

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR MSP (1-STEP) APPROVAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	3
Project Information	3
Project Summary	4
Project Description Overview	5
PROJECT COMPONENTS	5
PROJECT OUTLINE	8
A. PROJECT RATIONALE	8
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	16
Project description	16
Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.	39
Core Indicators	44
Key Risks	48
C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES	52
D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS	57
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:	57
Stakeholder Engagement	58
Private Sector	58
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks	58
E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS	58
Knowledge management	58
Benefits	59
ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES	61
GEF Financing Table	61
Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	61
Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation	62
Focal Area Elements	62
Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type	62
ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS	63
GEF Agency(ies) Certification	63
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):	63
ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK	64
ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)	68
ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES	69
ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING	75
ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE	75

General Project Information

Project Information

Project Title:

Development of Cukurova Delta Lagoons for Sustainable Conservation of Biodiversity in Adana

Region:

Europe and Central Asia

GEF Project ID:

12274

Country(ies):

Türkiye

Type of Project:

MSP

GEF Agency(ies):

FAO

GEF Agency Project ID:

745773

Project Executing Entity(s):

Central Union of Fishery Cooperatives

Project Executing Type:

CSO

GEF Focal Area (s):

Multi Focal Area

Submission Date:

1/29/2026

Type of Trust Fund:

GET

Project Duration (Months):

36

GEF Project Grant: (a)

1,137,216.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

108,035.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

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

1,245,251.00

Total Co-financing

4,500,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

50,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

4,749.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

54,749.00

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

1,300,000.00

Project Tags

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

Project Sector (CCM Only):

Mixed & Others

Taxonomy:

Focal Areas, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate resilience, Fisheries, Mainstreaming, Biodiversity, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Influencing models, Local Communities, Stakeholders, Public Campaigns, Communications, Awareness Raising, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Field Visit, Knowledge Exchange, Conference, Training, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation, Academia, Civil Society, Information Dissemination, Type of Engagement, Participation, Gender results areas

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

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)

1. The project will be implemented in the Tuzla, Akyatan, Akyayan, and Yumurtalık lagoon systems in the Çukurova Delta, Türkiye - ecologically significant coastal wetlands that support rich biodiversity, including globally endangered species, and sustain local livelihoods. These ecosystems are increasingly degraded due to fragmented governance, unsustainable fisheries, upstream agricultural pressures, and climate change impacts such as salinization, sedimentation, and altered hydrological regimes. Under the baseline scenario, these pressures are expected to intensify, further reducing ecosystem functionality and resilience.
2. The project objective is to improve the ecological integrity and climate resilience of lagoon ecosystems through integrated landscape management, ecosystem restoration, and the adoption of sustainable production practices. A transformative approach will be achieved by addressing systemic barriers across governance, stakeholder engagement, and data systems, while strengthening coordination among institutions and empowering local communities—including women—to participate in resource management.
3. The project will deliver this through: (i) strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity; (ii) restoring critical lagoon habitats and improving hydrological connectivity; (iii) implementing lagoon management plans and sustainable fisheries practices; and (iv) promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices and buffer zones to reduce land-based pressures.
4. Expected Global Environmental Benefits include improved management of 34,653 ha of marine and coastal ecosystems, restoration of 100 ha of degraded wetlands, and adoption of improved practices across 50 ha of production landscapes. As a co-benefit of the project’s contribution to climate change mitigation, GHG emission reductions are estimated at approximately 7,993 tCO₂e. In addition, it will enhance ecosystem resilience, improve water quality, and support sustainable livelihoods, benefiting over 1,900 people.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To conserve biodiversity and restore ecosystem functions in the Çukurova Delta through ecosystem restoration, integrated landscape management, and adoption of sustainable production practices

Project Components

Component 1. Enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management in Çukurova Delta

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
165,063.00	1,050,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Policy and regulatory frameworks strengthened to enable integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation in lagoon ecosystems

Outcome 1.2: Integrated landscape management frameworks for biodiversity conservation in lagoon landscapes effectively implemented and enforced by national and sub-national authorities

Output:

Output 1.1.1: National and sub-national gender sensitive policies and legal frameworks developed and harmonized to support biodiversity conservation, lagoon management, and sustainable production practices

Output 1.2.1: Institutional and technical capacities of national and sub-national authorities strengthened to implement lagoon management plans, enforce regulations, and support biodiversity conservation

Component 2. Addressing biodiversity conservation through sustainable practices and restoration of Çukurova Delta ecosystems

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
663,640.00	2,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1: Ecological integrity and resilience of lagoon ecosystems improved through ecosystem restoration and monitoring measures

Indicators:

Area (hectares) with marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (GEF Core Indicator 2.2)

Area (hectares) of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) restored (GEF Core Indicator 3.4)

Outcome 2.2: Integrated landscape management effectively implemented in pilot sites through strengthened gender-responsive local governance and adoption of sustainable production practices

Indicators:

Area (hectares) of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF Core Indicator 4.3)

Number of metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e) from hectares with improved sustainable production practices (GEF Core Indicator 6.1)

Output:

Output 2.1.1: Lagoon hydrological connectivity restored and critical habitats rehabilitated to support biodiversity conservation

Output 2.1.2: Ecological monitoring systems established and operational to inform adaptive management

Output 2.2.1: Lagoon management plans developed and implemented in pilot sites

Output 2.2.2: Multi-stakeholder governance and coordination mechanisms established and functioning with inclusive and gender-balanced participation

Output 2.2.3: Sustainable agricultural practices implemented in surrounding landscapes, with equitable access and benefits for women and men

Component 3. Knowledge Management (KM) and lessons learned

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
153,480.00	750,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: Local communities and stakeholders actively participate in and contribute to integrated landscape management through strengthened capacities and awareness

Outcome 3.2: Knowledge, lessons learned and best practices on biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management effectively captured and disseminated

Indicator:

Number of individuals capacitated in biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management, with at least 40% women attendance (GEF Core Indicator 11)

Output:

Output 3.1.1: Gender-responsive capacity-building programmes delivered to support community participation in lagoon management and adoption of sustainable production practices

Output 3.2.1. Gender-sensitive knowledge management and communication strategy implemented

Output 3.2.2. Best practices on lagoon management, restoration and sustainable production practices documented and disseminated

M&E: Component 4. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
51,650.00	300,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1: Comprehensive project monitoring system established and operationalized

Outcome 4.2: Project evaluation and reporting conducted in line with GEF requirements

Output:

Output 4.1.1: Gender-responsive M&E framework and tools developed and applied

Output 4.2.1: Project Implementation Report (PIR), Project Progress Report (PPR) conducted

Output 4.2.2: Project Terminal Evaluation (TE) conducted

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1. Enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management in Çukurova Delta	165,063.00	1,050,000.00

Component 2. Addressing biodiversity conservation through sustainable practices and restoration of Çukurova Delta ecosystems	663,640.00	2,000,000.00
Component 3. Knowledge Management (KM) and lessons learned	153,480.00	750,000.00
M&E: Component 4. Project Monitoring and Evaluation	51,650.00	300,000.00
Subtotal	1,033,833.00	4,100,000.00
Project Management Cost	103,383.00	400,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	1,137,216.00	4,500,000.00

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.1 Global environmental problem and national context

5. Wetlands around the world are facing severe degradation and loss at an alarming rate. The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016–2024 identifies multiple anthropogenic and natural drivers contributing to this decline, including land conversion for agriculture and urban development, pollution from industrial and agricultural sources, over-extraction of water, invasive species, and climate change [\[1\]](#)¹. These pressures lead to habitat destruction, reduced water quality, altered hydrological regimes, and significant biodiversity loss. As a result, wetlands are increasingly unable to provide critical ecosystem services such as water purification, flood regulation, carbon sequestration, and habitat provision for diverse species.

6. In Türkiye, coastal lagoons—particularly those located in the Çukurova Delta—represent ecosystems of high ecological and socio-economic importance. The delta spans approximately **11,600 hectares** and includes key lagoons such as **Akyatan, Akyayan, Yumurtalık, and Tuzla**, which collectively support biodiversity, sustain fisheries, and provide essential ecosystem services. These lagoons produce approximately **430 tons of fish annually**, supporting the livelihoods of around **1,500 people**, increasing to **2,500 during peak fishing seasons** [\[2\]](#)².

7. The Çukurova Delta is internationally recognized for its biodiversity value [3]³. **Akyatan and Yumurtalık Lagoons are designated as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance** [4]⁴, while large parts of the delta are classified as **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)**. The region hosts diverse ecosystems including coastal dunes, brackish lagoons, and freshwater systems that support amphibians, reptiles (including marine turtles [5]⁵), migratory birds, and endemic plant species adapted to Mediterranean conditions [6]⁶. The Yumurtalık lagoons, located in the Gulf of İskenderun, are particularly notable for their biodiversity, supporting species such as the Egyptian mongoose, jungle cat, and common chameleon, and serving as a key wintering site for migratory birds, including up to **5,000 storks and cranes**.

8. Despite their protected status and ecological importance, these lagoon ecosystems are under increasing pressure from human activities and climate change, placing their long-term integrity at risk.

A.2 System description and key drivers of environmental change

9. The project implementation area is **located in the Çukurova Delta** in the Mediterranean Region of Türkiye, forming the largest coastal plain in the country with an **area of approximately 2,972.7 km²** and an average elevation of 142.7 meters above sea level. The delta is situated within the administrative boundaries of Adana and Mersin provinces and is characterized by a relatively flat topography composed of alluvial deposits, fluvial terrace sediments, and deltaic formations. The Karataş Hills, which represent the continuation of the Misis mountain range, form one of the few geomorphological features interrupting this flat landscape, with limestone and clayey-schist structures [7]⁷.

10. The region's **most significant natural assets are its extensive water resources and highly fertile agricultural lands**, which have historically supported intensive agricultural production and fisheries. However, these same characteristics have also driven rapid land-use change, including the conversion of agricultural land into residential and industrial areas, the construction of dams, and unsustainable water abstraction for irrigation purposes.

11. The lagoon systems within the Çukurova Delta—namely Akyatan, Akyayan, Yumurtalık, and Tuzla—function as **interconnected ecological units linked through hydrological flows, seasonal flooding regimes, groundwater interactions, and species migration corridors**[8]⁸. These lagoons operate as transition zones between marine and terrestrial ecosystems and play a critical role in maintaining ecological connectivity across coastal, wetland, and agricultural landscapes. They provide essential nursery habitats for commercially important fish species and support trophic interactions that sustain biodiversity at multiple levels. However, the integrity of this interconnected system is increasingly compromised by cumulative anthropogenic pressures that alter both physical and ecological processes.

12. **Agricultural intensification** has been one of the most significant drivers of environmental degradation in the delta. The expansion of cultivated land has led to the conversion of natural wetlands into agricultural areas,

reducing habitat availability and **fragmenting ecosystems** [9]⁹. At the same time, the widespread use of chemical fertilizers has resulted in nutrient loading in lagoon systems, causing eutrophication and degrading water quality. **Soil erosion from agricultural lands contributes to sediment transport into lagoons**, leading to sediment accumulation that reduces lagoon depth, disrupts water circulation, and alters natural hydrological processes. This sedimentation not only affects aquatic habitats but also reduces the lagoons' capacity to absorb excess water during heavy rainfall events, thereby increasing flood risks for surrounding communities.

13. **Hydrological alterations** further exacerbate these impacts. Water abstraction for irrigation and upstream regulation of water flows through dams have significantly modified natural hydrological regimes, reducing freshwater inflows into lagoon systems. This disruption affects salinity gradients, water exchange processes, and the ecological conditions necessary for fish spawning and species migration.

14. **Overfishing** represents another critical driver of degradation in the lagoon ecosystems. Weak regulatory frameworks and insufficient enforcement capacity have enabled the widespread use of unsustainable fishing practices, including fixed traps and nets that are traditionally used in Mediterranean lagoon systems. These practices have led to **declines in fish populations, reductions in fish size, and changes in species composition**, thereby disrupting ecological balance and reducing the productivity of lagoon fisheries [10]¹⁰. This trend reflects broader national patterns in Türkiye, where overfishing has contributed to significant declines in commercially important species, including reductions in fish size by up to two-thirds and population collapses of up to 99% for certain species such as bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) and bonito (*Sarda sarda*) [11]¹¹.

15. **Socio-economic dynamics** also play a critical role in shaping environmental pressures in the region. The population of Adana Province reached approximately 2,274,373 in 2022, with varying growth rates across districts. The Çukurova Delta itself includes 47 settlements, with 36 located in Karataş district and 10 in Yumurtalık district. Key population centers such as Karataş (9,189 inhabitants), Tuzla (3,563 inhabitants), and Bahçe (2,800 inhabitants) depend heavily on agriculture and fisheries for their livelihoods [12]¹². This dependence increases pressure on natural resources, particularly as **economic activities intensify to meet growing demand**.

16. Climate change acts as a compounding driver that intensifies existing pressures on lagoon ecosystems. **Rising temperatures**, projected to increase by up to 2.5°C by mid-century, combined with **shifting precipitation patterns**, are expected to reduce freshwater inflows into lagoon systems, particularly in the Seyhan River Basin, east of the Çukurova Delta [13]¹³. This reduction in freshwater input will increase salinity levels, disrupt breeding habitats for fish species, and alter ecosystem dynamics. Sea-level rise is expected to further exacerbate salinity intrusion, while increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods will place additional stress on already degraded ecosystems. These changes are also likely to increase the occurrence of harmful algal blooms, further degrading water quality and posing risks to aquatic life and human health [14]¹⁴.

17. In addition to environmental and economic drivers, social and gender-related factors influence how natural resources are used and managed. **Women in fisheries and agriculture face significant barriers**, including limited access to financial resources, training opportunities, and decision-making processes. Their roles are often concentrated in labor-intensive and lower-income segments of the value chain, such as post-harvest processing and marketing, making them particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate impacts. The lack of gender-disaggregated data and inclusive governance mechanisms further limits their participation in sustainable resource management [\[15\]](#)¹⁵.

18. These multiple and interconnected drivers—agricultural intensification, hydrological alteration, overfishing, demographic pressure, climate change, and social inequalities—interact to accelerate ecosystem degradation in the Çukurova Delta. Together, **they reduce biodiversity, weaken ecosystem services, disrupt ecological connectivity, and undermine the resilience** of both natural systems and the communities that depend on them.

A.3 Ecosystem-level focus: Çukurova Delta as a priority intervention system

19. The Çukurova Delta represents a priority intervention system due to its ecological functionality, high level of connectivity, and strategic importance within the Mediterranean region. As **one of the largest coastal wetland complexes in Türkiye, it integrates marine, coastal, freshwater, and agricultural ecosystems within a single landscape, creating a highly dynamic socio-ecological system.**

20. A defining characteristic of the delta is the strong ecological connectivity among its lagoons—Akyatan, Akyayan, Yumurtalık, and Tuzla—which are linked through hydrological flows, groundwater interactions, sediment transport, and species migration corridors. These connections sustain key ecological processes, including **fish migration, nutrient exchange, and seasonal habitat use by migratory species**. As a result, disturbances such as sedimentation or reduced freshwater inflows generate cascading impacts across the entire system, making integrated management essential [\[16\]](#)¹⁶.

21. The delta also functions as a critical interface between marine and terrestrial ecosystems, supporting both biodiversity and livelihoods. Lagoon habitats serve as nursery and feeding grounds for commercially important fish species, while surrounding wetlands and dunes provide essential habitats for migratory birds and other species. This **interdependence between ecological integrity and economic activity makes the system particularly sensitive to degradation** but also highly relevant for integrated conservation and sustainable use approaches.

22. In addition, the Çukurova Delta provides **key ecosystem services**, including water purification, flood regulation, and carbon sequestration, which are increasingly important under changing climatic conditions. At the same time, it is subject to intense and overlapping pressures from agriculture, fisheries, settlement expansion, and infrastructure development, making it representative of broader challenges affecting coastal wetlands globally.

23. The presence of **existing institutional frameworks**, including protected area designations and fisheries governance structures, provides a strong foundation for implementing and testing integrated management approaches. This creates **significant potential for replication** of project interventions in similar lagoon systems across Türkiye and the Mediterranean region.

A.4 Baseline scenario: future without the project

24. The baseline scenario in the Çukurova Delta reflects ongoing national efforts to manage lagoon ecosystems, fisheries, and protected areas, primarily led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry through **existing regulatory frameworks and conservation measures**. While these efforts provide a foundation for biodiversity conservation, they **remain fragmented and largely sectoral**, limiting their effectiveness in addressing the multiple and interconnected pressures affecting the lagoon systems.

25. Under this scenario, **key drivers of degradation—including sedimentation, nutrient loading, hydrological alteration, and unsustainable fishing practices—are expected to continue**. Sediment accumulation from upstream agricultural activities will progressively reduce lagoon depth and disrupt water circulation, while nutrient runoff will continue to degrade water quality and contribute to eutrophication. At the same time, reduced freshwater inflows and weak water management coordination will further alter salinity regimes and ecological conditions necessary for species survival and reproduction.

26. **Unsustainable fishing practices**, combined with limited enforcement capacity, will continue to drive the decline of fish stocks, affecting both biodiversity and local livelihoods. Governance challenges will persist due to **overlapping institutional mandates and insufficient coordination across sectors**, while existing management plans remain only partially implemented. In parallel, limited monitoring systems and lack of reliable ecological data will constrain adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making.

27. At the community level, **low awareness and limited capacity to adopt sustainable practices**—particularly among fishers and farmers—will further contribute to environmental degradation, while gender inequalities will continue to restrict inclusive participation in resource management. These pressures will be exacerbated by climate change, with increasing temperatures, reduced freshwater inflows, and sea-level rise intensifying ecosystem stress.

28. Overall, without the project, the Çukurova Delta is expected to follow a trajectory of continued ecosystem degradation, declining biodiversity, and increasing vulnerability of local communities, with limited capacity to reverse these trends under the current baseline.

A.5 Project intervention scenario: shifting the system trajectory

29. The project intervention scenario will shift the current trajectory of degradation in the Çukurova Delta by **addressing both the governance and ecological drivers** affecting lagoon systems through an integrated, ecosystem-based management approach. Building on existing institutional frameworks, the project will introduce targeted and coordinated interventions that restore ecosystem functionality, strengthen management capacity, and promote sustainable use of natural resources.

30. The project **builds on existing protected area and regulatory frameworks** governing Akyatan and Yumurtalık lagoons, which are designated as Ramsar sites and subject to national legislation and management by the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture. While these frameworks provide a strong legal basis for biodiversity conservation, they are not supported by fully operational, integrated lagoon management plans, and their implementation is constrained by fragmented institutional mandates and limited enforcement capacity.

31. The project will address these gaps by developing and operationalizing integrated lagoon management plans for Akyatan and Yumurtalık, **aligned with existing protected area frameworks and fisheries regulations [17]**. These plans will introduce ecosystem-based zoning, including fishing regulation measures and spatial planning informed by ecological data, and will strengthen coordination across institutions. In doing

so, the project moves from sectoral management toward an integrated landscape management approach that links protected areas, lagoon ecosystems, and surrounding production systems, thereby improving overall management effectiveness and ecological connectivity across the delta system.

32. At the governance level, the project will **strengthen coordination among institutions responsible for fisheries, agriculture, and protected area management**, addressing existing fragmentation and improving the implementation of lagoon management plans. The project will support the development and operationalization of **integrated fisheries management plans** aligned with national regulations and protected area frameworks, including the establishment of zoning systems such as no-fishing zones and seasonal closures. In addition to sustainable **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)** in the vicinity of parks. These measures will promote ecosystem-based fisheries management and enhance enforcement capacity [\[18\]](#)¹⁷.

33. At the ecological level, the project will directly address **sedimentation, hydrological disruption, and habitat degradation through restoration interventions** in lagoon systems. These include sediment removal in degraded lagoon areas using channels of approximately 2 km in length, 2 meters in width, and 1.5 meters in depth, as well as the rehabilitation of canals and inlets to restore water circulation and connectivity between marine and freshwater systems. Restored sediment will be reused to create habitat islands that support bird nesting and endemic species. In parallel, **wetland habitats will be rehabilitated** through the re-establishment of natural hydrological regimes and planting of native vegetation, contributing to improved water quality, reduced nutrient loads, and enhanced biodiversity [\[19\]](#)¹⁸.

34. The project will also establish **improved ecological monitoring systems** to generate reliable data on water quality, biodiversity, and hydrological dynamics, enabling adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making. Strengthening institutional and technical capacity will ensure that monitoring results are effectively integrated into management processes.

35. **At the community level, the project will enhance the capacity of fishers, farmers, and local stakeholders to adopt sustainable practices** [\[20\]](#)¹⁹, including ecosystem-based fisheries management and improved agricultural practices that reduce nutrient runoff and sedimentation. Gender-responsive approaches will promote the inclusion of women in training, value chains, and decision-making processes, supporting more equitable and effective resource management.

