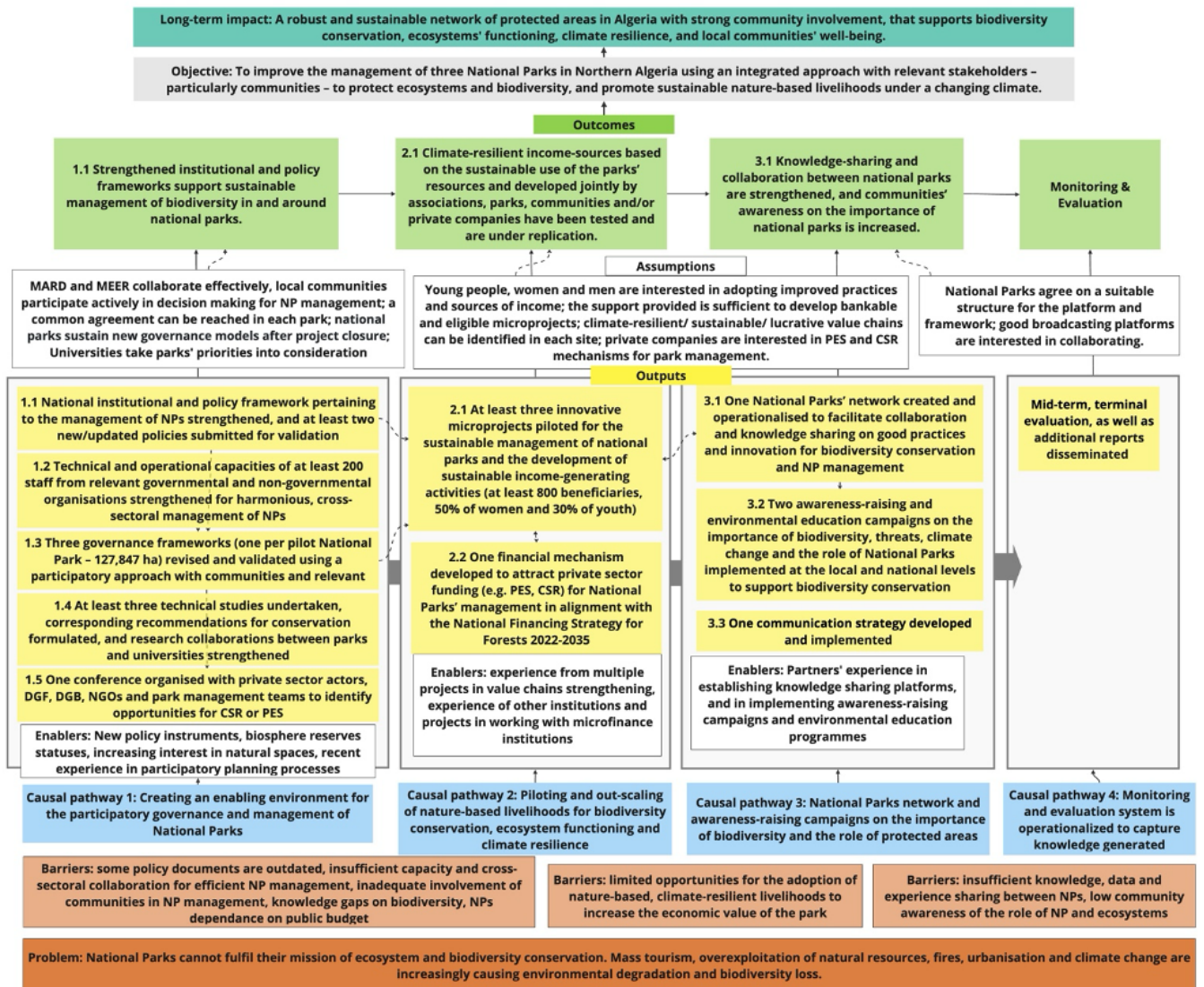
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

25. The objective of the proposed project is to protect the ecosystems and biodiversity of three National Parks in Northern Algeria by implementing participatory governance systems with local stakeholders – particularly communities – and promoting sustainable, nature-based livelihoods to improve resilience to changing climate.

Figure 2: Theory of Change of the proposed project



26. Further to Figure 1, the following Theory of Change statements can be made:

- IF the policy frameworks fully support communities' engagement in National Parks management and the development of sustainable income generating activities in the park (Component 1), IF all the relevant stakeholders have adequate capacity to contribute technically or financially (Component 1), and IF the impact of climate change on National Parks' ecosystems and biodiversity is better understood and knowledge shared between parks (Component 1, 3 & M&E), THEN National Parks can be managed harmoniously, efficiently and sustainably to ensure that healthy ecosystems are maintained and biodiversity richness is conserved and national park governance structures established under this project will be maintained. In fact, the assumption is that – with successful completion of this project – DGF will continue allocating a portion of its annual budget towards maintain the new participatory governance structures.
- IF the resources allocated to National Parks management are diversified (Component 1) and IF local communities are aware of the role of ecosystems and National Parks (Component 3), and can adopt sustainable sources of income based on the park and its resources (Component 1 & 3), THEN the required

willingness for conservation and the financial means to do so will be met, **including high willingness by private sector entities to engage in PES schemes**, thereby enabling ecosystems in National Parks to provide vital ecosystem goods and services in the long term, including biodiversity conservation, mitigation of climate change effects including intense rains and droughts, and well-being.

27. The project is structured into three interlinked and complementary components: i) Creating an enabling environment for the participatory governance and management of National Parks; ii) Piloting and out-scaling sustainable, nature-based sources of income for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning and climate resilience; and iii) National Parks network and awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of biodiversity and the role of protected areas. The project's components, outcomes, outputs and activities are described below.

28. A participatory governance system involving communities in National Parks' management processes will be piloted in three of the "historical" National Parks (created prior to 2011). These pilot sites were selected to represent each of the eco-climatic categories found among the eight targeted parks: coastal – El Kala National Park; mountainous – Djurdjura National Park; and arid – Belezma National Park. The experience generated in these pilot parks will thereafter guide the implementation of similar processes for the other National Parks.

Component 1: Creating an enabling environment for the participatory governance and management of National Parks

Outcome 1: Strengthened institutional and policy frameworks support the sustainable management of biodiversity in and around National Parks.

Indicators/Targets:

- At least one policy documents revised/developed and submitted for validation.
- At least 100 people trained (50 park staff and 50 staff from other institutions), including 50% of women and 30% of youth.
- Three governance frameworks developed and validated in a participatory manner covering an area of 121,238 ha of protected areas (with at least 40 percent of the participants participating in the revision and validation efforts being women).
- At least three technical studies addressing parks' priority knowledge gaps for conservation planning

29. Component 1 will first lift the policy and institutional barriers to the sustainable and integrated management of National Parks. This will be done through close collaboration between MADRP, MEQV and the Ministry of Tourism among others. Technical and operational training will also be provided to ensure that all relevant actors (government and non-government actors from the central to the local level) have the required skills to engage purposefully in the project and fulfil their missions pertaining to the management of National Parks and their resources. In addition, local organisations such as NGOs, associations/cooperatives and community groups will be strengthened through training to increase institutional, financial, communication, monitoring and fund-raising capacity. The process will be initiated during Year 1 of the project. Existing governance frameworks will thereafter be revised using a participatory approach with communities, NGOs and all relevant sectors including the private sector, to increase the involvement of local communities and other relevant stakeholders in all decision-making processes. In parallel, targeted technical studies will be undertaken to inform conservation planning. Complementary sources of funding such as from the private sector will also be accessed to diversify the parks' funding sources for greater resilience. Engagement with local communities will shortly after the inception of the project in the vicinity of each of the targeted parks.

