

GEF-8 PPG REQUEST FOR GBFF PROJECTS

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General Project Information

Project Title:

Restoration of the remaining ecosystems in selected urban areas within threatened ecoregion of Central Iraq to conserve biodiversity and strengthen human-nature connectivity

Region:

Iraq

GEF Project ID:

11766

Country(ies):

Iraq

Type of Project:

GBFF

GEF Agency(ies):

UNDP

GEF Agency Project ID:

9988

Anticipated Executing Entity(s):

tbd

Anticipated Executing Type:

Others

GEF Focal Area (s):

Biodiversity

Submission Date:

9/26/2024

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Pasture Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Ecosystem Approach, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate resilience, Livelihoods, Community-based adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Biodiversity, Biomes, Rivers, Tropical Dry Forests, Wetlands, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Infrastructure, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Species, Threatened Species, Stakeholders, Private Sector, SMEs, Communications, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Awareness Raising, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Theory of change, Knowledge Exchange, Innovation, Knowledge Generation

Type of Trust Fund:

GBFF

Project Duration (Months)

24

GEF Project Financing: (a)

744,521.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

70,729.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant: (d)

0.00

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

815,250.00

Total Co-financing:

116,000.00

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| PPG Amount: (e) | PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) |
| 50,000.00 | 4,750.00 |
| PPG total Amount: (e+f) | Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) |
| 54,750.00 | 870,000.00 |
| Project Tags: | |
| Support IPLC, GBF Target 1, GBF Target 2, GBF Target 3, GBF Target 10 | |

Indicative Project Overview

To enhance the resilience of natural ecosystems of the threatened Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian Xeric Shrublands Ecoregion by restoring and protecting remaining ecosystems and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into urban spatial-planning.

Project Components

Enabling environment established at Baghdad region to enhance restoration of remaining natural urban ecosystems and facilitate increased investments in ecosystems and biodiversity conservation.

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Technical Assistance | GBFF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 125,000.00 | |

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 1:

Strengthened policies, regulatory and governance frameworks for effective biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, land use and urban spatial planning.

Indicators and targets:

- Cross sectoral coordination mechanisms and capacities in place at Baghdad region to facilitate dialogue and collaboration.
- A participatory Baghdad region Spatial and Land Use Planning Framework and Guidelines finalized for approval.
- Integrated Land Use Plan including biodiversity and ecosystem restoration strategy for Baghdad region developed, approved and under implementation

Project Outputs:

Output 1.1.1: Review/update legal, policy, and institutional frameworks of urban spatial planning and establish/strengthen cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and capacities to enable inclusive and integrated management of natural landscapes in Baghdad region

Output 1.1.2:

Conduct a comprehensive inventory and re-evaluation of current spatial planning in 60 km² of Baghdad region and surrounding areas^[1] where ecosystems are experiencing rapid deterioration

Output 1.1.3:

Develop a participatory and gender-responsive spatial and Land Use planning framework and guidelines for Baghdad region to guide conservation, and restoration of urban ecosystems.

Output 1.1.4: Formulate a Baghdad region biodiversity conservation and urban ecosystem restoration strategy in alignment with previous conservation efforts^[2].

[1] i) Jadriyah and Umm Al Khanazeer Island IBA 015 and KBA (9 km²); ii) Zawra Park Central Baghdad (1.5 km²); iii) Tajiyyat and surrounding areas northern Baghdad (23 km²); and iv) Abu Habba and surrounding areas IBA 14 southwestern Baghdad (25 km²)

[2] <https://www.unep.org/iraq/publications/biodiversity-al-jadriyah-and-umm-al-khanazeer>

Conservation, sustainable management of urban ecosystems and restoration of communal landscapes in Baghdad region.