A.6 Key barriers and enablers

Barrier 1: Ineffective and fragmented governance for lagoon ecosystem management

36. A key barrier to sustainable management of the Çukurova Delta lagoons is the fragmentation of institutional responsibilities across multiple sectors and authorities. The management of fisheries, agriculture, water resources, and protected areas is divided among different entities, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and local government bodies. While each institution operates within its mandate, coordination mechanisms remain limited, resulting in overlapping responsibilities, inconsistencies in implementation, and gaps in enforcement. This fragmentation weakens the operationalization of existing management plans and reduces the effectiveness of conservation measures on the ground. In particular, regulations related to fisheries

and land use are not consistently aligned with biodiversity conservation objectives, and enforcement capacity remains insufficient to prevent unsustainable practices.

Barrier 2: Unsustainable fisheries practices and limited stakeholder engagement

37. The sustainability of lagoon ecosystems is further constrained by weak fisheries governance and limited engagement of local stakeholders in resource management. Existing regulatory frameworks are not sufficiently enforced, allowing unsustainable fishing practices, including the widespread use of fixed traps and nets, to continue. These practices contribute to the depletion of fish stocks, reduction in fish size, and disruption of ecological balance within the lagoons. At the same time, local communities—particularly fishers—have limited access to knowledge, training, and institutional support required to transition toward sustainable practices. Awareness of ecosystem-based fisheries management remains low, and opportunities for participatory management are limited. Women, who are active in post-harvest activities such as processing and marketing, are largely excluded from decision-making processes and have restricted access to financial resources and capacity development opportunities. This reduces the overall effectiveness of resource management and limits the adoption of sustainable practices across the value chain.

Barrier 3: Limited monitoring, data availability, and adaptive management capacity

38. Effective management of lagoon ecosystems is constrained by insufficient monitoring systems and limited technical capacity for data collection and analysis. Current approaches do not provide systematic or real-time information on key ecological parameters such as water quality, biodiversity status, and hydrological dynamics. As a result, institutions lack the evidence base needed to assess ecosystem health, track changes over time, and respond to emerging threats. The absence of robust monitoring frameworks also limits the ability to implement adaptive management approaches. Management decisions are often reactive rather than informed by continuous feedback, and there is limited integration of scientific data into planning and policy processes. In addition, the lack of gender-disaggregated data further constrains the ability to design inclusive and targeted interventions that reflect the roles and needs of different stakeholder groups.

Enablers

39. Despite these challenges, the Çukurova Delta presents a number of enabling conditions that support the implementation of integrated and sustainable lagoon management. The presence of internationally recognized protected areas, including Ramsar-designated sites and Key Biodiversity Areas, **provides a strong policy and conservation framework** that can be further strengthened through improved implementation and coordination. Existing institutional mandates within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks offer a solid foundation for governance, while ongoing national policies related to biodiversity conservation, fisheries management, and climate change adaptation create a supportive policy environment.

40. In addition, the presence of **active fishery cooperatives and umbrella organizations such as SURKOOP facilitates engagement with local stakeholders** and provides an entry point for promoting sustainable practices and strengthening community-based management. Scientific and technical expertise from national research institutions, including universities and specialized fisheries research centers, offers valuable support for evidence-based decision-making and monitoring.

A.7 Stakeholders and roles in delivering Global Environmental Benefits

41. The project engages a wide range of stakeholders across sectors. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture provides strategic leadership, while the General

Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks ensures alignment with protected area management. Research institutions such as Çukurova University and the Mediterranean Fisheries Research Institute provide scientific support. Fishery cooperatives and **Central Union of Fisheries Cooperatives (SURKOOP)** facilitate adoption of sustainable practices among local fishers. Private sector actors and farmer associations support value chain improvements and sustainable production. Local communities play a central role in implementing sustainable practices, while gender-responsive approaches ensure women's participation and equitable benefit sharing. Their roles are detailed in Annex J of the Agency's Project Document.

A.8 Alignment with national priorities and the investment landscape

42. The project aligns with Türkiye's National Biodiversity Action Plan (2018–2028) [21]²⁰, supporting goals related to reducing pressures on biodiversity and promoting ecosystem restoration. It also contributes to the Climate Change and Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2030)[22]²¹, particularly in enhancing carbon sequestration and ecosystem resilience.

43. The project is consistent with national legislation, including Fisheries Law No. 1380 and Environmental Law No. 2872, and supports international commitments under the Ramsar, Bern, and Barcelona Conventions.

44. By integrating restoration, governance strengthening, and sustainable production, the project complements existing investments and provides a scalable model for integrated lagoon management in Türkiye. Further details of this alignment are provided under Part C.

[1] Ramsar Convention Secretariat, 2016. The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016–2024. Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands, 5th edition, vol. 2. Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland.

[2] Stefano Cataudella, Donatella Crosetti, Fabio Massa, Studies and Reviews. General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. No. 95. Rome, FAO 2015.

[3] Altınözlü, H. (2004). Flora of the natural conservation area in Adana-Yumurtalık Lagoon (Turkey). Turkish Journal of Botany 28: 491-506

[4] UNEP-WDMC (2026). Protected Area Profile for Türkiye from the World Database on Protected Areas, April 2026. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net

[5] Kasperek, M., & Kinzelbach, R. (1991). Distribution and bionomics of the Nile soft-shelled turtle, *Trionyx tringuis*, in the Eastern Mediterranean. Zeitschrift für Angewandte Zoologie, 78, 139–159.

[6] Bayrak, M (2020) Çukurova Delta: Land Use and Human Environment Relationship, PhD thesis, Istanbul University.

[7] Turan, C., Salıhoğlu, B., Özgür Özbek, E., Öztürk, B. (Eds.) (2016). The Turkish Part of the Mediterranean Sea; Marine Biodiversity, Fisheries, Conservation and Governance. Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), Publication No: 43, Istanbul, TURKEY.

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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

45. The project is designed to address the interconnected drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in the Çukurova Delta by transforming the way lagoon ecosystems are governed, restored, and used through an integrated landscape management approach. The theory of change is based on the premise that restoring ecological functionality, strengthening governance systems, and enabling sustainable production practices—supported by knowledge generation and inclusive participation—will collectively shift the system from a trajectory of degradation to one of resilience and sustainability.

46. At the core of the **project logic is the recognition that current environmental degradation is driven not only by biophysical factors such as sedimentation, hydrological disruption, and habitat loss, but also by institutional fragmentation, insufficient enforcement of regulations, limited stakeholder engagement, and lack of data for adaptive management.** Addressing these drivers requires a coordinated set of interventions that operate simultaneously at policy, ecosystem, governance, and community levels within an integrated land-sea landscape system (Figure 1) ensuring that key drivers of biodiversity loss across sectors and ecosystems are addressed in a coordinated manner. Detailed activities for each component are presented below.

47. The project therefore begins by strengthening the enabling environment for integrated landscape and lagoon management. Through **Component 1, policy and regulatory frameworks** are not only harmonized but also revised and operationalized to reflect ecosystem-based and integrated landscape management principles and biodiversity conservation objectives, with a specific focus on addressing key drivers of degradation across lagoon, marine, and surrounding terrestrial systems. This includes conducting a comprehensive gap analysis of fisheries, protected area, and water management frameworks across the Tuzla, Akyatan, Akyayan, and Yumurtalik lagoons, and developing amendments to key regulatory instruments such as the Notification on the Regulation of Commercial Fishing No. 6/1. These amendments introduce updated definitions of fishing prohibition zones, spatial delineation based on ecological data, and clear enforcement provisions. The analysis is extended to agricultural policies and land-use planning instruments affecting the lagoon catchments, in order to identify gaps related to nutrient runoff, sedimentation, and unsustainable land-use practices. By embedding biodiversity conservation, agricultural production system, sustainable fisheries management, and gender-responsive considerations into legal and policy frameworks, the project establishes the institutional conditions necessary for effective and coordinated action. The component also supports the integration of biodiversity considerations into spatial planning and sectoral policies, including agriculture, ensuring that land and resource use in surrounding landscapes is aligned with lagoon conservation objectives and prevents the emergence of new degradation pressures.

48. This strengthened policy foundation is complemented by **targeted capacity development under Outcome 1.2**, which ensures that national and sub-national authorities are able to implement and enforce these frameworks. Through structured training programs combining classroom instruction, scenario-based exercises, and field visits to lagoon sites, technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and Provincial Directorates acquire the skills required to apply ecosystem-based and integrated landscape management approaches, enforce regulations, and integrate ecological data into planning processes. The assumption underlying this pathway is that improved policy frameworks alone are insufficient without the institutional capacity to operationalize them; therefore, strengthening both policy and implementation capacity creates a coherent enabling environment for sustainable lagoon management.

49. Building on this enabling environment, the project addresses the biophysical drivers of degradation within the integrated landscape system through **targeted ecosystem restoration and monitoring interventions under Component 2**. A table of all intervention areas is provided below (Table 1) and the maps and coordinates are provided in Annex H. In Akyatan and Akyayan lagoons, restoration activities focus on three interrelated

intervention areas: **rehabilitation of canals and inlets (50 hectares in each lagoon), restoration of wetland habitats (50 hectares in Akyatan), and sediment removal (50 hectares of water area in Akyatan).** These interventions are designed to restore hydrological connectivity, improve water circulation and oxygenation, and enhance habitat conditions for waterbirds, fish species, and other lagoon-dependent biodiversity. The reuse of dredged sediment to create habitat islands further contributes to biodiversity enhancement. The causal pathway underpinning these interventions is that restoring physical and ecological processes within lagoon systems will directly improve ecosystem functionality and resilience, which in turn supports biodiversity recovery and ecosystem service provision.

50. A critical complement to restoration is the establishment of a **science-based ecological monitoring system under Output 2.1.2.** By developing standardized monitoring protocols, installing real-time monitoring equipment, and conducting fish stock assessments, the project generates continuous data on water quality, biodiversity, and hydrological dynamics across lagoon and connected marine areas (approximately 1,700 hectares). This **data is integrated into landscape-level management processes, enabling adaptive decision-making,** including the revision of fishing prohibition zones and adjustment of lagoon management practices. The underlying assumption is that sustained ecosystem recovery depends on the availability and use of reliable data to guide management decisions and respond to changing conditions, including climate variability.

51. While restoration addresses ecological degradation, the **project simultaneously tackles governance and production-related drivers through integrated landscape management interventions under Outcome 2.2.** Lagoon management plans are developed and operationalized in at least two pilot lagoons (Akyatan and Yumurtalık), incorporating ecological parameters such as spawning areas, migratory routes, salinity dynamics, and climate-related risks. These plans **introduce zoning systems—including no-fishing zones and seasonal closures**—and align with existing protected area frameworks and national policies. Their implementation is supported by participatory processes involving fishery cooperatives, local communities, and women stakeholders, ensuring that management measures are socially acceptable and locally owned.

52. To ensure that these plans are effectively implemented, the project establishes **multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms, including lagoon-specific committees in Akyatan and Yumurtalık.** These committees function as coordination platforms bringing together government institutions, cooperatives, private sector actors, and community representatives, with clearly defined mandates and decision-making processes. By strengthening coordination and fostering inclusive participation, these mechanisms address institutional fragmentation and create the conditions for sustained governance improvements. A key assumption is that effective governance requires not only formal rules but also platforms for coordination, dialogue, and joint decision-making.

53. At the same time, the project **reduces land-based pressures on lagoon ecosystems through the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices in surrounding landscapes, particularly in Akyatan.** Through the establishment of targeted interventions in surrounding agricultural landscapes, including Good Agricultural Practices on approximately 50 hectares, supported by Farmer Field Schools, the project reduces nutrient runoff, sediment transport, and diffuse pollution. These interventions demonstrate that integrating biodiversity considerations into production landscapes can generate both environmental and livelihood benefits, reinforcing the sustainability of the broader landscape.

54. The project further strengthens the **sustainability of lagoon ecosystems by promoting improved fisheries management practices,** including ecosystem-based approaches, value chain improvements, and capacity development for fishers and cooperatives. By linking conservation measures with economic incentives—such as improved processing, marketing, and access to sustainable value chains—the project enhances the viability of sustainable practices and reduces reliance on unsustainable exploitation.

55. **Component 3 ensures that these technical and governance interventions are supported by knowledge, awareness, and behavioral change.** Through targeted capacity-building programmes, community awareness activities, and engagement with private sector actors, the project fosters a shared understanding of the linkages between biodiversity conservation and livelihoods. **Partnerships** with research institutions and the development of a structured knowledge management and communication strategy ensure that knowledge generated by the project is captured, disseminated, and used to **inform both local practices and national policy processes**. The integration of gender-responsive approaches across these activities ensures that women are not only beneficiaries but active participants in decision-making and implementation.

56. Component 4 underpins the entire theory of change by establishing a **robust monitoring and evaluation system** that tracks progress, supports adaptive management, and ensures accountability. By integrating gender and social inclusion indicators and aligning with GEF reporting requirements, the M&E framework enables continuous learning and adjustment, enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of project interventions.

57. The combined effect of these interventions is expected to generate significant global environmental benefits, including the restoration of degraded wetland ecosystems, improved management of approximately **34,600 hectares of lagoon and marine protected areas**, enhanced biodiversity conservation, and strengthened resilience of ecosystems and communities to climate change. These benefits would not be achieved under the baseline scenario, as existing efforts lack the integration, scale, and capacity provided by the project. The detailed list of activities and their corresponding Core Indicators is provided below (Table 1).

58. The **theory of change assumes that sustained political commitment, institutional cooperation, and stakeholder engagement will be maintained** throughout implementation. It also assumes that ecological restoration interventions will produce measurable improvements in ecosystem conditions and that **monitoring data will be effectively used to inform management decisions**. Risks such as climate variability, institutional turnover, and resistance to regulatory changes are mitigated through adaptive management, capacity building, and inclusive governance mechanisms.

59. By addressing policy, ecological, governance, and behavioral dimensions in an integrated manner, the project establishes a **pathway toward long-term sustainability**. The approaches developed—particularly in ecosystem restoration, adaptive management, and multi-stakeholder governance—are designed to be replicable and scalable, providing a model for integrated landscape management of coastal lagoon systems in Türkiye and similar coastal systems globally.

Table 1: Summary of Project Interventions in Lagoon Protected Areas and Corresponding Core Indicators

Lagoon	Protected Area Status [23] ²² and site ID	Interventions outside PA	Interventions within PA (Marine)	GEF Core Indicators	Core Indicators-related Outputs
Tuzla	Not protected area	Yes	No intervention	CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (15 people)	1.2.1 Institutional and technical capacity building
				CI already calculated within Output 2.2.1 (Lagoon Management Plans)	2.1.2 Ecological monitoring of Cukurova Delta coastline
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (20 people)	3.1.1 Capacity and awareness raised
Akyatan	Marine Protected Area	Yes	Yes	CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (15 people)	1.2.1 Institutional and technical capacity building

Lagoon	Protected Area Status [23] ²² and site ID	Interventions outside PA	Interventions within PA (Marine)	GEF Core Indicators	Core Indicators-related Outputs
	(166755) Ramsar site			CI2.2 Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (50 ha)	2.1.1 Canal/inlet rehabilitation (water flow restoration; 50 ha)
				CI2.2 Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (50 ha)	2.1.1 Wetland habitat restoration (50 ha)
				CI already calculated within Output 2.2.1 (Lagoon Management Plans)	2.1.2 Ecological monitoring of Cukurova Delta coastline
				CI 2.2 Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (14,700 ha)	2.2.1: Lagoon management plan (zoning, biodiversity integration)
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (75 people)	2.2.1 Targeted capacity building in lagoon management plan
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (750 people)	2.2.2 Multi-stakeholder Governance Committee
				CI 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (50 ha)	2.2.3 Good Agricultural Practices GAP (50ha) in surrounding landscapes
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (20 people)	2.2.3 Farmers Field School
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (60 people)	3.1.1 Capacity and awareness raised
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (50 people)	3.2.2 Project dissemination
Akyayan	Not protected area	Yes	No intervention	CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (15 people)	1.2.1 Institutional and technical capacity building
				CI3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) under restoration (50 ha)	2.1.1 Canal/inlet rehabilitation (water flow restoration)
				CI3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) under restoration (50 ha)	2.1.1 Sediment removal (50 ha)
				CI already calculated within Output 2.2.1 (Lagoon Management Plans)	2.1.2 Ecological monitoring of Cukurova Delta coastline
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (20 people)	3.1.1 Capacity and awareness raised
Yumurtalik	Marine Protected Area (109098) Ramsar site	No intervention	Yes	CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (15 people)	1.2.1 Institutional and technical capacity building
				CI already calculated within Output 2.2.1 (Lagoon Management Plans)	2.1.2 Ecological monitoring of Cukurova Delta coastline
				CI 2.2 Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness (19,853 ha)	2.2.1: Lagoon management plan (zoning, biodiversity integration)
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (75 people)	2.2.1 Targeted capacity building in lagoon management plan
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (750 people)	2.2.2 Multi-stakeholder Governance Committee
				CI 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (35 people)	3.1.1 Capacity and awareness raised

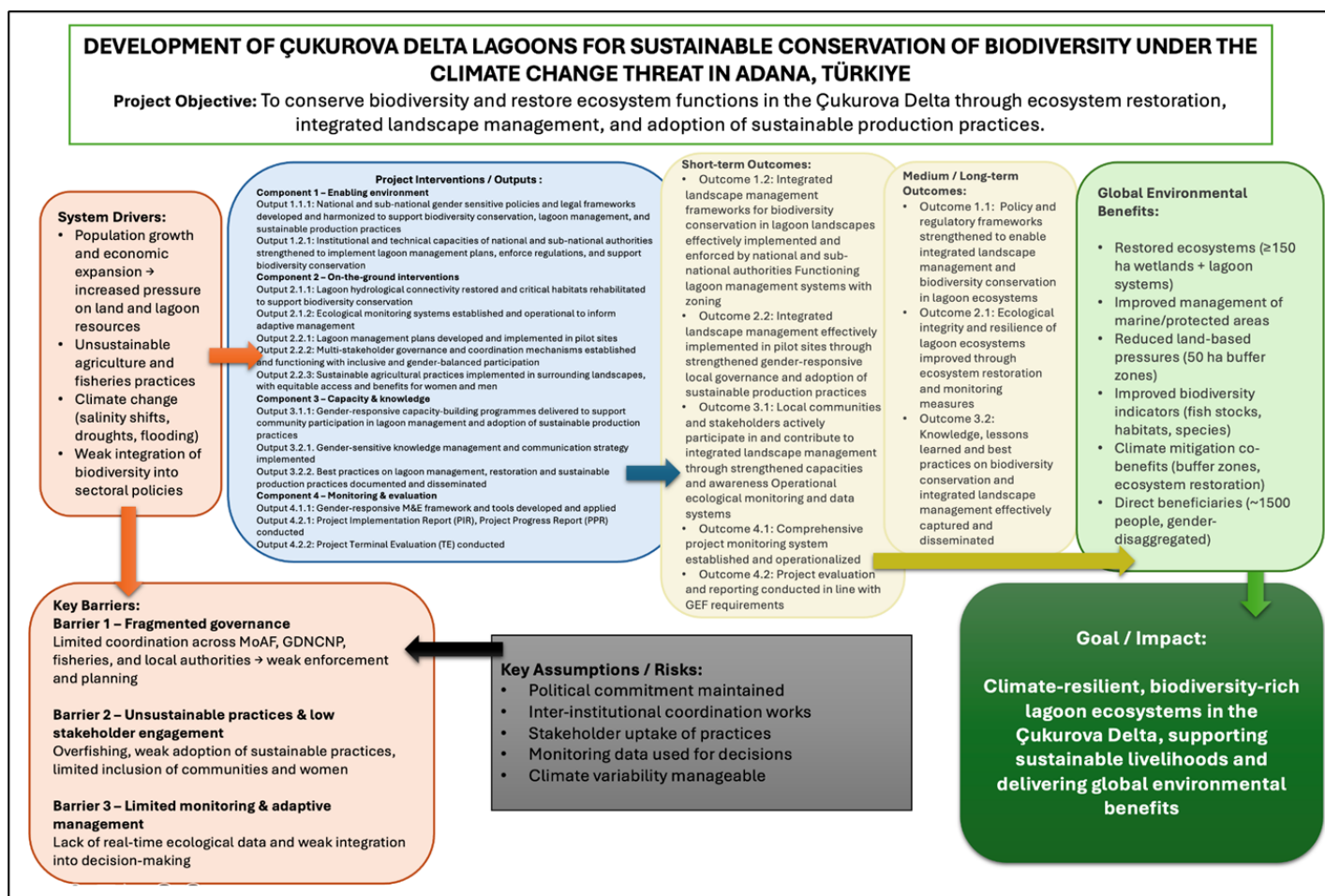


Figure 1: Theory of Change

Component 1. Enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management in Çukurova Delta

Outcome 1.1: Policy and regulatory frameworks strengthened to enable integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation in lagoon ecosystems

60. This outcome will strengthen the enabling environment by not only harmonizing existing policies but also supporting the development, revision, and operationalization of policy, legal, and regulatory instruments required for effective lagoon ecosystem management within an integrated landscape management approach. It will address key drivers of degradation—including unsustainable agricultural practices, nutrient runoff, sedimentation, hydrological disruption, and overfishing—by improving policy coherence across fisheries, protected areas, water, and agricultural sectors, and by strengthening spatial planning and regulatory frameworks at landscape and seascape level. The work will be led by the OPIM Partner **Central Union of Fisheries Cooperatives (SURKOOP)**, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF), the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks.