Output 1.1 National institutional and policy framework pertaining to the management of National Parks – including sustainable uses and cross-sectoral collaboration – strengthened, and at least one new/updated policy submitted for validation

Activities:

- 1.1.1. Undertake an in-depth assessment of policies defining park management frameworks to identify the strengths, weaknesses and priority gaps to support the sustainable and participatory management of National Parks and their resources
- 1.1.2 Propose revisions to the decree 13-314 defining the Status of Protected Areas to maintain public budget while allowing for the development of sustainable income sources for the communities and for the park.
- 1.1.3 Support the development of priority application decrees for the new Forest law 23-21 and the law 11-02 on protected areas to support participatory and integrated management of the parks
- 1.1.4 Propose – during the annual revision process of the Finance law – to define a fixed budget for National Parks for a period of five-years to the financial needs for the implementation of the 5-year management plans and enable improved planning
- 1.1.5 Clarify the responsibilities and complementarity in the role of DGF Conservator and Park Director.
- 1.1.6 Raise awareness of wilaya authorities, communal authorities, other central and decentralized sectors, interested associations, community leaders and community groups on the strengthened policy framework

Output 1.2 Technical and operational capacities of at least 100 staff from relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations strengthened for harmonious, cross-sectoral management of National Parks

Activities:

- 1.2.1 Assess the technical capacity of the park staff, DGF conservators, DGB and key environmental associations operating in and around the targeted parks in jointly prioritizing, designing, implementing and monitoring conservation interventions as well as managing conflicts in the parks
- 1.2.2 Design and implement tailored technical training sessions for park staff, DGF conservators, DGB team and key environmental associations operating in the targeted parks (50% women) to improve their capacity to jointly undertake successful conservation initiatives
- 1.2.3. Assess the operational (e.g. institutional, financial, communication, monitoring, fund-raising) capacity of the few local NGOs and associations operating in the environmental, tourism and nature-based livelihood sectors, and provide required training to strengthen these initiatives.

Output 1.3 Three governance frameworks (one for each pilot National Parks – 121,238 ha in total) revised and validated using a participatory approach with communities and relevant sectors

Activities:

- 1.3.1 Organize consultation workshops in each of the three parks with relevant stakeholders (50 % women) – including the park, DGF conservator, wilaya authorities, communal authorities, community representatives, local associations, representatives from tourism, water, solidarity, education and youth sectors, and private companies – to revise existing governance frameworks in a participatory manner.
- 1.3.2 Implement the improved governance frameworks of each park (covering a total area of 121,238 ha) with all relevant stakeholders (50% women), in alignment with international standards
- 1.3.3 Develop a guidance document for the design of good governance systems based on the experience generated within the three pilot parks to support the integrated management of other National Parks and reserves.

Output 1.4 At least three guidance notes produced to address priority knowledge gaps on natural resources in the parks, corresponding recommendations for conservation formulated, and research collaborations between parks and universities strengthened

Activities:

- 1.4.1 Stock-take and compile the knowledge available on biodiversity within the parks from previous research projects and local communities, and identify priority knowledge gaps for conservation planning
- 1.4.2 Undertake an analysis of the response to climate change of key threatened species such as Atlas cedar, and ecosystems, and formulate recommendations for their conservation
- 1.4.3 Undertake i) an analysis of water availability and sustainable use in Belezma National Park, ii) and iii) an analysis of pest impacts on trees in Djurdjura, and formulate recommendations for conservation
- 1.4.4 Strengthen the collaboration agreements of each park with research institutions and universities through new/improved research agreements

Output 1.5 One conference organized with private sector actors operating in the vicinity of the parks and at the central level, DGF, DGB, NGOs and park management teams to identify opportunities for their contribution to National Parks' management through CSR or PES

Activities:

- 1.5.1 Identify opportunities for private companies operating in the vicinity of the parks or at the central level to provide financial or operational contribution to park management under PES or CSR schemes, in alignment with the National Financing Strategy for Forests 2022-2035.
- 1.5.2 Organize a conference with private sector actors, DGF, DGB, NGOs and park management teams to gauge their interest in contributing to conservation and identify concrete opportunities to be investigated in the future

Component 2: Piloting and out-scaling of sustainable, nature-based sources of income for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning and climate resilience

Outcome 2: Climate-resilient income sources based on the sustainable use of the parks' resources and developed jointly by associations, parks, communities and/or private companies have been tested and are under replication.

Indicators/Targets:

- At least three microprojects implemented
- At least 800 direct beneficiaries of the microprojects (including 50% of women and 30% of youth)
- One financial mechanism for private sector contribution through PES and CSR, with specific focus of access to women and youth.
- At least two complementary sources of public or private funding secured to support nature-based livelihoods' strengthening in the vicinity of National Parks

30. Under Component 2, the economic value attributed to natural ecosystems and their biodiversity within and around the pilot National Parks will be raised by supporting the adoption of sustainable and climate-resilient sources of income that depend on the preservation of these natural resources. Local communities will be the leader of the microprojects whose design will be initiated towards the end of Year 1. National experts, local NGOs and associations will be appointed to support the design and implementation of the microprojects where appropriate. Private sector actors will be consulted in the design and selection process, and engaged in the value chains strengthening interventions thereafter. Local authorities and microfinance institutions will be engaged as much as possible in the selection and implementation processes of the microprojects to raise their awareness and understanding of the project approach and advocate for funding allocation to nature-based livelihoods' strengthening in the vicinity of National Parks.

Output 2.1 At least three innovative microprojects piloted for the sustainable management of National Parks and the development of sustainable income-generating activities (at least 800 beneficiaries, including 50% of women and 30% of youth)

Activities:

- 2.1.1 Identify existing community groups in the targeted sites and support interested ones in the creation of associations or cooperatives
- 2.1.2 Support community groups, park staff and associations in developing and submitting joint microprojects in alignment with the improved governance systems
- 2.1.3 Select the microprojects to be supported under the proposed project in a transparent manner based on a defined list of criteria in collaboration with relevant experts including the park authorities
- 2.1.4 Implement the selected microprojects in collaboration with relevant sectors (agriculture, tourism, water, solidarity, youth, private sector...)

Output 2.2 One financial mechanism developed to attract private sector funding (e.g. PES, CSR) for National Parks' management in alignment with the National Financing Strategy for Forests 2022-2035

Activities:

- 2.2.1 Ensure the continuous sharing of experiences and results from the microprojects to potential public and private funding partners through the National Parks network (Output 3.1)
- 2.2.2 Develop a financial mechanism to attract private funding for National Parks' management based on existing experience with CSR and PES in the country, with specific focus on access for women and youth.
- 2.2.3 Advocate for the allocation of financial support for nature-based livelihoods' strengthening in the vicinity of National Parks with relevant microfinance schemes, government sectors (e.g. tourism, solidarity), local authorities (wilaya, commune) and NGOs

Component 3: National Parks network and awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of biodiversity and the role of protected areas

Outcome 3: Knowledge-sharing and collaboration between National Parks are strengthened, and communities' awareness on the importance of National Parks is increased.