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Investment | GBFF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 400,000.00 | 100,000.00 |

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 2.1

Degradation of urban landscapes addressed through gender-responsive urban ecosystem restoration

Indicators/targets:

- Area of urban ecosystems restored (target ca. 1,000 ha, GEF Core Indicator 3.3)
- Green House Gas Emissions Mitigated in the AFOLU sector (170,720 Tons CO₂e) GEF Core Indicator 6.1
- Number of beneficiaries individuals (25,000 direct and 75,000 indirect, 50% are women, GEF Core Indicator 11)

Outcome 2.2:

Conservation and sustainable urban ecosystem management and use practices mainstreamed into production landscapes across Baghdad region.

Indicators/targets:

- Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (target at 1,000 ha, GEF Core Indicator 4.3)
- Number of beneficiaries individuals (25,000 direct and 75,000 indirect, 50% are women, GBF Core Indicator 11).

Project Outputs:

Output 2.1.1:

Implement Urban Ecosystem and Landscape restoration strategies and interventions across 1,000 ha of pre-identified degraded Baghdad urban ecosystems (based on output 1.1.2), ensuring the active participation of women in restoration process.

Output 2.1.2.

Support capacity building and training of staff (i.e., Ministry of Environment, Environmental Police), relevant institutions, CSOs /CBOs (e.g., Iraqi Green Climate Organization^[1]³, Al-Aghsan foundation for Agriculture and Environmental Development^[2]⁴) with a focus on women to adopt sustainable practices and use of urban ecosystem services ensuring green jobs creation, income generation and gender inclusive benefit sharing.

Output 2.2.1.

Support implementation of gender responsive urban ecosystem management plans in 1,000 ha (also see Output 1.1.2) of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems through inclusive co-management approaches with Baghdad's native tribal communities (Al- Joboor, Al-Aza, Al-Khafaga, Al-Kadhimi, Al-Mashadani, Al-Ethawi, Al-Karkhi, Al-Haidari, Al-Gupanchi tribes).

[1] <https://www.igreenclimate.org/>

[2] <https://www.alaghsan.org/>

Knowledge Management and Awareness Raising

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Technical Assistance | GBFF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 79,521.00 | 16,000.00 |

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 3.1

Project-generated knowledge and lessons shared, and results and impact communicated and disseminated for wider learning and replication.

Indicators/targets:

-No. of knowledge products developed and shared with local/national, regional and global audiences.

Project Outputs:

Output 3.1.1.

Develop and implement strategies for sharing/ exchanging knowledge (e.g., Urban ecosystems Restoration National Strategy, Environmental guidelines and Code of Conduct for Iraqi Environmental Police), lessons and communicating project results and impact, showcasing benefits for men and women (i.e., gender-disaggregated data).

M&E

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Technical Assistance | GBFF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 75,000.00 | |

Project Outcomes:

Outcome 4.1 Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and SES policies realized.

Indicators and targets:

- to deliver on time and according to expected quality (targets: TE and PIR independent quality ratings S or better).
- Gender action plan fully implemented and reported in PIRs and TE.
- Stakeholder engagement plan fully implemented by end of project

Project Outputs:

Output 4.1.1: Implement project M&E plan and results reported through Project Board, quarterly and annual reports (PIRs), and TE

Output 4.1.2: Develop and implement a plan and report on project-level safeguards and risk management measures, including gender action plan and stakeholder engagement plan.

Component Balances

| Project Components | GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Enabling environment established at Baghdad region to enhance restoration of remaining natural urban ecosystems and facilitate increased investments in ecosystems and biodiversity conservation. | 125,000.00 | |
| Conservation, sustainable management of urban ecosystems and restoration of communal landscapes in Baghdad region. | 400,000.00 | 100,000.00 |
| Knowledge Management and Awareness Raising | 79,521.00 | 16,000.00 |
| M&E | 75,000.00 | |
| Subtotal | 679,521.00 | 116,000.00 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) | 65,000.00 | |
| Total Project Cost (\$) | 744,521.00 | 116,000.00 |

Please provide justification

PROJECT CONCEPT DESCRIPTION

Project Concept Description (No more than seven pages total, including 5 pages of text maximum. Concepts longer than 7 pages will be returned. Please note the portal entry will be limited to up to 19,400 characters of text and up to two figures.).