Output 1.1.1: National and sub-national gender sensitive policies and legal frameworks developed and harmonized to support biodiversity conservation, lagoon management, and sustainable production practices

61. This output will go beyond harmonization to include the **review, revision, and development of policy and regulatory instruments** necessary to support integrated lagoon management. It will ensure that biodiversity conservation objectives and sustainable production practices are embedded in national and sub-national frameworks. This will be achieved through the following activities:

- Conduct a **comprehensive and gender sensitive gap analysis** of existing fisheries legislation, protected area regulations, and water management frameworks relevant to the Çukurova Delta lagoons (Tuzla, Akyatan, Akyayan, and Yumurtalık), to identify gaps and weaknesses affecting sustainable lagoon fishery management.
- Extend the gap analysis to include agricultural policies, land-use planning instruments, and their impacts on lagoon ecosystems (e.g. nutrient runoff, sedimentation), identifying opportunities to better integrate biodiversity considerations into terrestrial planning frameworks.
- Develop policy recommendations and regulatory guidance to promote sustainable agricultural practices in surrounding landscapes, including alignment with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), reduction of nutrient inputs, and soil and water conservation measures contributing to reduced pressures on lagoon ecosystems.
- Support the integration of land–sea planning approaches into lagoon management, including spatial planning tools that link upstream agricultural areas, lagoon systems, and coastal zones, ensuring coordinated management of ecological processes and pressures across the landscape.
- **Integrate gender-responsive considerations** into policy development and revision processes.
- Review existing fishing prohibition areas and associated regulatory frameworks, using updated ecological data (from Output 2.1.2) and monitoring findings to assess their adequacy and effectiveness.
- Develop a **draft amendment to the Notification on the Regulation of Commercial Fishing No. 6/1**, including:
 - updated definitions of fishing prohibition zones across Tuzla, Akyatan, Akyayan, and Yumurtalık lagoons
 - revised spatial delineation of restricted areas based on ecological data
 - clear rules and guidelines for fishers
 - defined penalties and enforcement provisions for non-compliance
- Prepare **detailed maps** of revised fishing prohibition areas to support enforcement and compliance.
- Engage a **Legal Expert** to draft and formalize the regulatory amendment for submission to the **General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture**.
- Facilitate technical consultations and validation workshops with:
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF)
 - General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture
 - General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
 to review and refine proposed regulatory amendments.
- Support coordination with enforcement authorities to operationalize revised fishing regulations, including roles and responsibilities at national and regional levels.
- Develop policy recommendations and legal provisions to strengthen governance of lagoon ecosystems, including integration with protected area management frameworks, agricultural practices, and land–sea spatial planning approaches.
- Support the development of **fisheries management plans for at least two lagoons**, including:
 - identification of spawning areas and migratory routes
 - assessment of salinity changes, drought exposure, and flooding patterns
 - designation of no-fishing zones, seasonal closure areas, and sustainable fishing zones
 - establishment of buffer zones around sensitive habitats

- alignment with existing protected area status and regulatory frameworks
- Develop a **Strategic Environmental Action Plan** for the Çukurova Delta lagoons, including:
 - measurable biodiversity conservation targets
 - monitoring indicators and reporting frameworks
 - enforcement provisions
 - long-term financing mechanisms for sustainability beyond the project
- Support MoAF in establishing **local lagoon management bodies**, with:
 - clearly defined mandates and decision-making authority
 - cross-sector coordination mechanisms
 - roles aligned with national policy and regulatory frameworks

Outcome 1.2: Integrated landscape management frameworks for biodiversity conservation in lagoon landscapes effectively implemented and enforced by national and sub-national authorities

62. This outcome aims to ensure that strengthened policies are effectively implemented through improved institutional capacity, coordination, and enforcement. It focuses on enhancing the technical skills and operational capacities of national and sub-national authorities responsible for lagoon management within an integrated landscape management framework, including the implementation of spatial planning measures and cross-sectoral coordination to address drivers of degradation at landscape level. Activities will be implemented primarily by SURKOOP, in coordination with MoAF, the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry.

Output 1.2.1: Institutional and technical capacities of national and sub-national authorities strengthened to implement lagoon management plans, enforce regulations, and support biodiversity conservation

63. This output will strengthen institutional capacities to implement, enforce, and operationalize both existing and newly developed policy and regulatory instruments. It will also support the introduction of **new governance and management frameworks** for lagoon systems. This will be achieved through the following activities:

- Conduct gender sensitive institutional capacity gap assessments.
- Develop and deliver **three in-person training programmes (approximately 20 participants per training)** targeting staff from MoAF, Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry, and relevant enforcement and management authorities, covering:
 - **Enforcement of regulations**, including:
 - interpretation and application of revised legal and regulatory frameworks
 - compliance monitoring procedures
 - enforcement protocols and penalty application
 - coordination between enforcement agencies
 - **Integrated landscape management and land–sea planning approaches**, including:
 - coordination between agriculture, fisheries, and protected area management
 - management of land-based pressures (e.g. nutrient runoff, sedimentation)
 - application of spatial planning tools across lagoon and surrounding landscapes
 - **Lagoon management planning**, including:
 - development and implementation of lagoon management plans
 - zoning approaches (no-fishing zones, buffer zones, seasonal closures)

- integration with protected area management frameworks
- use of ecological and monitoring data in planning
- **Ecosystem-based management approaches**, including:
 - principles of ecosystem-based management in lagoon systems
 - integration of biodiversity conservation into sectoral planning
 - climate and hydrological considerations in lagoon management
 - adaptive management approaches
- Each training programme will be delivered through a combination of:
 - **in-person classroom sessions** (presentations, technical modules, case studies)
 - **facilitated group work and scenario-based exercises**
 - **field visits to selected lagoon sites (e.g. Akyatan, Akyayan, Yumurtalık, or Tuzla)** to demonstrate practical application of concepts
 - **hands-on exercises**, including interpretation of maps, zoning plans, and monitoring data
- Training materials will be developed in advance (guidelines, manuals, case studies), and participants will receive supporting documentation to facilitate application of knowledge in their respective institutions.
- Pre- and post-training assessments will be conducted to evaluate knowledge uptake and identify further capacity-building needs.

Component 2. Addressing biodiversity conservation through sustainable practices and restoration of Çukurova Delta ecosystems

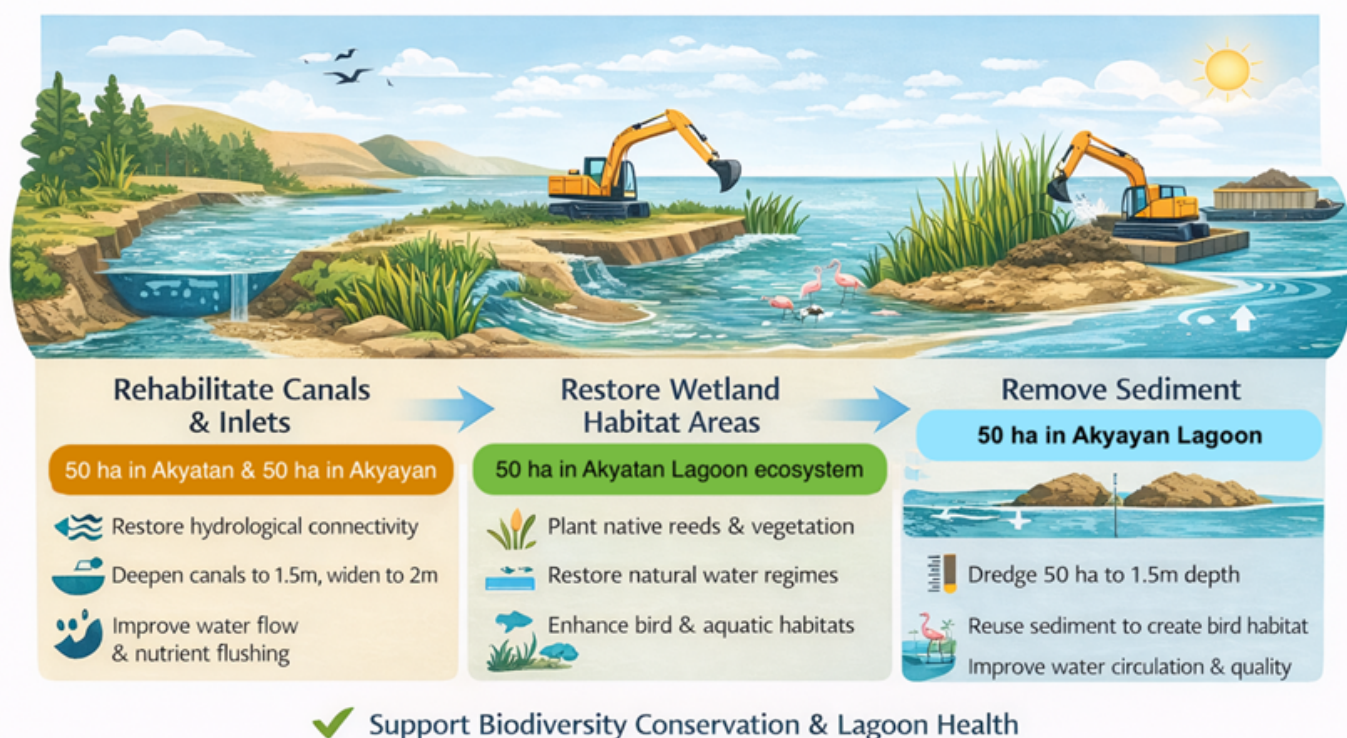
Outcome 2.1: Ecological integrity and resilience of lagoon ecosystems improved through targeted ecosystem restoration and monitoring measures

64. This outcome focuses on restoring ecological integrity and strengthening the resilience of lagoon ecosystems through targeted, **site-specific restoration interventions** implemented within an integrated landscape management framework. These interventions **address key biophysical drivers of degradation**—such as sedimentation, hydrological disruption, and reduced connectivity—while **complementing upstream policy and land-use planning measures under Component 1**. Activities will be implemented in the **Akyatan and Akyayan lagoons**, structured around three main intervention areas: (i) rehabilitation of canals and inlets in both lagoons (50 ha each), (ii) restoration of wetland habitat areas in Akyatan Lagoon (50 ha), and (iii) sediment removal in Akyayan lagoon (50 ha of water area). These interventions will re-establish natural hydrological regimes, improve water circulation and oxygenation, and enhance habitat conditions for waterbirds, lagoon-dependent fish species, and dune flora. In parallel, a monitoring system will be established to generate real-time ecological data and support adaptive management, including improved management of lagoon ecosystems and connected marine and fishery-restricted areas (approximately 1700 hectares). Execution will be led by SURKOOP, in coordination with MoAF, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and technical support from Çukurova University, Mediterranean Fisheries Research, Production and Training Institute (AKSAM) and the Mediterranean Fisheries Research Institute (MEDFRI).

Output 2.1.1: Lagoon hydrological connectivity restored and critical habitats rehabilitated to support biodiversity conservation

65. This output will implement ecosystem-based restoration interventions tailored to the ecological conditions of Akyatan and Akyayan lagoons, contributing to integrated landscape management by restoring ecological processes that link lagoon, marine, and surrounding terrestrial systems. This is structured around **three main**

intervention areas: (i) rehabilitation of canals and inlets, (ii) restoration of wetland habitat areas, and (iii) sediment removal. These interventions will re-establish natural hydrological regimes, reduce water temperature, improve oxygenation, and enhance ecological connectivity. Annex H of the Agency's Project Document presents maps of the lagoon ecosystem areas (inland, inlet, and canal zones) where interventions will take place. The exact locations of interventions will be determined during project execution, based on ecological data collected by the project (Output 2.1.2).



66. This will be achieved through the following activities:

i) Rehabilitation of canals and inlets (Akyatan and Akyayan lagoons – 50 ha each)

- Identify and prioritize canal and inlet rehabilitation sites based on ecological sensitivity, biodiversity value, and hydrological function in Akyatan and Akyayan lagoons.
- Rehabilitate key canals and inlets connecting lagoons to marine and freshwater systems in both lagoon areas (minimum **50 hectares per lagoon**), including:
 - re-profiling to at least 2 meters width
 - deepening to 1.5 meters
- Rehabilitate drainage channels and surrounding canal systems (particularly in Akyayan Lagoon) to improve water flow and reduce sediment accumulation.
- Restore hydrological connectivity to support:
 - fish migration
 - nutrient flushing
 - temperature regulation

ii) Restoration of wetland habitat areas (Akyatan lagoon – 50 ha)

- Identify and prioritize wetland restoration areas around Akyatan Lagoon based on ecological sensitivity and habitat degradation levels. Major area already delimited in the maps in the Annex.
- Restore **50 hectares of wetland habitat areas** (marshes, reedbeds, and lagoon–dune transition zones) in Akyatan Lagoon, including:
 - re-establishment of natural hydrological regimes
 - habitat restoration for waterbirds and aquatic species
- Plant native vegetation (including reeds) in restored areas to:
 - filter pollutants
 - improve water quality
 - enhance biodiversity

iii) Sediment removal (Akyayan Lagoon – total 50 ha water area)

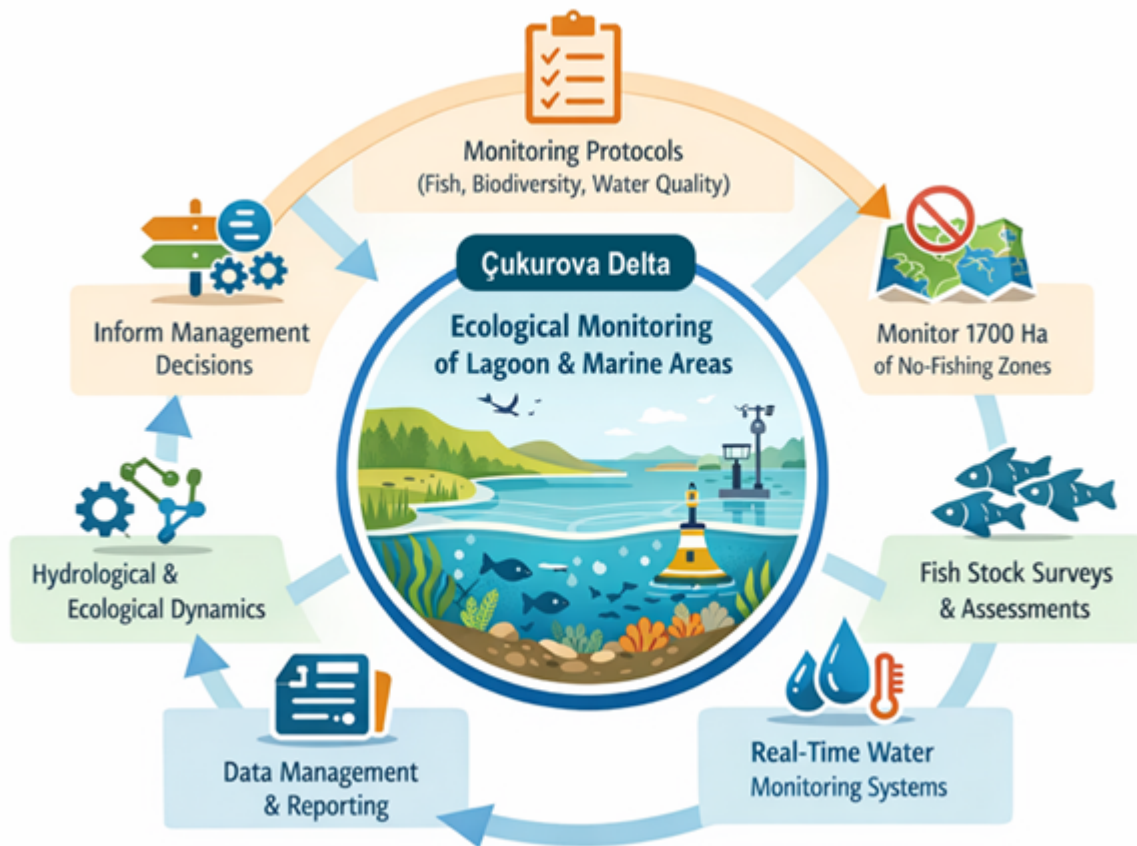
- Identify priority sediment removal sites in both lagoons based on sediment accumulation and ecological impact.
- Conduct sediment removal in **50 hectares of degraded lagoon water areas**, targeting:
 - depth of 1.5 meters
 - width of 2 meters in critical areas
 - length of 2 kilometers
- Reuse dredged sediment to create bird nesting and resting habitats, including for flamingos.

Cross-cutting activities

- Conduct environmental impact assessments and baseline ecological studies prior to interventions.
- Monitor ecological indicators including:
 - water quality
 - species recovery
 - habitat stability

Output 2.1.2: Ecological monitoring systems established and operational to inform adaptive management

67. This output will establish a **science-based ecological monitoring system** to support adaptive management of lagoon ecosystems and associated marine areas. The system will generate continuous, real-time data on ecological conditions, strengthening scientific understanding of lagoon dynamics and informing management decisions related to restoration, fisheries regulation, and conservation zoning. Monitoring will cover both lagoon ecosystems and **connected marine and fishery-restricted areas (approximately 1700 hectares distributed around the inlets of the Tuzla, Akyatan, and Akyayan lagoons).**



68. This will be achieved through the following activities:

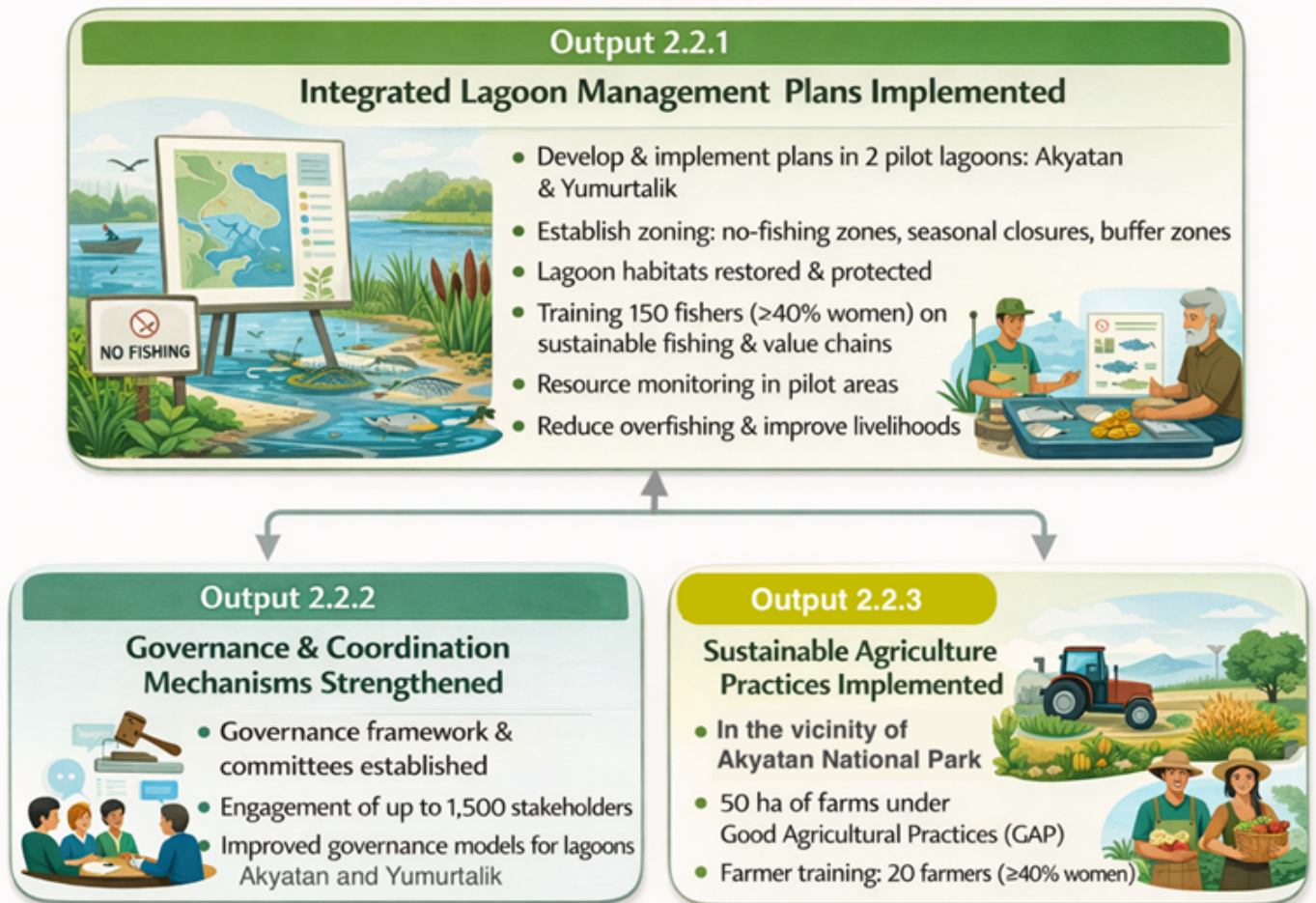
- Develop and operationalize **standardized monitoring protocols** for:
 - fish stock assessment
 - biodiversity sampling
 - water quality monitoring
 - hydrological and climate-related indicators
 - data recording, validation, and reporting
- Establish a monitoring system covering **lagoon ecosystems and connected marine areas (including up to 1700 hectares of fishing prohibition zones)** to support conservation and sustainable fisheries management.
- Install **real-time and *in situ* monitoring systems**, including portable water monitoring kits in selected lagoon locations, to collect data on:
 - water temperature
 - water levels
 - salinity and chemical composition
 - other key ecological parameters
- Conduct **at least six fish stock assessment surveys** to generate data on:
 - fish populations
 - species composition
 - movement patterns
 - overall ecosystem health
- Monitor **hydrological dynamics and ecological processes**, including:
 - water exchange between lagoon and marine systems

- salinity fluctuations
- habitat condition and changes
- Generate ecological data to inform **management decisions**, including:
 - revision and optimization of fishing prohibition areas
 - adjustment of lagoon opening/closing regimes (e.g. Dalian systems)
 - refinement of restoration and conservation measures
- Establish **data management and reporting systems** to ensure that monitoring results are systematically analyzed and made available for decision-making.
- Integrate monitoring results into **adaptive management processes**, ensuring that ecological data continuously informs lagoon management, fisheries regulation, and conservation planning.