Indicators/Targets:

- One National Parks' network established and operational.
- At least one awareness-raising and one environmental education campaigns broadcasted across the network of National Parks (and nationally)
- At least four short and easy-to-grasp communication tools developed and disseminated on the project's progress, results, good practices and lessons learned

31. Under Component 3, the network of Algeria National Parks will be created to increase their visibility and cohesion as a conservation entity. The collaboration and knowledge sharing between National Parks will also be strengthened to increase their functioning and efficiency. These interventions will be launched towards the end of Year 2 and be undertaken in close collaboration between DGF, DGB and other relevant partners. In addition, awareness of local communities including pupils on the environmental and social value of National Parks will be raised through well-designed and impactful awareness-raising and education campaigns. These will be developed in collaboration with Environmental NGOs and associations, communication services, schools, the Ministry of Education and other relevant communication experts. The design of these campaigns will start in Year 2. Specialised communication companies on environmental and conservation matters will be appointed if necessary to provide training on the design and broadcasting of impactful communication tools.

A project communication strategy will be developed to share the results and experiences of the project. Under this strategy, the information generated through the M&E system will be shared in a way that it is easily usable by a diversity of organisations and initiatives.

32. Moreover, the project will benefit to and from FAO's Regional Khibra platform , a collaborative initiative bridging countries in the Near East region which facilitates interactive learning events, including the sharing of results and lessons learned. This platform will prioritize showcasing, replicating and upscaling of successful strategies in agroecology and good practices for enhancing the engagement of communities, and support the uptake of these good practices and approaches by governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at national and regional levels. The project will also make use of existing FAO platforms and tools such as the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) and benefit from capacity building programme .

Output 3.1 One National Parks' network created and operationalised to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing on good practices and innovation for biodiversity conservation and NP management.

Activities:

3.1.1 Create the visual identity of National Parks

3.1.2 Establish a National Parks' network (e.g. interactive forum) to share success stories, experience and lessons learned, technical reports and enable continuous communication between the parks, DGF, DGB and other relevant sectors, NGOs and Associations

Output 3.2 Two awareness-raising and environmental education campaigns on the importance of biodiversity, threats, climate change and the role of National Parks and other protected areas implemented at the local and national levels to support biodiversity conservation

Activities:

3.2.1 Develop an awareness-raising and environmental education strategy for the general public, communities neighboring parks and education institutions (e.g. schools, universities) to support conservation in National Parks and other protected areas with interventions adapted to each targeted group and education levels, and using innovative technologies

3.2.2 Implement the awareness-raising and environmental education strategy

Output 3.3 One communication strategy developed and implemented

Activities:

3.3.1 Develop a communication strategy identifying communication tools adapted to different audience groups and most appropriate communication channels to share information on the progress and the results of the project

3.3.2 Implement the project's communication strategy

3.3.3 Disseminate the communication products at the local, wilaya, national and regional levels

3.3.4 Participate and share experiences from the project on the Regional Knowledge Hub for Integrated Biodiversity Resilience and Agrosilvopastoral Food Systems (Khibra).

Monitoring and evaluation

The project's M&E plan is designed and implemented to measure the impact of the interventions and identify best practices.

Indicators/Targets:

- M&E plan
- One Mid-Term Review report
- One Terminal Evaluation report

33. Under the M&E component, the progress, results, good practices and lessons learned will be systematically captured and analysed. This will be led by DGF in close collaboration with FAO and require continuous efforts throughout the four years of implementation. This component will leverage on FAO's Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), the official platform for tracking restoration progress under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. FERM's GIS-based system allows GEF staff and stakeholders to visualize and report on areas under restoration, displaying clear indicators like project completion percentages. Additionally, FAO's System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing, and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL) provides rapid remote sensing data processing to assess project implementation progress effectively. Together, these tools enable systematic monitoring of restoration outcomes.

Mid-term, terminal evaluation, as well as additional reports disseminated

Activities:

- 4.1.1 Develop and implement the monitoring, reporting and learning plan of the project ("Ensure systematic data collection and analysis of the results and lessons learned from the women-centred interventions (Outputs 2.1 and 2.2), and from gender inclusion in decision-making and implementation across the project interventions (and partner projects), and the adequate monitoring of gender-sensitive indicators")
- 4.1.2 Adopt the monitoring tools required in collaboration with the project partners
- 4.1.3 Organize the Mid-Term Review.
- 4.1.4 Share the report with relevant stakeholders.
- 4.1.5 Organize the Terminal Evaluation.
- 4.1.6 Share the report with relevant stakeholders.

Global Environmental benefits and adaptation benefits

Biodiversity and endangered species

34. The project will have very direct benefits on biodiversity conservation as it focuses on improving the management of three National Parks in Northern Algeria. It will support improved management of 121,238 ha of terrestrial protected areas through the development and implementation of improved governance framework that adopt a participatory and integrated approach to park management. These parks include Ramsar sites and are classified as biosphere reserves. Each of these parks have been created because of the presence of unique ecosystems and/or biodiversity. They host multiple rare, endemic and threatened plant and animal species such as the endangered Atlas cedar *Cedrus atlantica* and Algerian Nuthatch *Sitta ledanti* (NBSAP Objectives A, B, D). Improved management of natural resources on the outskirts of the park through the promotion of sustainable nature-based livelihoods will support an increase in biodiversity in production systems. This increased availability of suitable habitat will support species conservation and increase their capacity to adapt to changing climate or environmental conditions. Under Component 1 of the project, participatory governance framework will be designed and implemented with a strong involvement of local communities. This is expected to strengthen the management of the parks and enable the protection and sustainable management of their natural resources.

Ecosystem goods and services

35. The targeted parks are located in mountainous areas. Their vegetation cover therefore plays a major role in rainwater channelling and retention. These parks therefore contribute to water availability and provide a buffer against intense rainfall. In the context of climate change under which rainfalls are more sparse and more intense, these trees' and shrubs' cover protects the communities and production land downstream from sedimentation and landslides. These National Parks also provide other important ecosystem services such as carbon storage as they include a large portion of Algerian forests, and local climate regulation. In addition, forests and shrublands in the targeted parks and the surrounding areas produce a wide range of food, medicinal and aromatic products for local consumption and income generation. Under Component 2,

community-based projects focused on the development of sustainable and climate-resilient value chains will be supported to improve local communities' livelihoods. Any production activities (i.e. for PAMs and agroforestry) in the transition zones of the parks will be supported in adopting an agroecological approach including using natural fertilisers and biopesticides to be more biodiversity-friendly, reduce pollution for chemical inputs and increase carbon storage. Carbon emission will be avoided by addressing deforestation issues (such as fires and overgrazing) using participatory decision-making approaches with local communities. Overall, the project will benefit 130,000 people including 50% of women and 30% of youth.