Current status: According to the assessment of IUCN's Pressure-State-Response Model, 82 KBAs in Iraq, accounting for 60% of the total, were facing high to moderate adverse impact of both residential and commercial development and human intrusions and disturbance. The large size of the ecosystems within Baghdad Province and its outskirts have significantly reduced and/or deteriorated (Fig. 1). The richness and population size of several species of flora and fauna has reduced, and the livelihoods of local communities of Central Iraq notably impacted as well. Nowadays, ecosystem services provided previously by the intact natural ecosystems in Baghdad region such as fishing, fruit production, aesthetic, educational and cultural values have been depleted. If the habitat deterioration and biodiversity depletion is not properly addressed, the natural landscapes and ecosystems in such urban areas will be lost forever

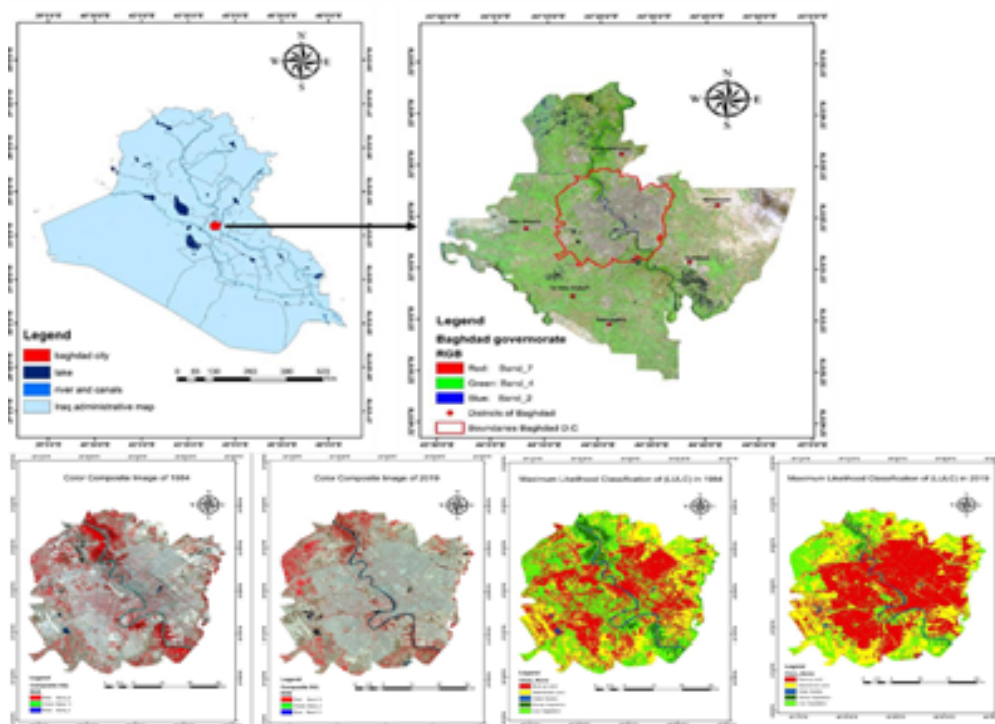


Figure 1: Ecosystems Degradation and urbanization expansion in Baghdad Region 1984-2019 (Fezaa et al. 2022)

Problems addressed by the project: The project will promote sustainable management and conservation of the ecosystems in urban areas including green spaces^{[1]⁵} which have been impacted by residential and commercial development, and human intrusions and disturbance reported in Iraq since 2010. The project will support strengthening of regional policies, regulatory and governance frameworks for effective biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration^{[2]⁶}, land use and to address ill-defined spatial planning for remaining urban ecosystems^{[3]⁷} and landscapes and will mainstream biodiversity conservation into urban spatial planning and management