Outcome 2.2: Integrated landscape management effectively implemented in pilot sites through strengthened gender-responsive local governance and adoption of sustainable production practices

69. This outcome focuses on operationalizing integrated landscape management in pilot sites through governance strengthening and implementation of sustainable production practices. It will ensure that biodiversity conservation is integrated into agriculture and fisheries systems, while strengthening local governance structures. Execution will be led by SURKOOP, in coordination with MoAF, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and with support from Provincial Directorates, Fishery Cooperatives, and local communities.

Outcome 2.2: Integrated landscape management implemented



Output 2.2.1: Lagoon management plans developed and implemented in pilot sites

70. This output will support the **development and operationalization of participatory lagoon management plans in at least two pilot lagoons**, integrating biodiversity conservation, sustainable fisheries management, and climate resilience. These plans will serve as key spatial planning and management instruments, informed by ecological data and aligned with existing protected area frameworks. This will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Develop and operationalize lagoon management and fisheries management plans in at least two pilot lagoons (Akyatan and Yumurtalik), based on ecological assessments and stakeholder consultations**, ensuring coordination with protected area authorities and compliance with existing conservation management plans. Plans will define and integrate key ecological parameters, including spawning areas and critical habitats, fish migratory routes, salinity dynamics and water exchange patterns, and drought and flooding regimes.
- **Establish and operationalize zoning systems within lagoon management plans**, including no-fishing zones, seasonal closure areas, sustainable fishing zones, and buffer zones around sensitive habitats, ensuring integration of biodiversity conservation measures, ecosystem-based management approaches, and climate adaptation considerations, and alignment with existing protected area management frameworks and national fisheries regulations and policies.

- **Engage fishery cooperatives, women fishers, and local communities in participatory planning, validation, implementation, and compliance monitoring of lagoon and fisheries management plans**, ensuring inclusive and gender-responsive participation.
- **Support the implementation of fisheries management plans in Akyatan and Tuzla lagoons**, aligned with biodiversity conservation objectives, zoning systems, and Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) principles.
- **Deliver one targeted capacity development programme for approximately 150 stakeholders (minimum 40% women), including fishers, cooperative members, and institutional staff**, covering sustainable fishing practices, ecosystem-based fisheries management, biodiversity conservation and habitat protection, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, and climate risk-informed fisheries management.
- **Provide practical and hands-on training on fisheries value chains**, including fish processing (in Adana province and private sector facilities), fish marketing (in local markets in collaboration with cooperatives and producer unions), and on-site training on sustainable fishing techniques conducted directly on fishing boats and within lagoon fishing areas.

Output 2.2.2: Multi-stakeholder governance and coordination mechanisms established and functioning with inclusive and gender-balanced participation

71. This output will strengthen lagoon governance systems by establishing structured, multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms and operational governance frameworks for sustainable lagoon management. In particular, **two lagoon-specific governance committees will be established and operationalized in the Akyatan and Yumurtalik lagoons**, serving as institutional platforms to support implementation of lagoon management plans, fisheries governance reforms, and biodiversity conservation measures. These committees will function as **inter-institutional coordination bodies**, ensuring alignment between national policies and local implementation, while facilitating inclusive participation of key stakeholders, including women and local resource users. The output will also support the development of improved governance models for lagoon fisheries, addressing existing limitations in current management systems. This will be achieved through the following activities:

- Establish and operationalize **two lagoon-specific multi-stakeholder governance committees** in:
 - Akyatan Lagoon
 - Yumurtalik Lagoon
- Ensure that these committees include representatives from relevant institutions and stakeholder groups involved in lagoon management, fisheries, biodiversity conservation, and local livelihoods. For example, MoAF, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, SURKOOP, Fishery Cooperatives, private sector actors.
- Develop and formalize **terms of reference (ToR)** for each committee, including:
 - clear mandates and responsibilities
 - decision-making processes
 - coordination roles across sectors and institutions
 - responsibilities in supporting implementation of lagoon management plans
- Facilitate regular **committee meetings and coordination workshops** to:
 - guide implementation of lagoon management plans (Output 2.2.1)

- support fisheries governance improvements
 - address emerging management challenges
- Develop and operationalize a **governance framework for sustainable lagoon fisheries management**, integrating:
 - biodiversity conservation objectives
 - ecosystem-based fisheries management approaches
 - climate resilience considerations
- Conduct an assessment of **existing lagoon fisheries governance systems**, including:
 - evaluation of the current rental-based management model
 - identification of gaps and weaknesses
- Review **relevant international best practices** (including Mediterranean lagoon systems) to inform governance improvements.
- Develop **improved or alternative governance models** for lagoon fisheries management and submit them to the **General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture** for consideration.
- Ensure **inclusive and gender-balanced participation** within governance structures, including active involvement of women fishers and women-led cooperatives in decision-making processes.
- Facilitate **regular stakeholder consultations and coordination meetings** to support implementation and adaptive governance.
- Engage up to **1,500 fishers and local stakeholders** in governance processes, ensuring broad participation and ownership.

Output 2.2.3: Sustainable agricultural practices implemented in surrounding landscapes, with equitable access and benefits for women and men

72. This output will reduce land-based pressures on lagoon ecosystems through the **establishment of ecologically functional buffer zones and the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices in surrounding landscapes**, particularly in areas influencing the **Akyatan Lagoon**. These interventions will reduce nutrient and agrochemical runoff, improve sediment control, and strengthen ecological connectivity between agricultural land and wetland ecosystems. Implementation will be led by the **Provincial Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry**, with support from **farmer associations and local stakeholders**. This will be achieved through the following activities:

- Implement sustainable agricultural practices following the **Land Degradation Neutrality – Sustainable Land Management (LDN–SLM) framework**, ensuring sustainability and replicability.
- Implement **Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)** in surrounding agricultural areas (covering approximately **50 hectares of farmland**) to reduce environmental pressures on lagoon ecosystems.
- Conduct **Farmer Field Schools (FFS)** to train:
 - at least 20 farmers
 - with a minimum of 40% women participation
- Promote sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices, including:
 - soil conservation measures
 - efficient fertilizer use
 - integrated pest management
 - reduction of diffuse pollution and sediment transport
- Monitor the impacts of buffer zones and agricultural practices on:

- lagoon water quality
- sediment dynamics
- ecosystem health
- Develop and refine a **replicable model for this zone establishment and sustainable land management**, based on field implementation results.
- Produce **guidelines and manuals** to support replication and scaling of the approach in similar lagoon and wetland systems.

Component 3. Knowledge Management (KM) and lessons learned

Outcome 3.1: Local communities and stakeholders actively participate in and contribute to integrated landscape management through strengthened capacities and awareness

73. This outcome aims to strengthen the capacities of local communities, institutions, and stakeholders to actively participate in and contribute to biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management in the Çukurova Delta. It focuses on fostering **behavioral change, awareness, and informed engagement** through structured capacity-building and outreach activities, including targeted training, community awareness sessions, and multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange. These efforts will support more inclusive and effective participation in lagoon management processes and the adoption of sustainable practices. Execution will be led by SURKOOP, in coordination with MoAF, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and with support from Fisheries Cooperatives and local communities.

Output 3.1.1: Gender-responsive capacity-building programmes delivered to support community participation in lagoon management and adoption of sustainable production practices

74. This output will deliver **cross-cutting, gender-responsive capacity-building and awareness activities** to strengthen stakeholder understanding of biodiversity conservation, integrated landscape management, and the links between ecosystem health and livelihoods. It will complement the technical and practice-oriented interventions under Components 1 and 2 by focusing on **awareness, behavioral change, and informed engagement**.



75. This will be achieved through the following activities:

Capacity-building programme event (cross-stakeholder)

- Design and deliver **one structured, multi-day capacity-building programme (3 days, 25–30 participants, minimum 40% women)** targeting representatives from:
 - fishery cooperatives (including women fishers)
 - farmer groups
 - local authorities
 - local management bodies
 - NGOs and community representatives
- The programme will be delivered **in-person in Adana Province**, combining:
 - technical presentations (biodiversity conservation, lagoon governance, ILM principles)
 - facilitated group discussions and scenario-based exercises
 - case studies from the Çukurova Delta
 - **field visit to Akyatan or Yumurtalık lagoon** to illustrate governance and ecosystem linkages
- The objective is to strengthen **shared understanding across stakeholder groups**, improve coordination, and support informed participation in lagoon management processes.

Awareness activity 1: Community outreach sessions in lagoon areas

- Organize **at least 4 community-level awareness sessions (20–25 participants each)** in key settlements surrounding **Tuzla, Akyatan, Akyayan and Yumurtalık lagoons**.
- These sessions will:
 - be delivered in local venues (community centers, cooperative offices)
 - use **visual and simplified materials** (maps, posters, short videos) focus on:
 - importance of lagoon ecosystems for livelihoods
 - impacts of agriculture and fisheries on biodiversity
 - benefits of sustainable practices and restoration
- Delivery will be supported by:
 - Provincial Directorates
 - local cooperatives
 - NGOs

Awareness activity 2: Private sector and value-chain engagement events

- Conduct **one targeted awareness workshop (10–15 participants each)** with:
 - fish processing companies
 - buyers and traders
 - private sector actors involved in fisheries and agriculture
- These workshops will:
 - take place in **Adana province (processing facilities or meeting venues)**
 - highlight:
 - sustainability requirements in value chains
 - links between biodiversity conservation and market access
 - opportunities for sustainable sourcing and branding
- The project will establish **formal collaboration arrangements (e.g. Memorandums of Understanding – MoUs)** with selected private sector partners to:
 - support awareness efforts
 - facilitate dissemination of sustainable practices
 - enable long-term engagement beyond the project

Awareness activity 3: Knowledge exchange and science–community interface events

- Organize **one knowledge exchange workshop (15-20 participants)** bringing together:
 - universities (Çukurova University)
 - research institutes (AKSAM, Mediterranean Fisheries Research Institute)
 - local authorities
 - cooperatives and community representatives
- These events will:
 - present scientific findings in **accessible formats**
 - translate monitoring and ecological data into practical messages
 - facilitate dialogue between scientists and local stakeholders
- Outputs will include:
 - simplified technical briefs
 - key messages for communities and decision-makers

Communication materials and tools

- Develop and disseminate **targeted awareness and communication materials**, including:
 - illustrated guides on lagoon conservation and sustainable practices
 - infographics and posters adapted to local audiences
 - short videos and digital content for wider dissemination
- Materials will be aligned with the **Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy (Output 3.2.1)** to ensure consistency and scalability.

Partnerships and institutional collaboration

- Establish **formal and informal partnerships** to support delivery and sustainability of awareness activities, including:
 - **MoUs with universities and research institutions** for ongoing knowledge support
 - collaboration agreements with **SURKOOP and fishery cooperatives** for outreach
 - engagement with **local NGOs and community-based organizations** for mobilization
- These partnerships will ensure:
 - continuity of awareness efforts beyond the project
 - integration of scientific knowledge into local practices
 - stronger linkages between institutions and communities

Monitoring of awareness and behavioral change

- Track the effectiveness of activities through:
 - participation records (gender-disaggregated)
 - pre- and post-event feedback surveys
 - qualitative assessment of changes in awareness and engagement
- Findings will be used to:
 - refine communication approaches
 - inform Component 3 knowledge products
 - support adaptive project implementation

Outcome 3.2: Knowledge, lessons learned and best practices on biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management effectively captured and disseminated

76. This outcome focuses on establishing a structured knowledge management system to capture, systematize, and disseminate lessons learned and best practices generated by the project. It will support scaling-up and replication of successful approaches beyond the project sites. Execution will be led by SURKOOP, in coordination with MoAF and the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks.

Output 3.2.1: Gender-sensitive knowledge management and communication strategy implemented

77. This output will establish and operationalize a **structured, gender-sensitive Knowledge Management (KM) and Communication Strategy** to ensure that project-generated knowledge is systematically captured,

translated into accessible formats, and effectively disseminated to diverse stakeholder groups. It will define clear processes, tools, and channels for internal knowledge management and external communication, ensuring alignment across all project components. It will also directly feed into capacity building and training activities under Components 1 and 2 and the activities under Output 3.1.1. This will be achieved through the following activities:

- Develop and adopt a **gender-sensitive Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy**, including:
 - definition of target audiences (e.g. policymakers, communities, private sector, researchers)
 - communication objectives and key messages
 - gender-responsive communication approaches
 - roles and responsibilities for KM implementation
- Identify and structure **key knowledge products and communication channels**, including:
 - technical reports and policy briefs
 - community-oriented materials (visual and simplified formats)
 - digital channels (websites, social media, national platforms)
 - GEF knowledge-sharing platforms
- Knowledge products will be disseminated through national platforms and relevant FAO knowledge systems, including the FAO TECA platform [24] and fisheries-related knowledge networks, as well as the GEF Knowledge Portal.
- Establish a **project-level knowledge management system**, including:
 - standardized templates for reporting lessons learned
 - internal knowledge-sharing mechanisms across components
 - documentation workflows and responsibilities
- Facilitate **structured exchange between stakeholder groups**, including:
 - policymakers, researchers, and local communities
 - cross-component learning within the project
- Ensure **targeted engagement of policymakers** through:
 - dedicated briefings and technical sessions
 - participation in knowledge-sharing events
 - tailored communication products (e.g. policy briefs)
- Promote the **uptake of project results into policy and practice**, including:
 - integration of findings into national strategies and plans
 - alignment with existing policy frameworks

Output 3.2.2: Best practices on lagoon management, restoration and sustainable production practices documented and disseminated

78. This output will ensure the **systematic documentation, packaging, and dissemination of best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches** generated through project implementation. It will focus on transforming field-level results into **replicable knowledge products** and disseminating them through national, regional, and global platforms, including GEF knowledge-sharing mechanisms. This will be achieved through the following activities:

- Document **best practices and lessons learned** from project interventions, including:
 - ecosystem restoration (Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2)

- sustainable agriculture and buffer zones (Output 2.2.3)
 - sustainable fisheries practices (Output 2.2.4)
 - governance and management approaches (Outputs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2)
- Develop a **portfolio of knowledge products**, synthesizing results and lessons learned from all project components, particularly field-based interventions under Component 2 and capacity-building activities under Component 3.1 including:
 - at least **4 technical reports** (restoration, fisheries, agriculture, governance)
 - at least **2 policy briefs** targeting decision-makers
 - practical **technical guidelines and manuals** for replication
 - **gender-focused case studies** and social inclusion insights
- Upload and disseminate knowledge products through:
 - national platforms (MoAF systems, institutional websites)
 - international platforms, including **GEF knowledge portals**
- Contribute to **GEF Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) knowledge-sharing processes**, including:
 - submission of case studies and results
 - participation in GEF learning exchanges
- Organize **at least 2 dissemination events (20–30 participants per event)** to present results and lessons learned to:
 - policymakers
 - practitioners
 - research institutions
 - development partners
- Provide **regular knowledge updates and contributions**, including:
 - periodic summaries of project results
 - integration of gender and social inclusion perspectives
- Support collaboration with **regional and global knowledge networks**, including:
 - participation in regional exchanges
 - sharing of methodologies and lessons learned
 - contribution to scaling and replication efforts

Component 4. Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Outcome 4.1: Comprehensive project monitoring system established and operationalized

79. This outcome entails the development and implementation of a robust system for monitoring and evaluating the project's progress and deliverables. This system aims to ensure ongoing assessment and reporting, facilitating informed decision-making and enhancing project effectiveness. Execution will be led by SURKOOP, in coordination with MoAF and FAO.

Output 4.1.1 Gender-responsive M&E framework and tools developed and applied

80. This output involves creating and implementing a framework and associated tools designed for effective monitoring and evaluation of the project. This framework will provide structured guidelines and methodologies to collect and analyze data, ensuring that project performance is systematically assessed through these activities:

- Design and develop a comprehensive M&E framework with a focus on tracking transformational change, gender equality and social inclusion, and global environmental benefits (GEBs). This will be achieved by engaging stakeholders in dedicated workshops to define clear indicators and metrics that will effectively capture the intended outcomes. The framework will incorporate data collection methods that allow for both qualitative and quantitative assessments, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of the project's impact on various aspects such as community engagement and environmental sustainability.
- Deploy M&E tools across all project components, integrating methane measurement technologies for real-time monitoring, where required. Once the framework is in place, the next step is to deploy M&E tools across all components of the project. This may involve utilizing cutting-edge technologies tools, to enable real-time data monitoring, which can significantly enhance responsiveness and accuracy in tracking progress.
- Train M&E responsible people from each executing agency (average of 1-2 people per agency) on M&E protocols and tools, including gender and social inclusion indicators, ensuring that scalability and replication of best practices are monitored. Following this, it is essential to conduct training sessions for project staff on the established M&E protocols and tools, specifying how to effectively use gender and social inclusion indicators. This training will empower staff to implement best practices consistently and monitor their scalability, ensuring that lessons learned are effectively captured and can be replicated in future initiatives.

Outcome 4.2 Project evaluation and reporting conducted in line with GEF requirements

81. Regular monitoring reports and evaluations will be performed by establishing a systematic schedule for data collection and analysis, ensuring that project progress is assessed at predetermined intervals. This process involves gathering feedback from stakeholders, reviewing performance metrics, and compiling findings into comprehensive reports that inform decision-making and guide future improvements. The M&E system of the project is structured to ensure effective tracking of progress and timely identification of any necessary adjustments through an inception report, biannual PPRs, annual work plans and budgets, annually prepared PIRs and their co-financing reports, periodic supervision missions, project steering committee meetings, as well as final evaluation. Execution will be led by SURKOOP, in coordination with MoAF and FAO.

Output 4.2.1 Project Implementation Report (PIR), Project Progress Report (PPR) conducted

82. The project will undertake the preparation and submission of a comprehensive Project Implementation Reports (PIR) and Project Progress Reports (PPR).

- Submission of PIR will include gathering and analyzing data on project progress, outputs, and outcomes against established indicators, as well as documenting lessons learned and best practices. Stakeholder consultations will be organized to ensure diverse perspectives are integrated into the report, promoting transparency and collaboration.
- Submission of PPRs will include the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the Project Results Framework, and a dedicated section on the systematic monitoring of risks and mitigation actions that were identified in previous PPRs. It will identify new risks or risks that have yet to be addressed, their classification and mitigation actions, as well as those responsible for the monitoring of such risks and their estimated deadlines. FAO will monitor the

project's risk management closely and will follow up as needed, lending support for the adjustment and implementation of mitigation strategies.

Output 4.2.2 Project Terminal Evaluation (TE) conducted

83. A comprehensive project TE will be conducted to assess the overall effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project outcomes.

- Submission of TE: This process will involve developing an evaluation framework aligned with project objectives and performance indicators, ensuring that all relevant aspects are thoroughly analyzed. Data collection will include stakeholder interviews, surveys, and document reviews to capture diverse perspectives and insights regarding project implementation and impacts. The TE will synthesize findings to identify lessons learned, success stories, and areas for improvement, providing actionable recommendations for future projects. A final evaluation report will be prepared and disseminated to key stakeholders, ensuring transparency and contributing to the body of knowledge in the field.