36. The project interventions including increased knowledge on species, biodiversity and ecosystems; awareness-raising and environmental education; and the development of sustainable nature-based value chains – will raise the economic value of natural ecosystems for local populations and their contribution to the national economy. This will increase the willingness of government, local populations and private sector actors to preserve natural resources and ecosystems in the long term.

Stakeholder consultations during PIF design

37. The inception mission of the project design team took place from Sunday 11th February to Tuesday 20th February 2024. It included an inception meeting with the FAO and DGF team, consultations with partners at the central level (GEF-6 “Suberaie” projet, GENBI, PEABAT, WWF), meeting with relevant government sectors (Environment, Water, Agriculture (DGF and Direction of Agriculture); Solidarity and women; Tourism; and Higher education and research). Field visits were thereafter undertaken in Gouraya, Theniet el Had and Chrea National Parks. This enabled the PPG team to meet with the directors and technical teams of each of the eight “historical” parks (clustered in each location). A restitution workshop took place at the end of the mission with FAO, DGF, the park directors, relevant government sector, universities, National Institute for Forest Research, and National Institute for Agricultural Research in Algeria.

38. The inception mission was followed by additional field visits by the national consultants' team between 25 June and 05 July. They met with the Social Development Agencies, the walis, park directors and technical teams of six national parks – namely Gouraya, Taza, El Kala, Theniet el Had, Belezma and Tlemcen – to complement the information collected during the inception mission. They organised focus groups with Communal people's assemblies, community representatives, village committee members, local associations and small enterprises in each site. **The majority of park community members consulted during the focus group discussions are belonging to Amazigh communities. In fact, the majority of inhabitants in these three national parks are belonging to the Amazigh community.**

39. A validation workshop took place on Sunday 24 November 2024 with relevant government sectors (agriculture, environment, energy, tourism, water, culture, Higher education and research) and national parks representatives. GEF comments provided in 2025 were jointly reviewed by DGF and FAO and addressed together.

Key stakeholders during project implementation (non-exhaustive list):

Stakeholders	Role
Government	Provides institutional support and policy alignment, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), Direction of Agriculture, and the DGF
CSOs, Local Communities, women groups	They are the main partners and the final beneficiaries of all project interventions including improved governance and planning, awareness raising, training, income-generating interventions as well as biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration interventions
Vulnerable groups (Amazigh communities)	They are the main partners and the final beneficiaries of all project interventions including improved governance and planning, awareness raising, training, income-generating interventions as well as biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration interventions. Their involvement is essential for leveraging their deep ecological knowledge and cultural insights, in order to enhance conservation strategies and ensure the preservation of cultural heritage.
Vulnerable groups exist in the landscape (e.g. in the vicinity of Djurdjura and Belezma National Parks) but they are not identified as indigenous people. They are therefore referred to in the document as vulnerable groups (together with women, disabled people and marginalized groups)	Participation of vulnerable groups fosters women and youth empowerment, promotes equitable decision-making, and aids in conflict resolution between park authorities and local communities. Furthermore, their involvement supports sustainable development by integrating traditional practices with modern conservation practices. ;
Private Sector: - SME's (e.g. TRARAS OIL, conserverie de legumes et fruits secs, fabrication de savon) - Startups (e.g. in inorganic recycling, oil extraction) - Local and central companies using ecosystem services (PES) or interested in contributing to conservation and sustainable development through CSR	Private Sector: - SME's (e.g. TRARAS OIL, conserverie de legumes et fruits secs, fabrication de savon) - Startups (e.g. in inorganic recycling, oil extraction) - Local and central companies using ecosystem services (PES) or interested in contributing to conservation and sustainable development through CSR
GEF Agency (FAO)	Oversees project execution, technical assistance, and monitoring, ensuring alignment with GEF-8 objectives. Provides technical expertise where required.

Summary of Institutional arrangements and coordination with other initiatives and projects

40. DGF will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO . As OP of the project, DGF is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

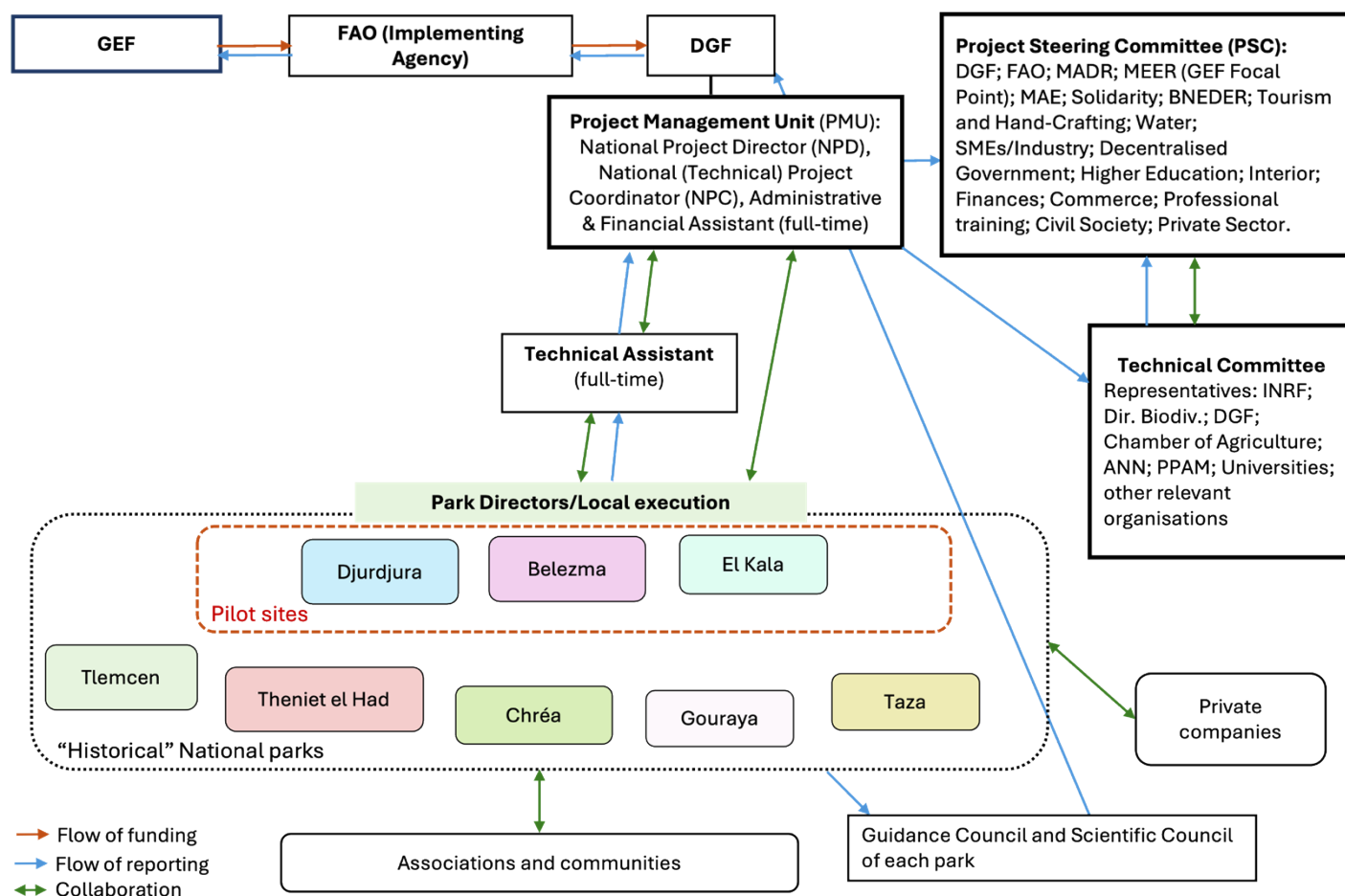


FIGURE 3: PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

42. The government may designate a National Project Director (NPD). Located at DGF, the NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. S/he will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the National Project Coordinator (NPC) on relevant government policies and priorities.