Goal and project objectives: The project objective is to enhance the resilience of natural ecosystems within the globally threatened *Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian Xeric Shrublands* Ecoregion by restoring and protecting remaining ecosystems and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into spatial-planning in selected urban areas. The project results will contribute to the K-M Global Biodiversity Framework Target number 1, 2, 3, 10 and GBFF's Action Areas 1 and 6. The project will apply an integrated approach of policy reforms, strengthening landscape management and mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in spatial planning to restore remaining urban ecosystems in Baghdad

Province. The project will restore 1,000 ha of woodlands (GEF CI 3.3). The total area of landscapes to be brought under improved practices including in production sectors (i.e. agriculture, riparian orchards) is estimated to be 1,000 ha (GEF CI 4.3) which will lead to improved environmental conditions. The project will support the population 100,000 individuals (50% female, GEF CI 11). GHGs are expected to be mitigated applying NbS from restoration interventions; it is expected to avoid 170,720 tons of CO₂eq over 20 years (GEF CI 6.1)

Theory of Change (ToC)

The Theory of Change is rooted in the urgent action to conserve, restore and sustainably use Baghdad region's biodiversity and ecosystems. If stronger policies, regulations and capacities are in place, and enable the mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into spatial and land use planning, following inclusive and participatory approaches and facilitate investments in protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, **then** remaining natural ecosystems in and around Baghdad can be restored and their resilience against anthropogenic pressures and climate change can be enhanced. To inform decisions, inventories will be conducted to map the remaining ecosystems and biodiversity in and around Baghdad, and the values and services to society, ensuring that local communities are included in these processes and their knowledge is integrated into the plans that will emerge as a result. These processes and investments should ultimately lead to the development of a Baghdad Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration Plan, which can guide future action and investments from all stakeholders to collectively tackle the challenge of biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems in urban landscapes