[23] UNEP-WDMC (2026). Protected Area Profile for Türkiye from the World Database on Protected Areas, April 2026. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net

[24] FAO TECA - Technologies and Practices for Small Agricultural Producers. Available at: <https://teca.apps.fao.org/teca/>

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

84. The Central Union of Fishery Cooperatives (SURKOOP) will act as the 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 the SURKOOP [25] 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.

85. With reference to Operational Partners Implementation Modality, a micro assessment was carried out for the identified Executive Agency, which is part of the requirements under the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework. The HACT represents a common operational framework for UN agencies' transfer of cash to government and non- governmental implementing partners. At the end of the Assessment, Overall Risk was found as Moderate. But the following Subject areas were classified as Significant Risk:

Procurement area was determined as High Risk with findings related to lack of segregation of duties in the procurement process and weaknesses in basis for bid assessment. Regarding with this finding, it was

recommended that “the partner should endeavour to increase segregation of duties within the finance and procurement processes. It could do this by considering additional staff members that can be brought into processes, to provide additional oversight and approval.”

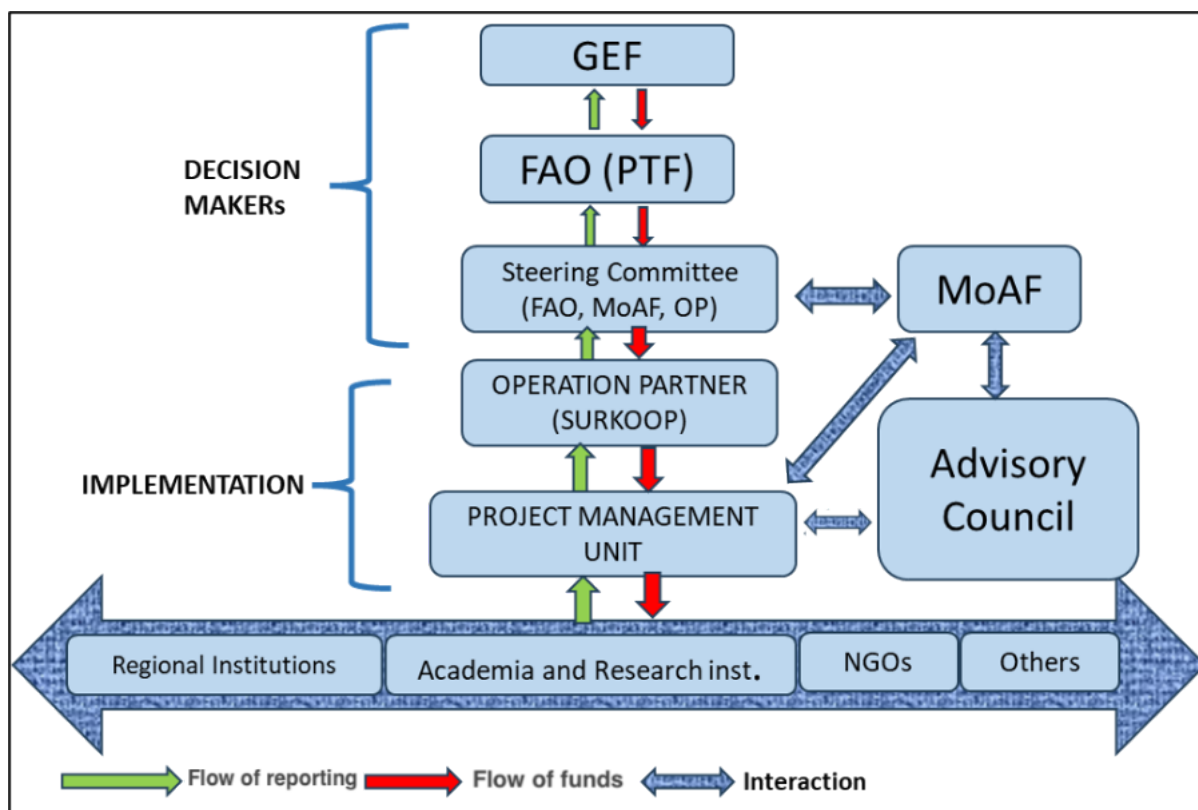
Systems areas were determined as High Risk. It was recommended that “the users of the financial system should be set-up with access rights that are unique to their roles, to ensure segregation of duties is protected and prevent over-ride of internal controls.”

86. It is envisaged that necessary measures will be taken within the scope of the project in order to overcome the above mentioned risks that may be experienced during the implementation of the project and strengthening the operational and financial management infrastructure of SURKOOP is envisioned in order for it to be able to deliver the necessary support of the sustainable management of the use, benefit and conservation of the lagoon systems’ natural resources as the only and most widely attended NGO in the sector.

87. For this purpose; under the Component 2: Capacity Building and Awareness Raising to Support Lagoon Fishery Management, Conservation, and Climate Adaptation in Çukurova Delta's Lagoons an activity titled 'Conducting the training program to increase the OP's management capacity' is planned. With this activity, not only the management capacity of the OP but also the administrative capacity of the cooperatives that are effective in the management of the lagoons in the region will be increased.

88. The project implementation will be supported by: (a) governmental structures at both national and subnational levels, including the General Directorate of Fishery and Aquaculture (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, MoAF), which will lead project execution, ensuring alignment with national policies on fisheries and aquaculture; local authorities such as Provincial and District Directorates of MoAF (Adana), Governorships, and Municipalities will facilitate local project implementation and demonstrations, with additional support from external experts, particularly to address challenges following the earthquake; (b) regional institutions, such as the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (DKMP) and the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works, will provide expertise in conservation and water management critical to the success of the project; (c) private sector organizations, including fishery processing and trade companies, will collaborate in areas such as food production, processing, marketing, and employment, ensuring active participation in sustainable practices and innovation through capacity-building and demonstration activities; (d) civil society organizations, including Fishers, Fishery Cooperatives, Producer Unions, and NGOs focused on environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture, will be engaged in capacity-building activities, with special emphasis on rural women and their cooperatives, ensuring their active participation in the project; and (e) FAO initiatives and other relevant international organizations will provide technical support and expertise in relation to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation/mitigation.

89. To ensure this coordination and interaction, **a Project Steering Committee and an Advisory Council** will be established to integrate stakeholders, report on progress or emerging issues and include them in the strategic decision making of the project. The project organization structure is as follows:



90. The government will designate a National Project Coordinator (NPC) from its staff to coordinate the overall project implementation, without compensation from the project's funds. He/she will be located in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MOAF) and 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. He/she will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Manager (see below) on the government policies and priorities.

91. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MOAF) will 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. The PSC will be comprised of representatives from MoAF at central and regional level and FAO. The members of the PSC will each assure 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. The PSC will convene at least annually; however, if its members consider it necessary, the PSC may call for extraordinary meetings. The major functions of the PSC will be:

- Oversight and assurance of the technical quality of project outputs
- Overall monitoring of project progress and the achievement of results, which will be presented in semi-annual and annual progress reports
- Provide strategic guidance for decision-making and review the strategy and methodology of the project, making necessary adjustments based on implementation feedback.

- Establish close linkages between the current project and other relevant ongoing projects and programs.
- Ensure timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support.
- Address the sustainability of crucial project outcomes, emphasizing up-scaling and replication
- Facilitate effective coordination among government partners and organize meetings with national, regional, and local actors to ensure broad collaboration
- Approve the biannual Project Progress and Financial Reports, as well as the Annual Work Plan and Budget.

92. **The Project Advisory Board** is a consultation body consisting of representatives of the official bodies, NGOs, private sector, research institutes and universities. The board; whose purpose is to provide the necessary technical support and information to the experts who take an active role in the project and to provide the necessary technical advice to the Project Steering Committee; will meet online upon request of the PSC and their responsibility is limited under the framework of their terms of reference to be developed during inception phase.

93. **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be established in Adana. Guided by the PSC, the PMU's primary role will be to ensure efficient management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the project, focusing on effective execution of the annual work plans and budgets. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be comprised of key national staff including:

94. The **Project Manager (PM)** will oversee the overall implementation of the project, manage daily operations, and monitor the work plan. Working under the supervision of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and in close coordination with the National Project Coordinator, the PM will lead project execution. Responsibilities include preparing Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP/B) for PSC approval, drafting terms of reference and contracts, and ensuring that project activities are executed as planned. The PM will also manage project monitoring and evaluation in line with GEF guidelines, including annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs), progress reports, and ensuring timely Final Evaluation. Additionally, the PM will ensure compliance with donor requirements, such as implementing the Gender Action Plan, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Risks Management Plan and ensuring the Grievance Mechanism is operational and known to all stakeholders; while managing project financials and reporting.

95. The **Operations/Project Support Specialist** will support the PM by managing administrative duties, including accounting, human resource management, procurement, and payments. This role ensures the appropriate acquisition of project supplies and supports the overall administrative needs of the project.

96. The **Capacity Development Specialist** will organize and manage all training and awareness-raising activities under the supervision of the Project manager. Responsibilities include conducting training needs assessments, designing and managing training programs, and organizing events, and workshops. The coordinator will also prepare training evaluation reports to ensure effectiveness.

97. The **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will also include gender specialist and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) expert, as well as other short-term experts like specialists in GAP legislation, trainers, climate, biodiversity, fishery experts, etc. These experts will provide targeted support in their areas of expertise to ensure the project's success.

98. The Food and Agriculture Organization (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 (see Annex G of the Agency Project Document for details):

- The Budget Holder, which is usually located in the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of execution arrangements and progress and compliance of the project's implementation by the executing partner;
- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the project's 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.

99. 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 Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

[25] It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) may change due to FAO internal due diligence and agreement procedures if not yet been concluded at the time of submission of the CEO Endorsement Request

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

100. FAO will not play an execution role in this project, as described above.

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 (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives

101. The proposed project will collaborate closely with other ongoing GEF projects, specifically "Increasing the Sustainability and Resilience of Agriculture/Food Systems Through Nature-Based Solutions" and "Integrated Water Resource Management in the Gediz River Basin in Türkiye." This collaboration is important as Good Agricultural Practices are also implemented in these projects, highlighting their common objectives.

102. The proposal will coordinate its work with two other GEF funded regional fisheries projects that Türkiye is benefiting from: the GEF ID 10560, “Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Blue Economy of the Mediterranean - (FishEBM-MED)” and GEF ID 10558, “Fisheries and Ecosystem Based Management for the Black Sea - (FishEBM-BS)” which are executed by General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

103. The projects on “Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management”, were prepared in cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and FAO and are implemented by the GFCM. The start day of both of the projects is 1 January 2023. The Black Sea project includes 3 coastal countries (Türkiye, Georgia and Ukraine), has a duration of 48 months and a budget of \$5 million. The Mediterranean project includes 9 coastal countries, has a duration of 48 months and a budget of \$7,273,973. It is planned to replace/renew the vessel monitoring system (VMS) devices of more than 1,000 fishing vessels in Türkiye within the scope of the projects. Pilot studies have been initiated. In addition, activities are ongoing to strengthen the research infrastructure. The main components of the project include actions to strengthen capacities to manage commercial fisheries (especially small-scale fisheries), improve the integration of monitoring, control and surveillance technologies in the fight against illegal fishing, integrate the ecosystem approach to fisheries management to protect biodiversity, and promote knowledge sharing as well as innovative blue economy solutions Findings on the status of existing fish stocks and the effects of invasive species on natural stocks carried out within the scope of ongoing projects will be taken into consideration within the scope of the project. Here some activities are ongoing within the scope of the project.

104. The cooperation and joint work will be ensured through expert exchange, participating and taking part in events, designing and implementing of demonstrations and delivering joint training sessions.

105. The proposed project will also use previous experiences, especially on Farmer Field School (FFS) approach. GEF ID 9596 “The Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level” Project (GCP/TUR/065/GFF) has respective experiences on training delivery with FFS approach and this experience will certainly be utilized to design, deliver and evaluate the training programs through consultations.

Core Indicators

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	34653	0	0

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total 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)

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	34653	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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akyatan Lagoon	166755	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		14,800.00			55.00		
Yumurtalik Lagoon	109098	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		19,853.00			51.00		

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	100	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	100.00		

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	50	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

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

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	50.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	0	7993	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)		7,993		

Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2026		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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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		766		
Male		1,149		
Total	0	1,915	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)

The estimation of GEF Core Indicators is based on the spatial allocation of interventions across lagoon systems, distinguishing between protected areas, marine zones, and production landscapes, and directly linking each indicator to specific project activities described in the Project Description section.

For GEF Core Indicator 2.2: Area of marine protected areas created or under improved management (34,653 ha), the target reflects lagoon and associated marine areas where management effectiveness will be strengthened through lagoon and fisheries management plans, zoning systems (including no-fishing and seasonal closure zones), and improved enforcement. These interventions are implemented within protected and regulated lagoon–marine systems.

For GEF Core Indicator 3.4: Area of wetlands under restoration (100 ha), the estimate corresponds to ecosystem restoration activities, including 50 ha of wetland habitat restoration in Akyatan Lagoon and 50 ha of sediment removal and ecological rehabilitation in lagoon water systems, restoring hydrological connectivity and habitat conditions.

For GEF Core Indicator 4.3: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (50 ha), the target reflects only agricultural production areas where Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) are implemented. GAP in the vicinity of the protected area function as ecological restoration and sustainable production systems.

For GEF Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (-7,993 tCO₂e), estimates using FAO's NEXT Tool are derived from carbon sequestration and avoided emissions associated with wetland restoration and improved land management; values will be refined during detailed carbon accounting. The NEXT calculation in excel file is attached separately under documentation.

For GEF Core Indicator 11: Direct beneficiaries (1,915; 1,149 men and 766 women), figures are based on participation in targeted capacity-building, training, and livelihood-related activities across fisheries, agriculture, and governance systems.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Risk Description: The Climate Risk Matrix identifies eight key risks for the project, each with corresponding mitigation measures to reduce their impact. The risks include rising sea levels, which could lead to flooding and habitat loss, mitigated by rehabilitation of the connection canal between sea and lagoons. Temperature increases may affect fish stocks and biodiversity, addressed by promoting climate-resilient species and modifying fishing practices. Drought and reduced precipitation may increase salinity and harm biodiversity, countered by improving water management practices and rehabilitating canals. Storm surges and extreme weather events pose a low risk, with mitigation focused on strengthening lagoon infrastructure. Increased evaporation risks the loss of water volume, mitigated through water conservation measures and restoring vegetation. Changes in seasonal rainfall patterns could disrupt lagoon hydrology, managed by enhancing watershed and drainage systems. Heatwaves and the spread of pests and diseases are low-to-medium risks, mitigated by habitat protection, creating shaded areas, and strengthening biosecurity measures. Agricultural runoff during heavy rainfall could lead to eutrophication, countered by implementing sustainable farming practices and buffer zones to filter runoff. Risk mitigation measures: Planned

		within the scope of the project; deepening, opening new canals, rehabilitation of freshwater and seawater connection channels in lagoons, creation of green belts, improvement of agricultural activities around the lagoon through the expansion of good agricultural practices, trainings to be given to both fishermen and farmers include measures to reduce the above-mentioned risks. These strategies aim to ensure the resilience and sustainability of the project under changing climate conditions. Responsible parties: PMU
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Risk Description: There are several key environmental and social risks that have been assessed and mitigation measures planned. Environmentally, the most critical risks include the potential damage to biodiversity during sediment removal, the possibility of pollution from machinery, and methane emissions from decomposing lagoon sludge. Risk mitigation measures: To mitigate these, sediment will be carefully spread to minimize harm to aquatic habitats, machinery will comply with national emission standards, and sludge will be managed to prevent methane buildup. These steps aim to protect biodiversity and reduce pollution throughout the project. Social risks primarily focus on the livelihoods of the fishers, who may face temporary access restrictions during lagoon restoration, and on gender disparities in employment opportunities. Fisherfolk will be consulted and restoration work will be timed to avoid the fishing season, minimizing economic disruption. The project also includes measures to promote equal employment opportunities for women, ensuring gender-sensitive policies are in place. The project specifically focus on understanding the existing skills, needs, constraints, and aspirations of women within the fishing communities. The skills development programmes will be tailored to address the identified needs of women, potentially including training in areas such as sustainable processing techniques, value addition to fish products, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and other relevant skills that can enhance their economic independence and resilience Further details on the risk assessments and mitigation measures are provided in Annex [I] Environmental and Social Safeguards. In the fisheries sector, there is a risk that women may be excluded from value-adding activities, such as fish processing, marketing, and leadership roles within fisheries cooperatives. This exclusion could be a result of entrenched traditional roles, where women are often confined to lower-paying, labor-intensive positions, limiting their economic empowerment. The project will promote women's active involvement in value-adding activities by offering targeted training programs to enhance their skills in fish processing, marketing, and cooperative management. The project will also facilitate access to financial services and technology, ensuring that women can fully participate in economic activities and benefit from the outcomes of the project. Additionally, the project will monitor participation rates and outcomes to ensure that women are benefiting equally from these initiatives. Responsible parties: PMU and MoAF

Political and Governance	Moderate	Risk Description: Fragmented governance and poor coordination between agencies (national and local) pose a risk to project implementation. The fact that more than one public institution and national and international NGOs have an active role in the protection and management of lagoons may cause risks in the implementation of the project outputs. Risk mitigation measures: To address this, the project will establish regular coordination platform meetings and workshops to ensure shared objectives and clarify roles. Political shifts, which may deprioritize biodiversity conservation, are also a risk. To mitigate this, the project aligns closely with Türkiye's international commitments under the Ramsar Convention and national biodiversity strategies, ensuring resilience against political changes. Stakeholder resistance, particularly from fishers and farmers, could also arise if they perceive stricter regulations as threatening their livelihoods. Early engagement, addressing concerns, and providing alternative livelihood options like ecotourism will help mitigate this. Responsible parties: PMU, DKMP, BSGM
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Risk Description: The project aligns well with Türkiye's national agriculture and fisheries policies, as well as with international biodiversity agreements like the Ramsar Convention. This strong alignment reduces policy-related risks. Risk mitigation measures: The authorities and related stakeholders seriously fulfil their responsibilities not only with national legislation and policies, but also with international cooperation studies and international conventions. Therefore, it has a strong case in terms of both policy development and innovation. New fishing practices and lagoon management models planned to be developed within the scope of the proposed project will largely eliminate the risk in this area. Responsible parties: PMU, MoAF
Technological	Moderate	Risk description: The project relies on the technical design of sustainable lagoon management and rehabilitation activities, such as sediment removal, which require high precision to avoid environmental damage. There is a risk that the technical methodologies may not be implemented effectively or that unforeseen environmental conditions could complicate the execution of key project components. Risk mitigation measures: The project has been designed by a highly experienced technical team from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and in close collaboration with the project formulation team. This ensures that technical approaches are rooted in best practices. Additionally, the project's holistic design incorporates sustainable management principles that are adaptable to varying environmental conditions. A continuous monitoring framework will be put in place to track progress and adjust technical methodologies as needed. Responsible parties: PMU
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Risk description: Given Türkiye's current economic outlook, the project assumes that funding streams will remain stable. Risk mitigation measures: The project will ensure that all planned activities are budgeted efficiently and that any cost escalations due to economic factors are monitored and managed.

		The co-financing resources envisaged to be provided within the scope of the project have already been allocated and are used for existing management activities. Responsible parties: PMU
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	Risk description: Local partners are enthusiastic and willing to work with the project and they have good institutional structure, as well as reach out to the members of the communities. Local and central government organs are also committed and motivated to work together with the project and have good capacity to support the executing partners with policy support. While government authorities have fully backed the project, ensuring continued institutional support post-project is critical. Risk mitigation measures: To mitigate this risk, the project includes institutional capacity-building measures, such as modular training programs that will be institutionalized and continue beyond the project's duration. There is also a risk that women may be excluded from employment opportunities during rehabilitation due to existing gender biases. To address this, the project will hold meetings with employers to enforce gender-sensitive employment policies and ensure that women receive equal job opportunities and fair compensation where applicable Risk mitigation measures: PMU, SURKOOP, MoAF
Fiduciary	Low	Risk Description: The capacity assessment for the intended executing partner has identified some shortcomings for procurement and suggested the capacity development activities. Risk mitigation measures: to mitigate the risk, the project's design has integrated capacity development support to mitigate any fiduciary risks. Relevant safeguards will be put in place before the Operating Partner agreement is revised to include relevant procurement activities. Responsible parties: IA, PTF
Stakeholder	Low	The project involves a diverse set of stakeholders, including national authorities, local government entities, fishery cooperatives, farmers, private sector actors, and local communities. A key risk is limited stakeholder alignment, particularly conflicting interests between conservation objectives and livelihood activities (e.g., fisheries restrictions, land-use changes). Resistance to new regulations (such as no-fishing zones or seasonal closures) and low adoption of sustainable practices may reduce the effectiveness of project interventions. There is also a risk of insufficient participation of local stakeholders in decision-making processes, which could undermine ownership and long-term sustainability of lagoon management plans. While gender inclusion is addressed, broader stakeholder engagement risks—including representation of cooperatives, small-scale producers, and private sector actors—require further attention. Mitigation measures include the establishment of participatory governance mechanisms (e.g., multi-stakeholder platforms and lagoon management committees), early and continuous stakeholder engagement throughout planning and implementation, and targeted capacity-building programmes tailored to different stakeholder groups. The

		project will also promote co-management approaches, ensuring that fishers and local communities are actively involved in zoning design, monitoring, and enforcement. Incentives for adoption of sustainable practices (e.g., improved market access, value chain support) will be integrated to reduce resistance. These measures are expected to strengthen stakeholder ownership, reduce conflicts, and enhance compliance with management measures. Responsible parties: PMU, SURKOOP, MoAF
Other	Low	Risk Description: A natural disaster with wide-ranging impact and losses over the country's economy and human resources may happen, as the country is periodically suffering from devastating Earthquakes; while adequate investments in and prioritization of the risk reduction and infrastructure resilience issues do not meet the needs. Risk mitigation measures: In case of such emergency needs emerge; the project will revise its plans to investigate the possibility of achieving its goals in supporting the communities while engaging them in the sustainable preservation of the lagoon ecosystems. Responsible parties: PMU, IA and MoAF
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The project is facing some environmental and social risks; however, necessary mitigation measures are designed in order to be able to manage any possible affect these risks may have on the project's success.