43. The NPC will be in charge of coordinating the implementation of the project interventions, on a day-to-day basis. S/he will be supported by one Technical Field Assistants. One Technical Field Assistant will be appointed to work jointly with the Parks' Directors, Associations, community groups and municipal government. S/he will ensure smooth and timely implementation of the activities in and around each park. The Technical Field Assistant will be appointed primarily to support the co-design of the improved governance system under Component 1, the implementation of the microprojects under Component 2 and local awareness-raising activities under Component 3. MoUs will be designed for specific interventions to be implemented by local NGOs.

44. DGF and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will jointly chair the Project Steering Committee which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners. **In the PSC, FAO will have a voice but no voting power in decisions made by the PSC.**

45. The PSC will be comprised of representatives from MADR/DGF, BNEDER, MEER, MAE, Solidarity, Tourism and Hand-Crafting, Water, SMEs/Industry, Decentralised Government, Higher Education, Interior, Finances, Commerce, Professional training, Civil Society, Private Sector and FAO. The members of the PSC

will each assume the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

46. The FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project:

- The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution;
- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
- The Funding Liaison Officer(s) and the GEF Technical Officers (GTO) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and carried out in accordance with FAO and GEF minimum fiduciary and technical standards.

47. FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

48. The GEF-funded projects currently being implemented by DGF and ONEDD with support from FAO namely the GEF6 “Suberaies” project and the GEF7 “Bibans” project will strengthen the capacity of DGF and build the knowledge base on efficient practices and approaches (e.g. participatory planning processes) that will benefit the implementation of the proposed project and be integrated in the knowledge sharing interventions under Component 3 of the proposed project. Capacity building interventions under the GEF6 “Suberaies” project on biodiversity inventories, species monitoring and sustainable use of natural resources will be built on under the proposed project (Output 1.2). In addition, the projects listed below have a strong complementarity with the proposed project:

Project title	Implementing Agency	Period	Project description
Scaling the Implementation of the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) Initiative	FAO	2024-2025	This project will support improved food security, livelihoods, environment and income of rural population through the adoption and promotion of innovative approaches for the better value chain of Special Agricultural Products (SAPs). Through this project, national capacities are being strengthened to promote sustainable value chains of sustainable agricultural production (SAPs) and policy environment is being improved for the sustainable development of SAPs.
Agri-Accelerator Hubs 2.0: boosting responsible investments in food systems for young women and men	FAO	2024-2025	This project focuses on fostering sustainable economic and territorial development in North Africa through responsible agrifood businesses led by young women and men agri-entrepreneurs. By the end of the project, 60 companies will have become more efficient through an agricultural accelerator hub, and an additional 230 companies will be better qualified to produce investment proposals for responsible agricultural investments. This is in direct alignment with component 2 of the proposed project which will support sustainable value chains.
Greening Agroforestry Economies: Strengthening Non-Wood Forest Product Chains and Smallholder Cooperatives	FAO	2026-2027	The Sub-programme provides a coherent and transformative approach to address the intertwined challenges of food insecurity, environmental degradation, and socio-economic vulnerability in NENA. By linking ecological restoration with inclusive economic development, it will strengthen resilient, sustainable, and climate-smart agroforestry economies across Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, and potentially other countries in the region.
Youth Entrepreneurship in NENA Agrifood Systems	FAO	2025-2028	This project strives to foster decent employment opportunities for youth, while increasing their presence in agrifood systems by supporting solution-oriented enterprises, led by youth and in particular young women
Integrated wastes' energy management at local level in Algeria	AND	2023-2027	The project aims to promote integrated management of municipal solid waste in Constantine and poultry waste in Sétif with the aim of transforming the waste value chain into a circular economy. This will contribute to improve waste management which will benefit National Parks whereby pollution is a major threat.
Promoting female entrepreneurship in Algeria's green economy	GIZ	2024-2026	The objective of the project is that women entrepreneurs in Algeria's green economy benefit from a needs-based entrepreneurial ecosystem. This is in

complete alignment with the strong focus of the project on women.

Additional detail on on-going and relevant initiatives and projects is provided in section A (baseline).

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
121238	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
121238	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Belezma	9742	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	26,250.00						
Djurdjura	4118	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	18,550.00						
El Kala	9741	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	76,438.00						

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	65,000			
Male	65,000			
Total	130,000	0	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Indicator 1:

The total surface of the parks is the area of protected areas that will be under improved management:

- Belezma (WDPA ID: 9742): 26 250 ha;

- Djurdjura (WDPA ID: 4118): 18 550 ha;

- El Kala (WDPA ID: 9741): 76 438 ha.

Hectares mentioned under i; ii; iii are the protected areas in the three parks (total hectares = 121,238 ha of protected areas, under improved management). The METT score is 78, applying to all three national parks included under this project.

Indicator 11:

The approximate number of inhabitants within and on the border of each park was estimated at: i) Belezma: 10,000; ii) Djurdjura: 80,000; iii) El Kala: 40,000 people. It includes 200 people directly benefitting from the microprojects with four people per HH (800 people).

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Main risks identified: The targeted project areas are particularly exposed to fires, droughts and intense rains (and resulting erosion and sedimentation). Climate change could affect the project in three main ways: i) by reducing the capacity of some parks to fulfil their conservation mission in case of extreme climate events with significant consequences on ecosystems and biodiversity; ii) by preventing communities to participate in training and consultation sessions under Component 1 because they have to address more urgent issues to secure their livelihoods; and iii) by affecting the success of the microprojects involving planting activities, sustainable