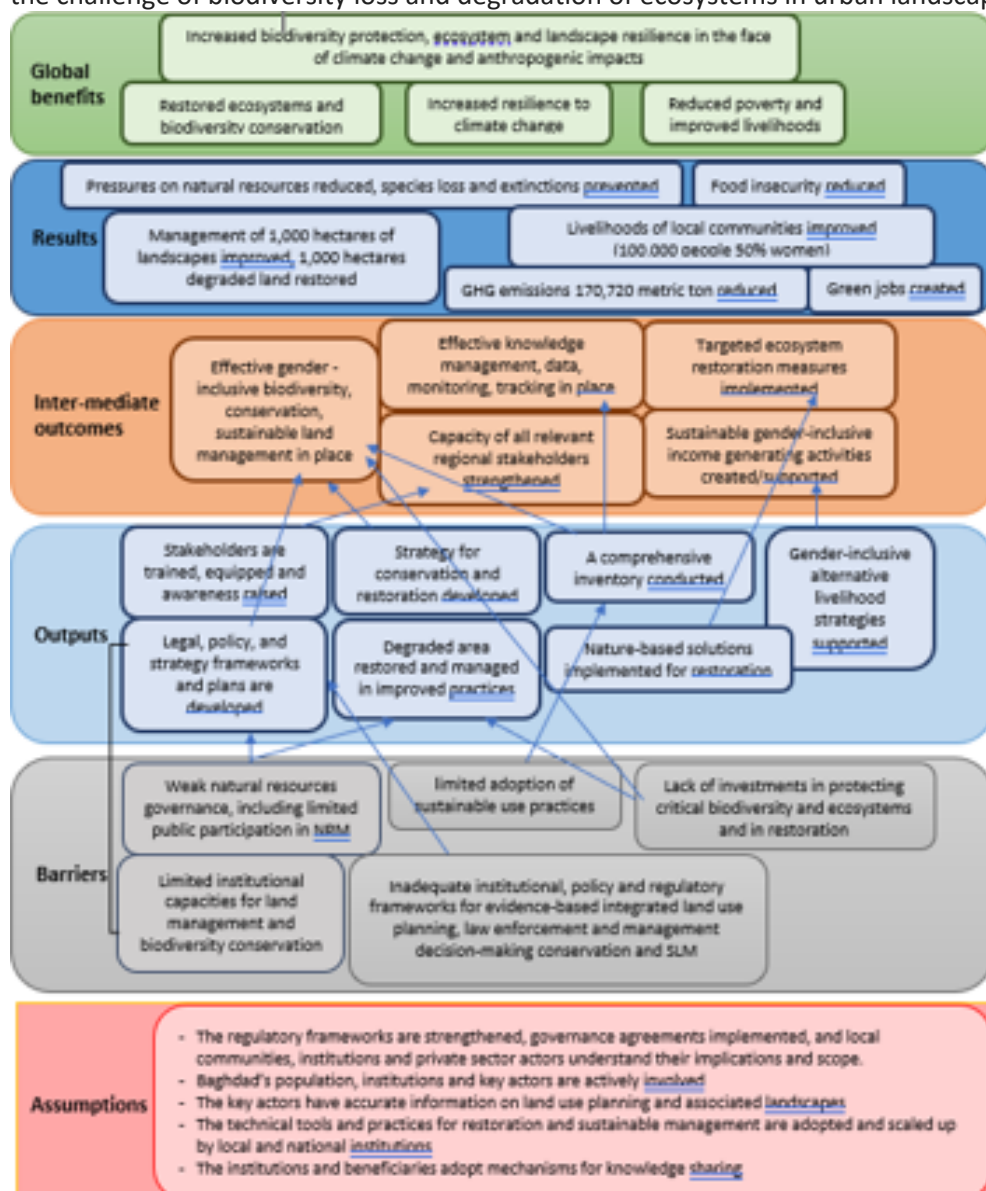


Figure 2: Diagram summarizes the overall project logic, outcomes, outputs, the assumptions necessary for its success, and the barriers the project aims to address

Project components and activities: The strategy to achieve the project objectives and overcome barriers consists of 4 components, organized into 4 outcomes and 10 outputs

Component 1 focuses on an enabling environment for the efficient conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. It aims to enhance coordinated planning, compliance, and align with national and international conservation commitments and obligations. Additionally, it seeks to facilitate collaboration among key stakeholders. The component will pursue one primary outcome and four specific outputs, outlined as follows

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened policies, regulatory and governance frameworks for effective biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and ecosystem restoration. To achieve the outcome, the project will review and update legal, policy, and institutional frameworks (**Output 1.1.1**). This includes strengthening cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and capacities to enable inclusive and integrated management of biodiversity, critical landscapes, and ecosystems in the Baghdad region. It involves integrating priorities set out in the updated NBSAP, LDN targets, and NDCs. A comprehensive inventory and re-evaluation of current spatial planning in Baghdad region and surrounding areas (Jadriyah and Umm Al Khanazeer Island IBA 015 and KBA 9 km², Zawra Park Central Baghdad 1.5 km², Tajiyyat and surrounding areas northern Baghdad 23 km², Abu Habba and surrounding areas IBA 14 southwestern Baghdad 25 km²) where ecosystems are experiencing rapid deterioration will be conducted (**Output 1.1.2**). The process will facilitate the formulation of integrated land use plans and consider the needs of women related to land ownership, access to resources, and decision-making. In parallel, the project will support the development of a participatory and gender-responsive spatial and land use planning framework and guidelines for Baghdad region to guide conservation and restoration of urban ecosystems (**Output 1.1.3**) and support the formulation of a Baghdad region biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration strategy (**Output 1.1.4**), drawing lessons from similar initiatives globally and guided by the UNDP BIOFIN Catalogue of Biodiversity Finance Solutions