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

Explain 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.

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.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

106. The proposed project is fully aligned with the **GEF-8 Programming Directions**, particularly under the **Biodiversity** and **Land Degradation** focal areas, and contributes directly to the implementation of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**, which is central to GEF-8.

107. Under the **Biodiversity Focal Area**, the project contributes to **Objective 1: Improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems**, through integrated lagoon ecosystem management, restoration of wetland habitats, and strengthening of governance frameworks for biodiversity conservation. The project promotes a **systems-based, integrated landscape management approach**, linking terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems within the Çukurova Delta. By addressing key drivers of

biodiversity loss—such as unsustainable fisheries, land-based pollution, and habitat degradation—the project contributes to improved ecological integrity, connectivity, and resilience of lagoon ecosystems.

108. The project also aligns with the **Land Degradation Focal Area Objective 1: Avoiding and reducing land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM)**. Through the establishment of buffer zones, implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and restoration of degraded wetland systems, the project enhances soil and water management, reduces nutrient runoff and sedimentation, and improves ecosystem functions across the wider watershed. These interventions contribute to multiple Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), including reduced land degradation, improved habitat connectivity, enhanced ecosystem services, and climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration.

109. The project further contributes to climate mitigation and adaptation objectives by restoring ecosystems that function as carbon sinks and by strengthening the resilience of agro-ecosystems and fisheries-dependent communities. These interventions support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with land degradation and unsustainable land use practices.

110. At the national level, the project is closely aligned with **Türkiye’s National Biodiversity Action Plan (2018–2028)**, which prioritizes ecosystem restoration, integration of biodiversity into sectoral policies, and strengthening of conservation practices in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. It also aligns with the **Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan (2024–2030)**, contributing to emission reduction targets through ecosystem restoration and sustainable land and water management. In addition, the project supports the **National Pathway for Food Systems Transformation** by promoting sustainable fisheries and resilient production systems, and is consistent with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021–2025)** through its focus on inclusive governance, gender equality, and capacity development.

111. The project contributes to several **Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)**. It supports the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** through ecosystem restoration and conservation, the **UNFCCC and Paris Agreement** through climate mitigation and resilience-building measures, and the **Ramsar Convention** through the sustainable management of wetland ecosystems of international importance.

112. In relation to the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, the project contributes to multiple targets, including: reducing threats to biodiversity (Target 1), restoring degraded ecosystems (Target 2), conserving key ecosystems (Target 3), ensuring sustainable use of biodiversity (Target 10 and 12), and strengthening capacity and resource mobilization (Target 19). These contributions are achieved through integrated lagoon management, restoration of wetland habitats, sustainable fisheries and agricultural practices, and strengthened governance and stakeholder engagement.

113. The project is fully consistent with Türkiye’s broader environmental policy framework, including the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan, National Action Programme under UNCCD, National Communications and Biennial Update Reports under UNFCCC, and other national strategies and assessments. By building and strengthening existing policy frameworks and investments, the project ensures coherence, avoids duplication, and enhances the long-term sustainability and scalability of its interventions.

Alignment to FAO Strategic framework, SDGs and COUNTRY Programming Framework

114. The project is fully aligned with the **FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031**, particularly under the **“Better Environment” (BE3)** priority, which aims to **maintain biodiversity for food and agriculture and promote sustainable natural resource management**. The project directly addresses two key transformation areas identified by FAO: **climate change** and the **Blue Transformation (Blue Economy)**. By restoring lagoon

ecosystems, improving water and land management, and promoting sustainable fisheries and agricultural practices, the project contributes to strengthening the resilience of agri-food systems while safeguarding ecosystem services.

115. The project operationalizes the **Blue Transformation** agenda by supporting sustainable fisheries management, ecosystem-based approaches, and value chain improvements, while simultaneously promoting GAP in surrounding landscapes to reduce land-based pressures on lagoon ecosystems. These interventions contribute to more sustainable and resilient food systems that integrate ecological, social, and economic dimensions.

116. The project contributes to multiple SDGs. It supports **SDG 2.4** by promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices, and **SDG 14.2 and 14.b** by improving the management and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems and enhancing access of small-scale fishers to sustainable livelihoods. It also contributes to **SDG 13.3** through targeted capacity-building and awareness-raising on climate change adaptation and sustainable resource management.

117. At the national level, the project is aligned with the **FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF)** for Türkiye, particularly in strengthening institutional and stakeholder capacities for sustainable fisheries and natural resource management, and enhancing climate resilience in agriculture and forestry systems. The project further contributes to **FAO Regional Initiative 3 (Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Natural Resource Management)** by promoting integrated landscape approaches, ecosystem restoration, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

Contribution to FAOs Strategic Framework: (Indicate as appropriate) [26]²³	a. Programme Priority Area(s) (PPA/s): Programme Priority Areas as (4Bs) Better Environment; BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture Biodiversity for food and agriculture maintained and sustainable use, conservation and restoration of marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, and their services promoted through adoption of targeted policies and practices Under the FAO SF; two of the drivers that are mentioned regarding environmental systems are relevant: (i) Climate change, including weather extremes and variability of temperatures and rainfall patterns, which is already affecting agri-food systems and natural resources and is expected to accelerate hunger and poverty in rural areas and (ii) The ‘Blue Economy’, where the development of economic activities related to the fisheries and aquaculture sector is increasing globally, and arising trade-offs require sound policy-making integrating technical, social and economic solutions, principles of ecosystem restoration of production systems, and cross-sectoral stakeholder involvement in the context of transformative agri-food systems. BP2 Project, Sustainable Conservation of Biodiversity Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to secure the livelihoods of fishing communities BN3 Safe food for all will contribute to increased food security, leading to more stable food prices and greater access to all goods and services for poorer people. b. SDG target(s): SDG target(s): 2.4: by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality
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	SDG 13.1 under Climate Action: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries 14.5. By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets c. Country Outcome(s): Cooperation Framework Strategic Priority 2: Competitive production, productivity and decent work for all Related Global SDG Target(s): SDGs 2.3, 2.4, 4.4, 5a, 5b, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8, 9.5, 12.3 Related FAO Regional Initiative Priority: Transforming food systems and facilitating market access and integration Country Programming Framework Priority: Outcome 2 (UNSDCF Outcome 2.1): By 2025, public institutions and the private sector contribute to more inclusive, sustainable and innovative industrial and agricultural development and equal and decent work opportunities for all, in cooperation with social partners Output 3 National- and local-level capacity in efficient, sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems enhanced, including improved land and water markets management, with expanded disaster risk management practices Output 5 Capacity of stakeholders in the public and private sectors strengthened on better production and health systems and practices in animal, fish, plant and forestry sectors, including the prevention, control and management of pests and diseases and food safety hazards through the One Health approach Strategic Priority 3: Climate change, sustainable environment and liveable cities Related Global SDG Target(s): SDG 2.5, 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 7.2, 11.4, 11.6, 13.1, 13.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b, 15.1, 15.2, 15.4 Related FAO Regional Initiative Priority: Managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate Related National SDG Target(s): SDG 15.1.1, SDG 2.5.1(a) and (b) Outcome 3 (UNSDCF Outcome 3.1): By 2025, all relevant actors take measures to accelerate climate action, promote responsible production and consumption, improve the management of risks and threats to people, and ensure the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources in urban and ecosystem hinterlands Output 7 Productivity, sustainability and resilience in land-based ecosystems improved through integrated participatory management of natural resources, including sustainable land and forestry management, conservation of biodiversity, and genetic resources Output 8 Sustainable management, use and protection of fisheries and aquaculture resources and aquatic ecosystems increased Regional Initiative/Priority Area: RI-3 on managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate.
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Lessons learned from past projects

118. The design of the proposed project builds on lessons learned from previous initiatives in Türkiye that focused on coastal, lagoon, and marine ecosystem management, particularly in relation to biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and sustainable resource use.

119. The **Gediz Delta Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project** (funded by Agence Française de Développement and implemented between 2009–2021 by Tour du Valat in collaboration with Ege University and the Nature Association) provides important insights on integrated ecosystem management. The project demonstrated that effective lagoon and coastal management requires strong integration between land-use

planning, water management, and biodiversity conservation, as well as coordination among multiple institutions and stakeholders. The involvement of environmental agencies, academic institutions, and local communities contributed to improved management outcomes. A key lesson was the importance of adaptive management approaches, which allow management systems to respond dynamically to environmental changes and stakeholder needs. These lessons are directly reflected in the current project through Component 1, which strengthens policy and regulatory frameworks and promotes integrated landscape management, and through Outputs 2.1.2 and Component 4, which establish monitoring systems and feedback mechanisms to enable adaptive management.

120. The **“Preserving the Marine Environment of Ölüdeniz Lagoon” project** (EU-funded, €294,972, implemented between 2003–2004) provides further relevant experience, particularly on local governance, monitoring, and awareness raising. The project established a local coordination centre in Ölüdeniz (Aegean Region), including a laboratory for lagoon water monitoring, and implemented systematic water quality measurements and alert systems. It also carried out a range of awareness-raising activities targeting local stakeholders, while engaging regional and national authorities. Knowledge products, including books and brochures, were developed for both general and scientific audiences. Although stakeholder engagement at the local level was initially more limited than expected, the project’s results were highly valued by national and regional authorities, leading to policy uptake. Notably, the Muğla Governorate endorsed restrictions on tourism and infrastructure development in sensitive lagoon areas, and the Ministry of Environment and Forests incorporated key project approaches into national environmental policies and emergency response planning. The project also contributed to integrating biodiversity considerations into oil spill contingency planning under the Barcelona Convention framework.

121. These lessons are directly incorporated into the present project. The establishment of science-based monitoring systems and data collection frameworks under Output 2.1.2, as well as knowledge management and communication activities under Component 3, builds on the Ölüdeniz experience. The project also strengthens stakeholder engagement and participatory governance mechanisms under Outputs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2, addressing previous limitations in local ownership. Furthermore, the emphasis on awareness raising, training, and knowledge dissemination under Component 3 reflects the demonstrated importance of communication tools and stakeholder outreach in influencing both behavior and policy uptake.

122. Across both projects, a consistent lesson is that integrated, multi-level governance combined with strong technical foundations (monitoring, data, and science-based planning) is essential for effective lagoon management. The current project incorporates these lessons through a structured approach that links policy reform (Component 1), ecosystem restoration and sustainable practices (Component 2), capacity development and knowledge management (Component 3), and monitoring and evaluation (Component 4), ensuring that interventions are coordinated, evidence-based, and sustainable over time.

Previous / Ongoing Initiative	Implementing Institution	Key Focus	How the Proposed Project Builds on the Initiative
National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	DKMP – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Biodiversity conservation and protected area management	Operationalizes NBSAP priorities in the Çukurova Delta by strengthening management effectiveness of Ramsar and protected lagoon ecosystems through integrated lagoon management plans (Output 2.2.1), ecosystem restoration (Output 2.1.1), and monitoring systems (Output 2.1.2)
Lagoon Fisheries Management and Fisheries Regulations	BSGM – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Regulation of lagoon fisheries and fishing prohibition areas	Enhances implementation of fisheries regulations through ecosystem-based fisheries management, including fish stock monitoring, zoning (no-fishing and seasonal closures), and adaptive

			management systems in pilot lagoons (Outputs 2.2.1 and 2.2.4)
Ramsar Site Management and Wetland Conservation Programs	DKMP	Protection and management of internationally important wetlands	Strengthens Ramsar site management by combining habitat restoration, hydrological connectivity improvements, and science-based monitoring with participatory governance mechanisms (Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.2)
Agricultural Land Management and Rural Development Programs	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Sustainable agricultural practices and rural livelihoods	Introduces targeted buffer zones (50 ha) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to reduce nutrient runoff, sedimentation, and land-based pressures on lagoon ecosystems (Output 2.2.3)
Previous Wetland Restoration and Environmental Monitoring Projects and Existing Management Plans for Akyatan and Tuzla Lagoons	Various national and international initiatives	Habitat restoration and biodiversity monitoring	Expands and integrates existing restoration and monitoring efforts into a coordinated, landscape-scale approach, linking restoration (100 ha), governance, and long-term ecological monitoring systems to support adaptive management (Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2, Component 4)

[\[26\] Excel list of PPAs and SDGs targets used in FPMIS module](#)

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

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 information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

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 during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted.

Yes

Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate and these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF, SCCF). This section identifies the direct beneficiaries from the project.

E.1 Knowledge management and Communication

124. The project adopts a structured and gender-responsive Knowledge Management (KM) and Communication approach to ensure that knowledge generated through restoration, governance strengthening, and sustainable production interventions is systematically captured, translated into accessible formats, and effectively disseminated to diverse stakeholders. The KM system is anchored under Component 3 and is designed to directly support implementation under Components 1 and 2, while enabling scaling, replication, and long-term sustainability of project results.

125. The approach focuses on strengthening both the supply and uptake of knowledge by combining capacity-building, awareness-raising, and formal knowledge products. It targets key stakeholder groups including government institutions, fishery cooperatives, farmers, local communities, private sector actors, and research institutions, ensuring inclusive participation and gender-responsive engagement.

126. A central element of the approach is the development and operationalization of a **gender-sensitive Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy (Output 3.2.1)**, which will define priority knowledge products, communication channels, and dissemination pathways. This strategy will ensure coherence across project components and guide all outreach, learning, and communication activities, including alignment with capacity-building efforts under Output 3.1.1.

127. **Capacity-building and awareness activities** are implemented through a structured programme (Output 3.1.1), combining targeted training and participatory learning formats. The programme includes one comprehensive training event (25–30 participants), four community-based awareness sessions reaching approximately 80–100 participants, one private sector engagement workshop (10–15 participants), and one knowledge exchange event (15–20 participants) involving scientific institutions and local stakeholders. These activities are designed to promote understanding of lagoon ecosystem functions, sustainable fisheries and agricultural practices, and climate resilience, while fostering behavioural change and community ownership.

128. Awareness activities are tailored to different stakeholder groups and delivered through local venues such as community centres and cooperative facilities, using simplified and visual materials including maps, infographics, and short videos. Dedicated engagement with private sector actors—including fish processors, buyers, and traders—will highlight the links between biodiversity conservation, sustainable sourcing, and market access. Formal collaboration mechanisms, including Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), will be established with private sector partners, research institutions, and cooperatives to support dissemination and ensure continuity beyond the project duration.

129. The project will generate a **portfolio of knowledge products under Output 3.2.2**, including at least four technical reports, two policy briefs, and multiple dissemination events with 20–30 participants each. These products will document lessons learned, restoration practices, governance models, and sustainable production approaches, and will be disseminated through national and international platforms to support replication and policy uptake.

130. **Knowledge exchange will be further strengthened through science–policy–community interfaces**, including workshops that translate ecological monitoring data into practical guidance for local stakeholders and

decision-makers. Partnerships with universities and research institutes will ensure continuous technical input and facilitate the integration of scientific knowledge into management practices.

131. The **effectiveness of KM and communication activities will be systematically monitored** through participation records (disaggregated by gender), feedback surveys, and qualitative assessments of behavioural change and stakeholder engagement. These insights will inform adaptive management of communication approaches and feed into the broader project monitoring system under Component 4.

132. Overall, the KM and Communication approach ensures that project knowledge is not only generated but actively used, enabling informed decision-making, strengthening institutional and community capacities, and supporting the long-term sustainability and scaling of integrated lagoon management practices in the Çukurova Delta.

E.2 Socio-economic Benefits and Decent Rural Employment

133. The project generates significant socio-economic benefits at local and national levels by strengthening livelihoods, creating employment opportunities, and promoting sustainable, climate-resilient natural resource use. These benefits are intrinsically linked to the project's integrated landscape approach, which combines ecosystem restoration (Outcome 2.1), sustainable production practices and governance (Outcome 2.2), and capacity development (Outcome 3.1).

134. At the local level, the project will **restore ecological functionality and productivity of lagoon ecosystems through targeted interventions**, including rehabilitation of canals and inlets (50 ha in Akyatan and 50 ha in Akyayan), restoration of wetland habitats (50 ha), and sediment removal (50 ha). These interventions will improve water circulation, fish breeding conditions, and habitat quality, **thereby increase fish stocks and enhancing the productivity of lagoon-based livelihoods**. In parallel, the strengthening of marine protected area management and lagoon governance will improve the **sustainability of fisheries, directly benefiting local fishers and cooperatives**.

135. A key component of the project is the strengthening of lagoon management frameworks and fisheries regulation, including the revision and enforcement of fishing prohibition areas and the implementation of ecosystem-based lagoon management plans (Output 2.2.1). These measures will reduce overfishing, support stock recovery, and **create more stable and sustainable income streams for fishing communities**. The establishment of multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms (Output 2.2.2) will further ensure inclusive participation of local actors, including women and vulnerable groups, in decision-making processes related to resource management.

136. The project also promotes sustainable agricultural livelihoods in surrounding landscapes through the introduction of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and the establishment of GAP zones in the vicinity of the park (50 ha) to reduce nutrient runoff and sedimentation (Output 2.2.3). These interventions will **improve soil health, reduce input costs, and enhance long-term agricultural productivity**, while simultaneously reducing environmental pressures on lagoon ecosystems. This integrated land–water management approach **supports diversified and resilient livelihood systems**.

137. Employment opportunities will be generated through ecosystem restoration works, implementation of sustainable production practices, monitoring activities, and community-based management structures. In addition, capacity-building programmes (Output 3.1.1) will **equip farmers, fishers, and local stakeholders with technical and organizational skills required to adopt sustainable practices, access value chains, and engage in resource governance**. These activities are expected to benefit at least 1,915 people (1,149 men and 766 women), contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive socio-economic development.

138. At the national level, the project **strengthens institutional capacities** for integrated lagoon management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable production systems, contributing to improved governance and policy implementation under Component 1. By enhancing ecosystem resilience and reducing land and water degradation, the project supports climate adaptation and **contributes to long-term food security and economic stability**.

139. The project area comprises coastal communities whose livelihoods are highly dependent on ecosystem services provided by lagoons, wetlands, and fisheries, yet are increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as rising temperatures, salinization, habitat degradation, and declining fish stocks. By restoring ecosystem functions and strengthening adaptive capacities, the project enhances the resilience of these communities and secures the natural resource base on which their livelihoods depend.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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	Programm ing of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	Türkiye	Land Degradati on	LD STAR Allocation : LD-1	Grant	262,434.00	24,931. 00	287,365.00
FAO	GET	Türkiye	Biodiversit y	BD STAR Allocation : BD-1	Grant	874,782.00	83,104. 00	957,886.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						1,137,216.0 0	108,035 .00	1,245,251.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4749

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GET	Türkiye	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	11,539.00	1,096.00	12,635.00
FAO	GET	Türkiye	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	38,461.00	3,653.00	42,114.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					50,000.00	4,749.00	54,749.00

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	Türkiye	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	321,497.00
FAO	GET	Türkiye	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	978,503.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)					1,300,000.00

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
LD-1	GET	262,434.00	1,500,000.00
BD-1-1	GET	874,782.00	3,000,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		1,137,216.00	4,500,000.00

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
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Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	329,598.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	170,402.00
Total Co-financing (\$)				4,500,000.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The Government co-financing comes from the project “Improving Sustainable Management of Aquatic Resource Program implemented by the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (National Project Code: 33.01.07)” as public investment with the amount of USD 3,000,000 and recurrent expenditures (USD 1,000,000).