		natural resources management plans, products processing and ecotourism activities as examples. Mitigation measures: i) An important value addition from the project is to support increased understanding on the effects of climate change on biodiversity (Output 1.4). This will enable better integration of this variable into management planning. All training sessions and participatory planning activities will maintain a strong focus on considering changing climate conditions in conservation planning actions and increasing the resilience of ecosystems and species within and outside of the parks. ii) The planning of the training activities will be done in a participatory manner with local communities to make sure that the schedule is as convenient as possible to community groups. iii) Climate resilience will be a major focus in the support provided to community groups for the design of their proposals. It will thereafter be a key criterion for the selection of the proposals (microprojects) to be supported under this project.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Main risks identified: i) Potential lack of environmental and social risks awareness from researchers could lead to inadequate design and plan of parks ii) Some NGO's with specific interest to environment and Gender equality (ex: Rural women) might raise red flags regarding environmental and social risks (inadequate assessment) which could lead to the interruption/disturbance of harmonious, cross-sectoral management (ESS 1&8) Mitigation measures: I Offering support with technical assistance in Environmental and social risk management and planning as well as awareness arising campaigns under this project. ii -An environmental and social safeguards due diligence has been done prior to the project implementation
Political and Governance	Low	Main risks identified: i) A major political change or crisis leads to a shift in government priorities who are no longer interested in and supportive of the project. ii) Turn over in some key position among the local authorities (at wilaya, communal or park levels) delays the implementation of the project. Mitigation measures: i) This integrated project will support the achievement of multiple national and international commitments pledged by the country, regarding biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, climate change adaptation, poverty alleviation among others (please see the following section). It is highly unlikely that a new government would turn away from these priorities. ii) The community-based approach to be adopted under the project will provide co-ownership of the project to local communities. This will reduce the reliance of the project on external actors and make community the main agent of change.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Main risk identified: The project promotes the innovative approach of community participatory national park management, to ensure longevity of project results and long-term sustainable national park management, in

		alignment with communities needs as well as conservation priorities. As this is a novel approach, the risk could be that local and especially vulnerable communities are not sufficiently engaged in the organization of participatory management systems, which would affect the project logic and results. Mitigation measure: The project has engaged communities in the parks during the design phase and will further engage local communities, especially those considered especially vulnerable, during the inception and project implementation. In addition, the DGF – having learned from past experiences, is strongly in favour of community co-management of natural parks and resources.
Technological	Low	Main risk identified: this project does not promote the adoption of new technologies. However, latest technological development is climate science (for downscaling of data and ground truthing) will be employed (e.g. FAOs in house CAVA analytics), which allow for improved planning (e.g. via assessing climate resilience of propose micro-projects). N/A Mitigation measures: There is no new technologies brought via the project. No mitigation measures are needed.
Financial and Business Model	Low	Main risk identified: The project will develop a financial mechanism (C2), which must be endorsed and supported by a variety of Government key counterparts and also must be well received by potential private sector parties. If this mechanism is not well designed, this crucial output might fall short in engaging key partners as well as the private sector. N/A Mitigation measure: The project is planning to recruit one national private sector engagement expert to work on this mechanism, in the context of Algeria and in the context of National Parks and biodiversity conservation.

EXECUTION

Capacity	Moderate	Main risks identified: The operational capacity of DGF have been assessed under the micro-evaluation and been considered as moderate. Mitigation measures: i) During the inception phase, FAO and DGF will jointly review the HACT assessment and identify an operational capacity development strategy, as per HACT recommendations.
Fiduciary	Low	Main risks identified: i) The financial management and procurement costs of each park are released following an annual budget established by the national parks, the risk of having additional costs to manage specific situations is present (inflation effect, unforeseen situation, special campaign) ii) In relation with the risk of climate change resulting in forest fires, the costs of managing a park can be allocated to other purposes (fighting forest fires, emergency management) Mitigation measures: i) The project management team will support the park teams in covering any additional management needs resulting from the project. ii) The risk of fires is preponderant in most parks. Improving fire management in a cost-effective manner will be one of the focus on the participatory governance framework (in alignment with Law No. 24-04 of February 26, 2024 containing the rules for prevention, intervention and

		reduction of disaster risks), for example through increased community involvement
Stakeholder	Moderate	Main risks identified: i) The existing social structure within the communities surrounding the parks prevent women from being involved adequately in participatory and capacity building processes. ii) Women are not interested in structuring themselves into groups and therefore in developing joint microprojects. iii) Vulnerable groups in the three national parks will not be sufficiently engaged during the entirety of the project, with serious implications for the effectiveness of the participatory planning mechanisms and pilots. Mitigation measures: i) The project interventions are gender sensitive. Differences in access to information, discussion points, access to income and freedom of movement have been identified during the PPG phase. This analysis will be deepened at project inception. This analysis will involve in depth consultations with women leader and groups to identify their challenges and the most suitable manner to overcome them to enable them to engage meaningfully in the project. Based on the identified gender-based differences, the project will cater for women-specific interventions to ensure the targeted balance is reached. ii) Awareness-raising activities on the funding opportunities and on the benefits of working as a group to reduce human and financial costs. iii) To this end, the project design team has added 9 (3 per park) engagement events, specifically designed for engaging local/ vulnerable communities, at inception, mid-term and final stage of project implementation.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The project has been assessed for various risks that could affect the achievement of desired outcomes. Although several risks exist, robust mitigation measures have been planned or already undertaken to address them. The overall risk rating is considered moderate, reflecting the potential for challenges but also the comprehensive strategies in place to mitigate these risks.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Alignment with GEF- 8 programming strategies

50. The project is in alignment with the GEF-8 programming strategy on biodiversity particularly Objective 1 To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems. By improving the management of National Parks, promoting private sector engagement in their management and building

the capacity of governmental and non-governmental organisations for the integrated management of the biodiversity and ecosystems of these parks, the project will contribute to achieving the three main elements of Strategy 1 Financial Sustainability, Effective Management, and Ecosystem Coverage of Protected Area Systems: 1) effective protection of ecologically viable and climate-resilient representative samples of the country's ecosystems and adequate coverage of threatened species at a sufficient scale to ensure their long-term persistence; 2) sufficient and predictable financial resources available, including external funding, to support protected area management costs at the site and system-level; and 3) sustained individual and institutional capacity to manage protected areas such that they achieve their conservation objectives.

Alignment with National and Regional priorities

51. The project is fully aligned with several key strategy documents leading environmental management in Algeria. The Government Action Plan 2021 prioritises inter alia biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, the creation of economic activities that add value to ecosystem services, the extension of the protected area network, local development to stabilise rural communities and their income, increased production of ancient fruit and tree varieties, the sustainable management and rehabilitation of forests, handcrafting industry's development and support for women entrepreneurship. The National Forest Strategy by 2035 identified five main intervention pillars, including i) encouraging private sector investment through collaboration with local stakeholders to develop diversified, competitive and sustainable sources of income based on forest products (Pillar 1); and ii) increasing the attractiveness of the different regions and localities through sustainable local development (Pillar 5).

52. The proposed project is strongly aligned with the policies regulating and guiding the management of ecosystems and natural resources in Algeria:

- Executive Decree of 01-87 of Avril 2001
- The Law 03-10 of 19 July 2003 on environment protection for sustainable development
- The Forest Policy 2007
- The Law 11-02 of 17 February 2011 on protected areas for sustainable development
- The Law 23-21 of December 2023 on forests and their resources

53. The project interventions will contribute to several objectives of Algeria's NBSAP 2016-2030 including Objective A on improved integration of biodiversity in decision making. The interventions are also well aligned with Algeria's National Climate Plan (2019) which includes in its priorities to reduce climate impact on biodiversity (Objective 15).

54. The project interventions will support Algeria in meeting the agreements and commitments made under the international conventions that the country has joined:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the preservation of biodiversity and the restoration of ecosystems (ratified in 1995) which resulted in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (see below);
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, joined by Algeria in 2016);
- RAMSAR Convention for the rational use of wetlands (joined in 1984);
- UNCCD (ratified in 1996); and
- Barcelona Convention to coastal and marine protection in the Mediterranean region (joined in 1977).
- UNFCCC 3rd National communication on adaptation actions for the forestry sector.