The investment mobilized of FAO co-financing is provided by the project “Climate Change Awareness Assessment and Capacity Building (SHARP+Tool) UTF/TUR/071/TUR” (USD 100,000) and “Enhancing the Visibility of the FAO-Türkiye Partnership Programmes (FTPPII and FTFP) Fund” (USD 229,598). Additionally, an in-kind contribution of USD 170,402 will be provided by FAO’s operational costs for project management and monitoring.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	1/28/2026	Jeffrey Griffin	0657055680	Jeffrey.Griffin@fao.org
Project Coordinator	1/28/2026	Aygul Guluzade	0514963346	Aygul.Guluzade@fao.org

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

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (Month, day, year)
Ahmet Bagci	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	5/7/2026

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Project Objective: To conserve biodiversity and restore ecosystem functions in the Çukurova Delta through ecosystem restoration, integrated landscape management, and adoption of sustainable production practices.							
Component 1: Enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management in Çukurova Delta							
Outcome 1.1: Policy and regulatory frameworks strengthened to enable integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation in lagoon ecosystems	Number of policy, legal and regulatory instruments revised, developed and operationalized to support biodiversity conservation and integrated lagoon management (including amendment to fisheries regulation and Strategic Environmental Action Plan)	Existing policy and regulatory frameworks related to fisheries, biodiversity, and water management are fragmented and not fully aligned with lagoon ecosystem dynamics; fishing prohibition zones and enforcement provisions are outdated and not based on recent ecological data	Draft amendment to fisheries regulation prepared and validated; gap analysis completed; Strategic Environmental Action Plan under development	At least two major regulatory/policy instruments formally submitted for adoption including revised fisheries regulation and Strategic Environmental Action Plan aligned with lagoon management needs	Official government gazettes; approved legal texts; MoAF policy records; consultation and validation workshop reports; spatial planning maps	Political and institutional commitment to policy reform is maintained; inter-agency coordination remains functional; legal approval processes proceed without delays	SURKOOP with support from MoAF
Output 1.1.1: National and sub-national gender sensitive policies and legal frameworks developed and harmonized to support biodiversity conservation, lagoon management, and sustainable production practices	Amendment to fisheries regulation and associated policy instruments developed, validated and submitted	Current fisheries regulation does not incorporate updated ecological data, zoning requirements or integrated lagoon management principles; no Strategic Environmental Action Plan exists	Gap analysis completed; draft amendment and spatial maps prepared and validated through consultations	Final amendment submitted; fisheries management plans for at least two lagoons and one Strategic Environmental Action Plan completed	Legal drafts; technical reports; consultation minutes; spatial zoning maps; submission records	Availability of ecological data; stakeholder agreement on zoning and restrictions; legal drafting capacity available	SURKOOP with support from MoAF
Outcome 1.2: Integrated landscape management frameworks for biodiversity conservation in lagoon landscapes effectively implemented and enforced by national and sub-national authorities	GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender	0 institutional stakeholders involved in lagoon management with exposure to structured capacity-building programs and practical experience in applying integrated lagoon management planning, enforcement procedures, and ecosystem-based approaches in their day-to-day functions	At least 30 institutional stakeholders (40% women) trained and demonstrating improved knowledge and initial application of lagoon management planning and enforcement approaches	Approximately 60 institutional stakeholders (40% women) trained through structured programs and applying improved planning, enforcement, and ecosystem-based management approaches within their institutional mandates	Training attendance records (gender-disaggregated); pre- and post-training assessments; institutional reports; enforcement records; documentation of application of management plans and regulatory tools	Institutional staff remain in relevant roles; mandates allow application of knowledge; inter-agency coordination supports implementation; trained staff are supported by leadership and resources	SURKOOP with support from MoAF
Output 1.2.1: Institutional and technical capacities of national and sub-national authorities strengthened to implement lagoon management plans, enforce regulations, and support biodiversity conservation	Number of structured, in-person institutional capacity-building programs developed and delivered on lagoon management planning, regulatory enforcement, and ecosystem-based management approaches, including practical field-based learning components	No structured or standardized capacity-building programs currently exist focusing on lagoon-specific management, enforcement of fisheries regulations, and ecosystem-based management approaches across relevant national and sub-national institutions	At least 2 structured in-person training programs delivered, including classroom sessions, group exercises, and field-based components in lagoon sites	3 comprehensive in-person training programs delivered (approximately 20 participants each), including: classroom-based technical sessions; facilitated group work and scenario exercises; field visits to lagoon sites (e.g. Akyatan, Akyayan, Yumurtalık, Tuzla); hands-on exercises using maps, zoning plans, and monitoring data	Training agendas and curricula; training materials (guidelines, manuals, case studies); attendance sheets; field visit reports; photographic documentation; training evaluation reports	Logistical arrangements allow in-person delivery; trainers and technical experts are available; institutions release staff to participate; suitable field sites accessible during training periods	SURKOOP with support from MoAF
Component 2: Addressing biodiversity conservation through sustainable practices and restoration of Çukurova Delta ecosystems							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Outcome 2.1: Ecological integrity and resilience of lagoon ecosystems improved through targeted ecosystem restoration and monitoring measures	GEF Core Indicator 3.4: Area of wetlands restored (hectares)	0 ha with coordinated restoration interventions currently implemented in Akyatan lagoon; hydrological connectivity disrupted and habitats degraded	At least 50 hectares of lagoon ecosystems under active restoration interventions	100 hectares of lagoon ecosystems restored through canal rehabilitation and sediment removal	GIS and spatial mapping of managed areas; ecological monitoring system outputs and datasets; monitoring reports; fisheries and biodiversity survey data; project progress reports; documentation of management measures informed by monitoring data	Hydrological conditions remain suitable; no extreme climatic events significantly disrupt restoration. Monitoring systems are fully installed and maintained; data is regularly collected and accessible; institutions have capacity to manage and use monitoring information; no major environmental disruptions affect monitoring infrastructure	SURKOOP, with support from General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, Çukurova University, Mediterranean Fisheries Research, AKSAM and MEDFRI.
	GEF Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated (direct+indirect) (6.1+6.2) (tones of CO₂ eq)	0 metric tons of CO ₂ equivalent mitigated in the absence of project-supported restoration and management interventions	3,000 metric tons of CO ₂ equivalent mitigated through partial implementation of wetland restoration, rewetting, sediment removal, and initial improvements in water quality and ecosystem functioning across pilot lagoon sites	7,993 metric tons of CO ₂ equivalent mitigated through the restoration of lagoon hydrological connectivity, rehabilitation of wetland habitats, sediment removal, and improved ecosystem functioning, resulting in reduced emissions and enhanced carbon sequestration in coastal wetland systems	NEXT tool calculations and outputs; project monitoring reports; restoration activity records (hectares restored, sediment removed, vegetation established); documentation of improved water quality and hydrological conditions; GEF Core Indicator reporting templates	Restoration interventions are implemented as planned and result in improved hydrological regimes and vegetation establishment; water quality improvements are sufficient to reduce methane emissions; no major climate shocks (e.g., extreme drought or flooding) reverse restoration gains; assumptions embedded in the NEXT tool emission factors remain applicable to local conditions	
Output 2.1.1: Lagoon hydrological connectivity restored and critical habitats rehabilitated to support biodiversity conservation	Number and extent of ecosystem restoration interventions implemented in lagoon systems, including: rehabilitation of canals and inlets; restoration of wetland habitats; sediment removal operations; implemented according to defined technical specifications	No ecosystem restoration interventions implemented under the project (0 interventions completed). Lagoon systems in Akyatan and Akyayan are currently characterized by degraded hydrological connectivity, sediment accumulation, and deteriorated wetland habitats, with no coordinated restoration works underway.	Ecosystem restoration interventions initiated and partially implemented, including: canal and inlet rehabilitation works underway in both lagoons; wetland restoration activities initiated in Akyatan Lagoon; sediment removal operations initiated in priority areas; environmental impact assessments and baseline studies completed	All planned ecosystem restoration interventions fully implemented, including: rehabilitation of canals and inlets in Akyatan and Akyayan lagoons; restoration of 50 ha of wetland habitats in Akyatan Lagoon; sediment removal completed across 50 ha of lagoon water areas (Akyatan and Akyayan combined), with reuse of dredged material for habitat creation; restoration works implemented in accordance with technical and environmental standards	Engineering and contractor completion reports; GIS and spatial data; site inspection and supervision mission reports; environmental impact assessment documentation; photographic evidence (before/after)	Environmental approvals and permits are obtained on time; hydrological and climatic conditions allow implementation; contractors have adequate technical capacity; no major external shocks disrupt restoration activities	SURKOOP, with support from General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, Çukurova University, Mediterranean Fisheries Research, AKSAM and MEDFRI.
Output 2.1.2: Ecological monitoring systems established and operational to inform adaptive management	Number of ecological monitoring system established, including coverage area and number of surveys	No integrated ecological monitoring system exists; limited data on fish stocks, water quality and ecosystem dynamics	Monitoring protocols developed; system installed; at least 3 fish stock surveys conducted	Monitoring system fully operational covering approximately 1,700 ha; at least 6 fish stock surveys completed; continuous data generated	Monitoring datasets; equipment installation records; survey reports; data management system outputs	Monitoring equipment maintained; institutional capacity sustained; regular data collection ensured	
Outcome 2.2: Integrated landscape management effectively implemented in pilot sites through strengthened gender-responsive local governance and adoption of sustainable	GEF Core Indicator 2.2: Area with marine protected areas created or under improved management (hectares)	0 hectares under improved management effectiveness supported by the project in lagoon protected areas	17,276 hectares (50% of total area) under improved management effectiveness, reflecting formal approval of lagoon management and fisheries management plans for Akyatan and Yumurtalık lagoons, establishment of	34,653 hectares of marine and coastal protected areas under improved management effectiveness through the development and implementation of lagoon management and fisheries management plans in Akyatan (14,800 ha) and Yumurtalık (19,853 ha) lagoons, covering the full extent of the protected areas	METT score report (METT score required to be increased). Approved lagoon management plans and fisheries management plans; official designation and zoning documents; spatial planning maps; monitoring reports	Sustained institutional coordination among responsible authorities; formal endorsement and adoption of management plans; continued stakeholder engagement, including participation of fishers and women;	SURKOOP with support from MoAF, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and with support from Provincial Directorates, Fishery Cooperatives

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
production practices			governance mechanisms, and initial implementation of zoning and fisheries regulations		demonstrating implementation of management measures; records of enforcement and compliance in no-fishing zones and regulated areas	adequate enforcement capacity to implement zoning and fisheries regulations	
	Increase in METT score for Akyatan and Yumurtalik Lagoon Protected Areas	METT scores for Akyatan is 55 and for Yumurtalik is 51	METT scores reported at MTR stage for Akyatan is 57 and for Yumurtalik is 53	METT scores reported for Akyatan is 71 and for Yumurtalik is 70 at project termination.	METT score reported in Mid Term Report and at Terminal Report and in WCMC.	Sustained institutional commitment and inter-agency coordination enable the effective implementation of management plans and governance mechanisms. Adequate financial and human resources are available to implement improved management measures, enforcement, and monitoring.	
	GEF CI 4.3: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (hectares)	No agricultural areas under the project are currently managed using structured sustainable land management approaches (0 hectares). Agricultural practices around Akyatan Lagoon contribute to nutrient runoff, sedimentation, and degradation of lagoon ecosystems.	At least 25 hectares of agricultural land under improved management practices, including initial implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and establishment of buffer zones.	50 hectares of agricultural landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems in the Akyatan Lagoon area, including: implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP); establishment of ecologically functional buffer zones; application of soil conservation, nutrient management, and integrated pest management practices	GIS mapping of buffer zones; field verification and site inspection reports; vegetation establishment records; photographic documentation (before/after); monitoring data on water quality and sediment reduction	Farmers adopt and maintain practices; extension services provide continued support; climatic conditions allow implementation; incentives remain sufficient	
	GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender	No direct beneficiaries reached under the project (0 people). Local communities, fishers, farmers, and institutional stakeholders currently have limited access to coordinated capacity-building, governance participation, and sustainable production initiatives related to lagoon management.	Approximately 835 direct beneficiaries reached (at least 40% women), including: stakeholders engaged in governance processes; farmers participating in Farmer Field Schools; fishers and cooperative members participating in capacity development programs participants in awareness and knowledge exchange activities	1,670 direct beneficiaries reached (at least 40% women), including: up to 1,500 fishers and local stakeholders engaged in governance processes (Output 2.2.2); at least 20 farmers trained through Farmer Field Schools (Output 2.2.3); approximately 150 fisheries stakeholders trained (Output 2.2.4)	Participation and attendance records (gender-disaggregated); training and workshop reports; governance committee records; beneficiary databases; project M&E system	Stakeholders are willing to participate; gender-inclusive approaches are effectively implemented; outreach mechanisms are accessible; no major social or economic disruptions limit participation	
Output 2.2.1: Lagoon management plans developed and implemented in pilot sites	Number of lagoon management plans developed and operationalized	No integrated lagoon management plans currently operational	Plans developed for at least two lagoons	Plans operational and implemented in Akyatan and Yumurtalik lagoons	Approved plans; implementation reports; stakeholder validation documentation	Stakeholder participation sustained; plans formally adopted	SURKOOP with support from with MoAF, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks and with support from Provincial Directorates, Fishery Cooperatives
Output 2.2.2: Multi-stakeholder governance and coordination mechanisms established and functioning with inclusive and gender-balanced participation	Number of governance committees established and stakeholders engaged in Akyatan and Yumurtalik Lagoons	No formal multi-stakeholder governance structures for lagoon management in Akyatan and Yumurtalik Lagoons	Two committees established and initial coordination initiated in Akyatan and Yumurtalik Lagoons	Two committees fully operational in Akyatan and Yumurtalik Lagoons	Committee ToRs; meeting minutes; stakeholder participation records	Stakeholders remain engaged; committees meet regularly and influence decisions	
Output 2.2.3: Sustainable	Number of agricultural management systems	No structured or coordinated	Sustainable agricultural	Sustainable agricultural management systems	Technical guidelines and	Farmers remain engaged and willing	

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
agricultural practices implemented in surrounding landscapes, with equitable access and benefits for women and men	and practices operationalized in buffer zones and surrounding landscapes, including implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) protocols	sustainable land management systems are currently implemented in agricultural areas surrounding Akyatan Lagoon. Existing agricultural practices are predominantly conventional, with limited application of integrated soil management, nutrient optimization, or ecosystem-based approaches, and no formally established buffer zone management systems.	practices and management systems initiated, including buffer zone design and implementation approach developed and applied GAP protocols introduced and partially adopted	fully operational in the project area, including: buffer zone management system established and functioning (design, maintenance, and monitoring protocols in place); Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) systematically applied in surrounding agricultural lands; soil conservation, efficient fertilizer use, and integrated pest management practices adopted and maintained; a tested and validated model for buffer zone establishment and sustainable land management developed and documented for replication	protocols developed; field implementation reports; Farmer Field School documentation; extension service reports; monitoring data on practice adoption; project documentation on model development and replication	to adopt practices; extension services provide continued support; practices are economically viable; no major climatic or economic shocks disrupt agricultural systems	
Component 3. Knowledge Management (KM) and lessons learned							
Outcome 3.1: Local communities and stakeholders actively participate in and contribute to integrated landscape management through strengthened capacities and awareness	GEF CI 11: Number of direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender)	No direct beneficiaries reached under the project (0 people). No structured capacity-building and awareness programme implemented at scale	Approximately 70 beneficiaries reached	135 beneficiaries reached (≥40% women)	Participation records; gender-disaggregated data; event reports	Stakeholders willing to participate; outreach methods effective	SURKOOP, with support from with MoAF, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
Output 3.1.1: Gender-responsive capacity-building programmes delivered to support community participation in lagoon management and adoption of sustainable production practices	Number and type of awareness and capacity-building activities delivered	Limited awareness activities, not systematic or coordinated; zero activities carried out.	At least 3 activities delivered	Full programme implemented including 1 training (25–30), 4 community sessions (80–100), 1 private sector workshop (10–15), 1 knowledge exchange (15–20)	Event reports; attendance sheets; feedback surveys; materials produced	Participation sustained; communication materials effective	SURKOOP, with support from with MoAF, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
Outcome 3.2: Knowledge, lessons learned and best practices on biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management effectively captured and disseminated	Number and type of knowledge products developed and disseminated	No structured knowledge management system; limited documentation of practices	Initial knowledge products developed and at least one dissemination event conducted	At least 4 technical reports, 2 policy briefs and multiple dissemination events completed	Published reports; dissemination records; platform analytics	Knowledge uptake by stakeholders; dissemination channels effective	SURKOOP, with support from with MoAF, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
	GEF CI 11: Number of direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender)	0 people reached through project-supported knowledge dissemination and communication activities	25 people (at least 40% women) reached through initial dissemination events, including workshops, seminars, and knowledge-sharing activities	50 people (at least 40% women) reached through targeted dissemination activities, including workshops, seminars, and knowledge-sharing events promoting best practices in lagoon management, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable production practices	Event reports; participant lists disaggregated by gender; workshop and seminar materials; communication products; feedback forms and attendance records	Continued stakeholder interest and participation; effective outreach and communication strategies; accessibility of dissemination events to target groups, including women and local stakeholders	
Output 3.2.1: Gender-sensitive knowledge management and communication strategy implemented	Number of Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy developed and implemented	No KM strategy in place	One Strategy developed and validated	One Strategy fully implemented guiding knowledge and communication activities	Strategy document; implementation reports; communication outputs	Institutional commitment; coordination across components	SURKOOP, with support from with MoAF, the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
Output 3.2.2: Best practices on lagoon management, restoration and sustainable production practices	Number of knowledge products and dissemination events	No systematic documentation or dissemination	At least 2 products and 1 dissemination event	At least 4 reports, 2 policy briefs and ≥2 events (20–30 participants each)	Publications; event reports; dissemination records	Stakeholder engagement; knowledge relevance maintained	

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
documented and disseminated							
Component 4. Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)							
Outcome 4.1: Comprehensive project monitoring system established and operationalized	Number of M&E systems established and operational	No integrated M&E system in place	One Framework developed and initial tools deployed	One Comprehensive M&E system operational across project	M&E reports; system outputs; monitoring data	Data collection sustained; staff apply tools correctly	PMU
Output 4.1.1: Gender-responsive M&E framework and tools developed and applied	Number of M&E framework, tools and trained staff	No standardized M&E framework or trained personnel	Framework developed and staff trained	Framework fully applied; staff trained across agencies (1–2 per agency)	Training records; M&E reports; system documentation	Staff capacity maintained; tools functional	PMU
Outcome 4.2: Project evaluation and reporting conducted in line with GEF requirements	Number of project reports and evaluations compliant with GEF requirements	No structured reporting aligned with GEF	Initial PIR/PPR reporting conducted	Three reports delivered including PIR, PPR, TE	GEF reports; submission records; evaluation reports	Timely reporting; stakeholder cooperation	PMU
Output 4.2.1: Project Implementation Report (PIR), Project Progress Report (PPR) conducted	Number of PIR, PPR reports produced	No reports produced	Initial PIR and PPR submitted	Three required PIR, PPR completed	Submitted reports; GEF documentation	Data availability; coordination effective	PMU and FAO
Output 4.2.2: Project Terminal Evaluation (TE) conducted	Terminal Evaluation conducted	No terminal evaluation conducted	Evaluation initiated	Terminal evaluation completed and disseminated	Evaluation report; dissemination records	Evaluator availability; access to data	FAO

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Project coordination and ProDoc preparation (consultancies)	29,000.00	29,000.00	
Capacity Assessment (HACT) for Operating Partner	3,750.00	3,750.00	
Inception Workshop	6,500.00	6,500.00	
Final consultation meeting	6,500.00	6,500.00	
Travel to project site	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Translation, visibility and communication costs	1,750.00	1,750.00	
Total	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tuzla lagoon	36.70733	35.04312	298,681

Location Description:

Lagoon and wetland area, with canals/inlets and associated coastal environment.

Activity Description:

Policy and regulatory framework review

Capacity development

Ecological monitoring

Participative landscape management

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Akyatan lagoon	36.61491	35.29958	324,378

Location Description:

Lagoon (intermittent lake) and wetland area, with canals/inlets and associated coastal environment. In the context of the project, understood within the boundaries of the encompassing protected area.

Activity Description:

Policy and regulatory framework review

Capacity development

Rehabilitation of canals and inlets

Ecological monitoring

Participative landscape management

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Akyayan lagoon	36.68333	35.56667	324,377

Location Description:

Lagoon and wetland area, with canals/inlets and associated coastal environment.

Activity Description:

Policy and regulatory framework review

Capacity development

Rehabilitation of canals and inlets

Sediment removal

Ecological monitoring

Participative landscape management

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yumurtalik lagoons	36.71667	35.63333	388,326

Location Description:

Lagoonal complex with associated wetland and coastal areas. In the context of the project, understood within the boundaries of the encompassing protected area.

*Note: provided GeoName and coordinates refer to one of its central lagoons, Darboğaz lagoon.

Activity Description:

Policy and regulatory framework review

Capacity development

Ecological monitoring

Participative landscape management

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Akyatan buffer zone	36.70883	35.28502	307,673

Location Description:

Buffer zone with predominantly agricultural areas surrounding the Akyatan lagoon and protected area.

*Note: provided GeoName and coordinates refer to Kiremit, a settlement within the northern/central part of the buffer zone.

Activity Description:

Policy and regulatory framework review

Capacity development

Implementation of sustainable agricultural practices

Participative landscape management

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

Annex H provides the geo-referenced information and spatial representation of the project intervention areas across the Çukurova Delta lagoon system, including Tuzla, Akyatan, Akyayan, and Yumurtalık lagoons. The maps illustrate the geographic scope of the project, including hydrography, priority areas for conservation and protected areas, as well as the target areas for specific interventions covered by the project: wetland restoration, rehabilitation of canals/inlets, sediment removal and ecological monitoring, etc. Geographic coordinates are provided to indicate the approximate locations of proposed activities, recognizing that final delineation will be confirmed during project implementation based on detailed ecological assessments and technical surveys. This annex supports the spatial understanding of project activities and ensures transparency and consistency in the identification of intervention sites.

Table 1. Geographic location of project areas, including location description and summary of activities.

Geo Name ID	Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Location description	Activities
298681	Tuzla lagoon	36.70733°N	35.04312°E	Lagoon and wetland area, with canals/inlets and associated coastal environment.	Policy and regulatory framework review Capacity development Ecological monitoring Participative landscape management
324378	Akyatan lagoon	36.61491°N	35.29958°E	Lagoon (intermittent lake) and wetland area, with canals/inlets and associated coastal environment. In the context of the project, understood within the boundaries of the encompassing protected area.	Policy and regulatory framework review Capacity development Rehabilitation of canals and inlets Ecological monitoring Participative landscape management
324377	Akyayan lagoon	36.68333°N	35.56667°E	Lagoon and wetland area, with canals/inlets and associated coastal environment.	Policy and regulatory framework review Capacity development Rehabilitation of canals and inlets Sediment removal Ecological monitoring Participative landscape management

388326*	Yumurtalik lagoons	36.71667°N	35.63333°E	Lagoonal complex with associated wetland and coastal areas. In the context of the project, understood within the boundaries of the encompassing protected area. <i>*Note: provided GeoName and coordinates refer to one of its central lagoons, Darboğaz lagoon.</i>	Policy and regulatory framework review Capacity development Ecological monitoring Participative landscape management
307673*	Akyatan buffer zone	36.70883°N	35.28502°E	Buffer zone with predominantly agricultural areas surrounding the Akyatan lagoon and protected area. <i>*Note: provided GeoName and coordinates refer to Kiremit, a settlement within the northern/central part of the buffer zone.</i>	Policy and regulatory framework review Capacity development Implementation of sustainable agricultural practices Participative landscape management

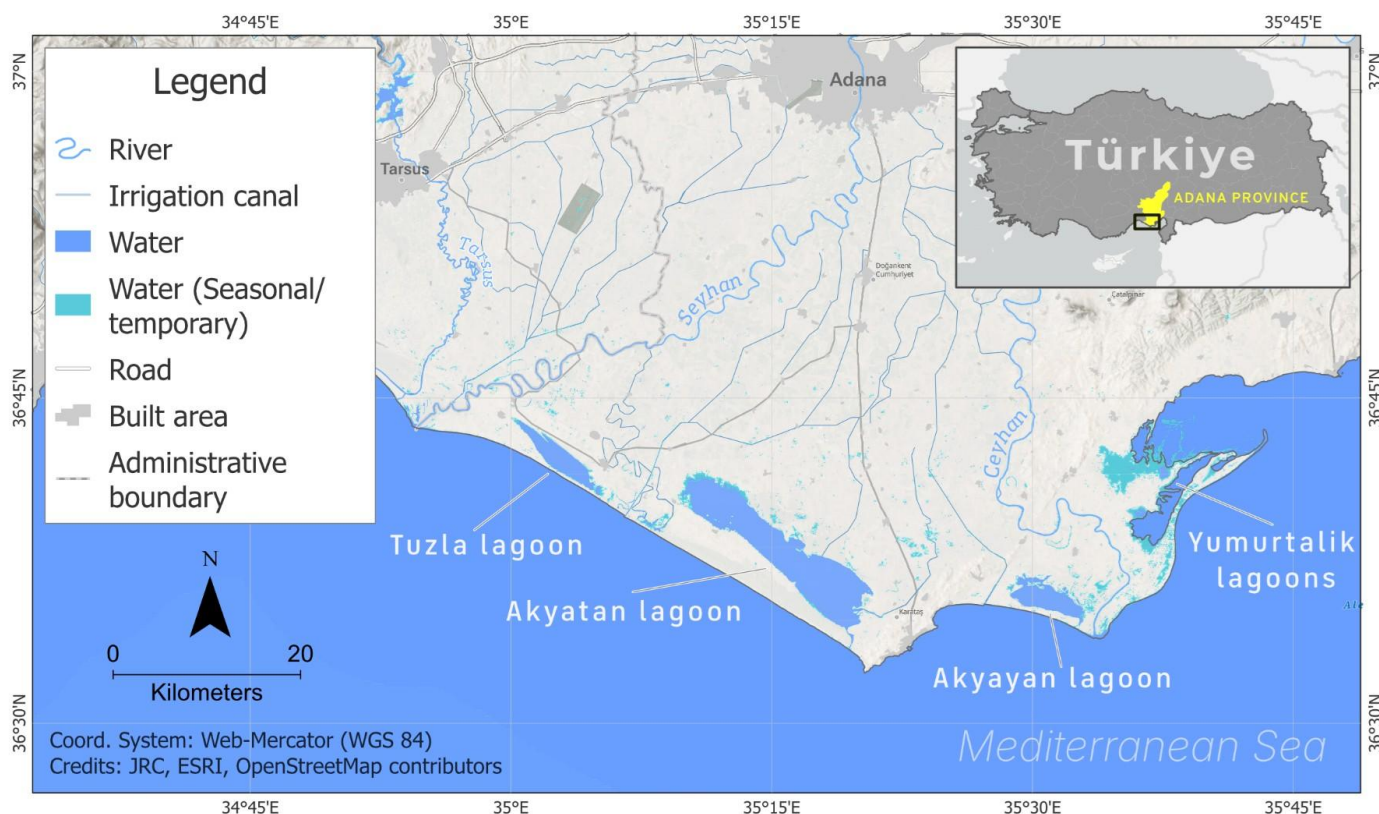


Figure 1. Location and overview of project area: hydrography and built environment

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries

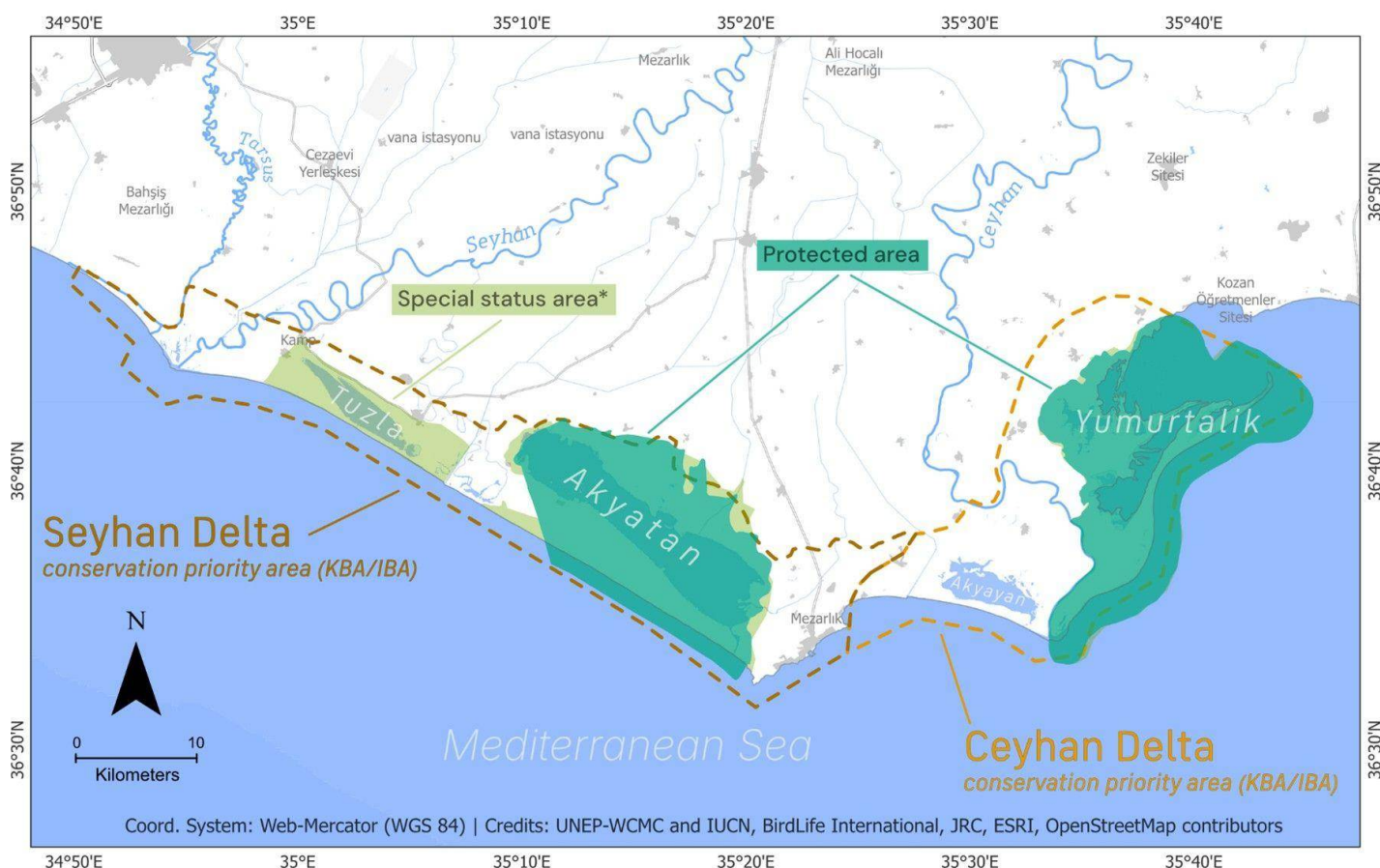


Figure 2. Protected areas and conservation priority areas. *Represent areas under some form of (other/additional) protection or special management under national legislation (e.g., wildlife development area). KBA = Key Biodiversity Area; IBA = Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries

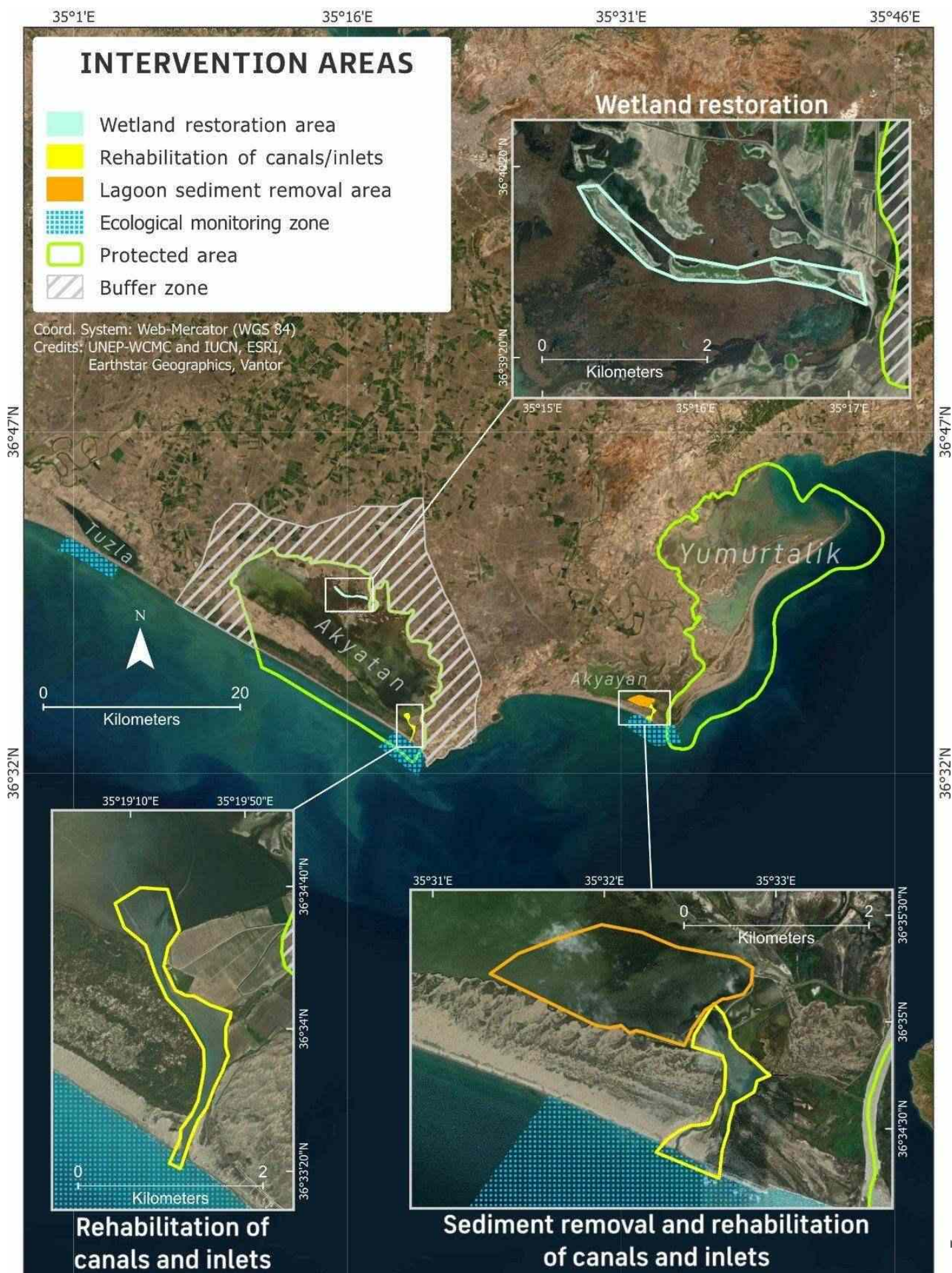


Figure 3. Project intervention areas

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard screening/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts.

Title

745773_Lagoon_Environmental and Social Management Plan_28Jan2026

745773_TUR_Lagoon_ES Risk Screening checklist for project

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

GEF Cost categories	Detailed description	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	PMC	Total GEF	Responsible Entity
International Consultants	International Lagoon Management Expert	0	6750	0	-	-	6,750	SURKOOP
	International LDN Consultant	6,750	0	0	-	-	6,750	SURKOOP
	Sub-total international Consultants	6750	6750	-	-		13,500	
Local Consultants	National Technical Coordinator	24,000	24,000	24,000	-		72,000	SURKOOP
	Project Manager					32,000	32,000	SURKOOP
	Operations/Project Support Specialist	-	-	-	-	42,000	42,000	SURKOOP
	Lagoon Management Expert (LME)	4,000	3,000	3,000	-	-	10,000	SURKOOP
	Lagoon Fishery Management Expert (LFME)	8,000	3,000	1,500	-	-	12,500	SURKOOP
	Biodiversity Expert (BDE)	4,000	2,000	1,500	-	-	7,500	SURKOOP
	Fishery Expert (FE)	3,150	3,150	2,700	-	-	9,000	SURKOOP
	Communication Expert(CE)	840	1,120	840	-	-	2,800	SURKOOP

	Capacity Development Specialist	250	2,000	250	-	-	2,500	SURKOOP
	Trainer (Tr)	240	1,920	240	-	-	2,400	SURKOOP
	IT Expert (IT)	250	2,000	250	-	-	2,500	SURKOOP
	GIS Expert (GISE)	0	2,000	500	-	-	2,500	SURKOOP
	LDN and SLM Expert (LDNE)	3,000	1,000		-	-	4,000	SURKOOP
	Environmental and Impact Assessment Expert	1,200	1,200	600	-	-	3,000	SURKOOP
	Water Quality Expert (WQE)	1,600	300	500	-	-	2,400	SURKOOP
	Environmental Expert (EX)	2,000	500	500	-	-	3,000	SURKOOP
	Ecosystem Management Expert (EqME)	1,600	200	200	-	-	2,000	SURKOOP
	Legal Advisor (LA)	2,000	2,500	1,500	-	-	6,000	SURKOOP
	M&E Expert	-	-	-	9,000	-	9,000	SURKOOP
	Gender Expert (GE)	4,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	6,000	SURKOOP
	Sub-total National Consultants	60,130	50,890	39,080	9,000	74,000	233,100	
	5013 Sub-total Consultants	66,880	57,640	39,080	9,000	74,000	246,600	
Contractual Services – Company	Output 2.1.1 Reinforcement of the Akyayan Lagoon through removal of the accumulated sediment.		120,000	-	-	-	120,000	SURKOOP
	Output 2.1.2 Ecological monitoring systems established and operational to inform adaptive management	-	100,000		-	-	100,000	SURKOOP
	Output 2.1.1 Rehabilitation of the canals through reconstruction of damaged canals and opening new connection canal to sea and freshwater (Akyatan and Akyayan)		100,000	-	-	-	100,000	SURKOOP

	Output 2.1.1 Restoration wetland area in Akyatan with native reeds and vegetation (50ha)		25,000	-	-	-	25,000	SURKOOP
	Output 2.2.1 Development of Strategic Environmental Action Plan in Akyatan and Yumurtalik		25,000	-	-	-	25,000	SURKOOP
	Output 1.1.1 National and sub-national gender sensitive policies and legal frameworks harmonized	27,977		-	-	-	27,977	SURKOOP
	Output 2.2.2 Multi-stakeholder governance and coordination mechanisms established		80,000		-	-	80,000	SURKOOP
	Output 2.2.3 Establishment of the GAP zone (50 ha)		35,000		-	-	35,000	SURKOOP
	Final Evaluation	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000	FAO
	Terminal Report	-	-	-	6,550	-	6,550	FAO
Contractual Services – Company	Spot checks				6,100	13,100	19,200	FAO
	Scheduled Audit	-	-	-		13,500	13,500	FAO
	5650 Sub-total Contracts	27,977	485,000	0	42,650	26,600	582,227	
Travel	International travel (International Consultant)	8,000	7,000	-	-	-	15,000	SURKOOP
	National Travel	25,000	14,000	16,000	-	-	55,000	SURKOOP
	5021 Sub-total travel	33,000	21,000	16,000	-	-	70,000	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Inception workshop and kick-off meeting for technical consultations	8,000	2,000	5,000	-	-	15,000	SURKOOP
	Output 1.2.1 Training on Capacity building	14,000	-	-	-	-	14,000	SURKOOP

	on implementing new policy and regulatory aspects							
	Output 2.2.1 Deliver one targeted capacity development programme for approximately 150 stakeholders	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	SURKOOP
	Output 2.2.2 Trainings for stakeholders on the new strategy and practices (1500 stakeholders)	-	30,000		-	-	30,000	SURKOOP
	Output 2.2.3 Workshops to identify the target farmer groups and implement FFS on good agriculture practices		30,000	-	-	-	30,000	SURKOOP
	Output 3.1.1 Awareness activity 3: Knowledge exchange and science–community interface events. Organize one knowledge exchange workshop (15-20 participants).	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	SURKOOP
	Output 3.1.1 Design and deliver one structured, multi-day capacity-building programme (3 days, 25–30 participants, minimum 40% women)	-		20,000	-	-	20,000	SURKOOP
	Output 3.1.1 Organize at least 4 community-level awareness sessions (20–25 participants each) in key settlements surrounding Tuzla, Akyatan, Akyayan			40,000	-	-	40,000	SURKOOP

	and Yumurtalik lagoons.							
	Output 3.1.1 Awareness activity 2: Private sector and value-chain engagement events. Conduct one targeted awareness workshop (10–15 participants each)	-		10,000	-	-	10,000	SURKOOP
	Project Steering Committee Meetings	4,000	4,000	4,000	-	-	12,000	SURKOOP
	5023 Sub-total training	26,000	76,000	89,000	-	-	191,000	
Other Operating Costs	Communication and awareness raising materials	6,206	3,000	6,400			15,606	SURKOOP
	5024 Sub-total expendable procurement	6,206	3,000	6,400	-	-	15,606	
Goods	Output 2.2.2 Purchasing of the 5 pcs of portable Water Quality Monitoring equipment	-	20,000		-	-	20,000	SURKOOP
	Data Processing Supplies (IT Equipment , Softwares, Communication Equipment)	-	-	-	-	2,783	2,783	SURKOOP
	6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement	0	20,000	0	-	2,783	22,783	
Other Operating Costs	Miscellaneous expenses for stationeries, transportation cost, rental of machinery and equipment	5,000	1,000	3,000	-		9,000	SURKOOP
	6300 Sub-total GOE budget	5,000	1,000	3,000	-	0	9,000	
	TOTAL	165,063	663,640	153,480	51,650	103,383	1,137,216	

SUBTOTAL Comp 1

165,063.00

SUBTOTAL Comp 2	663,640.00
SUBTOTAL Comp 3	153,480.00
M&E	51,650.00
Subtotal	1,033,833.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)	103,383.00
TOTAL GEF	1,137,216.00