55. The project will contribute to achieving multiple targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It will support the achievement of Target 1 and 4 by improving the current management processes of three pilot protected areas to make them more integrated and participative. By supporting the adoption of sustainable livelihoods that contribute to the maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in and around protected areas, the project is aligned with Targets 3, 5, 9 and 10. The participatory planning processes to be supported at communal level focuses on better managing biodiversity which is fully

aligned with Target 14. The project will also contribute to achieving Target 21 with the establishment of the network of National Parks, awareness raising and education campaigns. All the interventions are inclusive and gender sensitive, and will aim to maximise the participation in and the benefits from the project to women, youth and other vulnerable groups such as disabled and marginalised people (Targets 22 and 23). The project will also contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2, 6, 8, 13 and 15.

Alignment to FAO Strategic framework, SDGs and COUNTRY Programming Framework

56. This Project is aligned with FAO's Strategic Framework for 2022-2031, which seeks to support the 2030 Agenda by transforming towards more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, better environment and better lives.

Lessons learned from past projects

57. Based on the experience of the GEF6 “Suberaie” project ID 9806, the management team needs more human capacity for the implementation of the interventions on the ground. One technical assistant was therefore included in the proposed project. Participatory management plan for cork oak forests are currently being piloted under this project. Lessons learned from this process will be duly identified at project inception to inform the participatory process under the proposed project.

58. The lessons learned from the Terminal Evaluation of the GEF1 Project ID 65 entitled El Kala National Park and Wetlands Complex Management (1994-2001) are highly relevant to the proposed project, particularly: i) multisectoral collaboration is an essential lever to reconcile conservation and development; ii) early involvement of communities and NGOs in projects strengthen local ownership and results’ sustainability; and iii) viable sources of income for communities and clear management frameworks are paramount to successful conservation. These lessons learned are fully embedded in the approach and structure of the proposed project. Similarly, the integrated approach bringing together local partners and promoting collaborative action and participatory processes implemented under the GEF4 Project ID 65 entitled Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Services in Algeria’s Cultural Parks (2011-2023) was evaluated as successful for the conservation and development of cultural parks. This approach is therefore expected to be well suited for National Parks as well.

59. Previous initiatives in developing participatory management framework were piloted in the National Park of Tassili n’Ajjer with support from UNDP . However, despite a lot of efforts with consultations and negotiations to identify priority actions in five sites (Tefedest, Serkout, Anhef, Tihodaine, et Meddak), only one collaborative management agreement was signed but without a finalised management plan, and the others did not materialise. Part of the reasons include insufficient capacity from local authorities in participatory planning processes and delayed start of the consultation process with local authorities (which started in the third year of implementation) which did not give enough time to validate and implement the agreements . Based on this experience, Output 1.2 of the proposed project is dedicated to assessing and addressing capacity gaps in a targeted manner for each of the key organisations and groups to be involved in the project. The multi-stakeholder consultations will be launched in Year 1. Furthermore, the National Park network to be established under Output 3.1 will increase access to knowledge and experience from other countries on the participatory management of protected areas to maximise the efficiency of the process.

60. Under the Local Projects for Integrated Rural Development (PPDRI), an initiative to establish a local governance committee was also implemented in Chréa National Park under the FFEM-funded project “Optimizing the production of goods and services by Mediterranean forested ecosystems in the context of global changes” (2011-2016). Several structures were established: a Communal Rural Facilitation Unit (CARC) and a Local Governance Committee (CGL). However, this experience did not last beyond the end of PPDRI support. It was not successful because of: ii) no funding source; ii) the frequency of meetings

with local communities was too low to efficiently inform, raise awareness, create understanding and cohesion between stakeholders, and induce a feeling of ownership of the process; iii) insufficient capacity in communication, conflict management and biodiversity conservation from the leading institution specialised in rural development; and iv) no involvement of scientists and experts to support decisions regarding biodiversity management, land tenure issues, sustainable development opportunities. This experience has informed the design of the proposed project's interventions. The long-term financing strategy is indeed crucial to the success of the project, and first discussions on financing opportunities were triggered with communities during the PPG phase to initiate the thinking process on this matter. The project will engage local communities actively and in alignment with their schedule as it is a pivotal element to achieve its objective. The necessary training will be provided through short- and long-term programmes to enable the uptake of the targeted skills. An integrated approach will be adopted whereby all required parties including scientists and thematic experts will be involved in the participatory planning process (please see activities description in Section B).

61. Under the GENBI project, the establishment of a knowledge sharing platform including all protected areas was initiated. However, the negotiations between institutions to design the platform and identify the hosting institutions could not come to an agreement and the platform wasn't established. Building on this experience, the knowledge-sharing platform to be established will focus primarily on National Parks to make the discussions more manageable (please see Section B Component 2) with the potentiality to add other protected areas when deemed appropriate.

62. The PAP ENPARD/ACPP project focused their actions strongly on park teams and communal authorities with limited involvement of the private sector and local associations. As a result, the sustainability of the microprojects was limited. Furthermore, it was noticed that punctual training sessions are not sufficient to gain robust technical, administrative and financial skills, more regular training is needed. In addition, several supported projects have struggled to sell their products. It is therefore crucial to analyse carefully the demand, existing market and its accessibility for each value chain. If there are good development opportunities, the interventions should look at the entire process and provide support where needed to ensure that it functions well all the way from the production to the end user. Another lesson learned is that a maintenance budget for the equipment must be available beyond the project, hence, financial management support is paramount, and the structuration of communities in cooperatives is strongly advisable.

63. Several interesting and successful pilot initiatives for value chain strengthening were implemented in Tlemcen (e.g. under GENBI, FAO technical assistance on PAMs). The support received by a young entrepreneur under the FAO PAM project enabled him to create the TRARAS-OIL company which specialises on the extraction of PAM oils. He now organises training sessions for other youth to create additional income sources. Other relevant initiatives to learn from include the development of carob value chain. Young people were provided with plots in 2022 to exploit to develop sustainable income-generating activities. One of farms now transforms carob into a diversity of products sold nationally and internationally. A woman also benefitted from support to plant barbary fig on land let to her to produce oil. She has a well-established business that produce for the national market. The previously mentioned women cooperatives (Green Women and Arom Mex) in El Kala National Park – established in 2018 with support from the GENBI project – are now extracting oil from mastic and other PAMs from specific sites within the park defined by the authorities under specific harvesting conditions. This initiative has enabled women empowerment and improved livelihoods.

64. Based on the feedback from a few women during the PPG missions, women structuration through the creation of cooperatives and associations is efficient in empowering women, particularly by increasing the decision-making capacity, confidence and freedom of movement. The project will actively encourage this approach.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations:

Private Sector:

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

The inception mission of the project design team took place from Sunday 11th February to Tuesday 20th February 2024. It included an inception meeting with the FAO and DGF team, consultations with partners at the central level (GEF-6 "Suberaie" projet, GENBI, PEABAT, WWF), meeting with relevant government sectors (Environment, Water, Agriculture (DGF and Direction of Agriculture); Solidarity and women; Tourism; and Higher education and research). Field visits were thereafter undertaken in Gouraya, Theniet el Had and Chrea National Parks. This enabled the PPG team to meet with the directors and technical teams of each of the eight "historical" parks (clustered in each location) and thus meet representatives of the three national parks included in this PIF. A restitution workshop took place at the end of the mission with FAO, DGF, the park directors, relevant government sector, universities, National Institute for Forest Research, and National Institute for Agricultural Research in Algeria.

The inception mission was followed by additional field visits by the national consultants' team between 25 June and 05 July. They met with the Social Development Agencies, the walis, park directors and technical teams of six national parks – namely Gouraya, Taza, El Kala, Theniet el Had, Belezma and Tlemcen – to complement the information collected during the inception mission. They organised focus groups with Communal people's assemblies, community representatives, village committee members, local associations and small enterprises in each site.

A validation workshop took place on Sunday 24 November 2024 with relevant government sectors (agriculture, environment, energy, tourism, water, culture, Higher education and research) and national parks representatives. GEF comments provided in 2025 were jointly reviewed by DGF and FAO and addressed together.

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	Algeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	1,776,483.00	168,766.00	1,945,249.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						1,776,483.00	168,766.00	1,945,249.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4750

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GET	Algeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Algeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,999,999.00
Total GEF Resources					1,999,999.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	1,776,483.00	11700000
Total Project Cost		1,776,483.00	11,700,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	DGF	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	3100000
Recipient Country Government	DGF	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	4600000
Recipient Country Government	DGF	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3000000
GEF Agency	FAO	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1000000

Total Co-financing				11,700,000.00
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Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

1. DGF: operational budget of the National Parks (USD 3,600,000)
2. DGF: investment budget for the development of the Master Plans and forest management interventions (2025-2027) (USD 7,000,000)
3. DGF: Project for the modernisation of forest fire prevention and monitoring system (2024-2026) (USD 1,100,000)
4. TCP/ALG/4002 – Strategy to combat zoonoses in Algeria, the case of brucellosis (2025-2026) (USD 100 000)

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

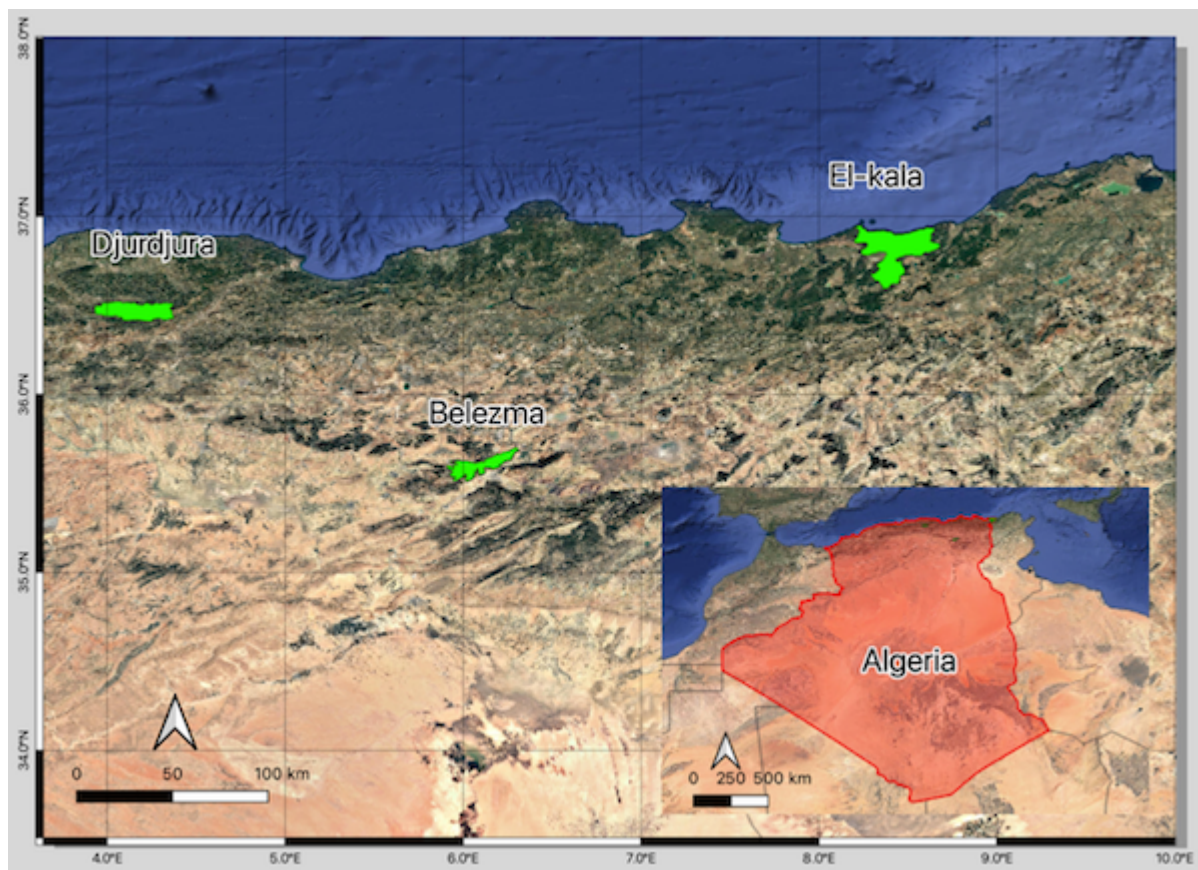
GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Jeffrey Griffin	5/27/2026	Jeffrey Griffin		jeffrey.griffin@fao.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Karim Baba	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of the Environment and Quality of Life	5/26/2026

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place



Location Name	Latitude	Longitude
Parc National de Djurdjura	36.468059	4.186254
Parc National de Kala	36.625951	8.253781
Parc National de Belezma	35.610386	6.093904

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

Gouvernance PN- checklist risques (1)

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Global Environment facility

Capacity, Knowledge and Research

- Innovation
- Knowledge Exchange
 - Conference
- Knowledge Generation
 - Workshop
 - Training
- Capacity Development
- Learning

Adaptive management

Gender Equality

- Gender Mainstreaming
 - Women groups
 - Beneficiaries
 - Gender-sensitive indicators
 - Sex-disaggregated indicators

Gender results areas

- Capacity Development
- Access to benefits and services
- Participation and leadership
- Access and control over natural resources
- Knowledge Generation and Exchange
- Awareness Raising

Climate Finance (Rio Markers)

- Climate Change Mitigation 1
- Climate Change Adaptation 1

Stakeholders

- Local Communities
- Communications
 - Awareness Raising
- Beneficiaries
- Private Sector
 - SMEs
- Civil Society
 - Community Based Organization
- Type of Engagement
 - Information Dissemination
 - Participation
 - Consultation

Integrated Programs

Focal Areas

- Biodiversity
 - Biomes
 - Mainstreaming
 - Species

Financial and Accounting
Payment for Ecosystem Services
Protected Areas and Landscapes
Community Based Natural Resource Mngt
Terrestrial Protected Areas

Influencing models

Deploy innovative financial instruments
Demonstrate innovative approaches
Convene multi-stakeholder alliances
Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making
Transform policy and regulatory environments