Component 2 is designed to support the conservation, sustainable management of ecosystems and restoration of communal landscapes in the Baghdad region. Based on the comprehensive assessment under outcome 1, the project will support restoration of degraded urban landscapes and ecosystems through gender-responsive interventions (**Outcome 2.1**), as well as mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable management and use practices into land use in production landscapes across Baghdad region (**Outcome 2.2**). Under the outcome 2.1, the project will implement ecosystem restoration interventions and strategies for landscapes across 1,000 ha of Baghdad's degraded urban landscapes, ensuring the active participation of women in restoration processes (**Output 2.1.1**). In addition, the project will support capacity building and training of staff, relevant institutions, CSOs/CBOs and income generation, with a focus on women, to adopt sustainable practices in the use of ecosystems and natural resources in urban areas, ensuring green jobs creation and gender inclusive benefit-sharing (**Output 2.1.2**). Under outcome 2, the project will support implementation of ecosystem management plans to bring 1,000 ha of production landscapes under sustainable land management through inclusive and gender-responsive co-management approaches with local communities (**Output 2.2.1**)

Component 3 is designed to support knowledge management and awareness raising. Project-generated knowledge, lessons, results and impact will be codified and packaged for wider sharing through various communication platforms for wider learning and replication (**outcome 3.1**), guided by comprehensive knowledge management and communication strategies (e.g., Urban ecosystems Restoration National Strategy, Environmental guidelines and Code of Conduct for Iraqi Environmental Police), and showcasing benefits for men and women (**output 3.1.1**) Component 4 is designed to ensure the project consistency with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures, including social and environmental safeguards policies and requirements (SES), and that all the GEF and UNDP reporting obligations are met. This will ensure timely reporting, prioritize adaptive management based on periodic reviews of project performance and progress (e.g., PIRs, TE) and as guided by the project governance and quality assurance structures, including the Project Board as per the activities of Output 4.1.1. Project-level safeguards and risk management measures, including gender action plan and stakeholder engagement plan will ensure that robust safeguards systems are in place, in line with UNDP and GEF SES policies and standards, including grievance redress mechanisms and risk management plans and mitigation measures (Output 4.1.2)

List of stakeholders

1. UNDP Iraq is a major partner of the Government of Iraq in its efforts to build resilience and address the vulnerabilities and shocks originating from environmental degradation, natural hazards and climate change. **The final decision on Agency execution will be provided at the CEO endorsement stage.**
2. Iraqi Ministry of Environment is the highest government entity responsible for environmental protection and in charge of overseeing land management and protected areas, and responsible for the conservation and management of ecosystem, with the aim of safeguarding species and habitats through policy and regulations.
3. Baghdad Governorate has the authority to prepare provincial development plans, as well as to design and implement capital projects to improve service delivery conditions.
4. Ministry of Planning is responsible for management of public and private activities in all sectors, and it will provide support and assistance on the design of the spatial-planning and delineations for the green spaces of the targeted areas. Moreover, MoP is the main governmental entity for providing advice and reports to the government of Iraq and hosts a very important data resource (Central Statistical Organization). The SMMEs such as those in construction and agriculture, will be engaged to collaborate with the project and supported to integrate sustainable practices into their operations to mitigate environmental impacts.
5. Environmental NGOs/CSOs (e.g., Iraqi Green Climate Organization and Al-Aghsan foundation for Agriculture and Environmental Development) and Local Communities (Baghdad's native tribal communities e.g., Al-Joboor, Al-Aza, Al-Khafaga, Al-Kadhimi, Al-Mashadani, Al-Ethawi, Al-Karkhi, Al-Haidari, Al-Gupanchi tribes) living in and around the project targeted area will be engaged as active participants and contributors to project design, implementation, particularly project component 2, and governance through representation in the project board.

Action Area (s): The project will primarily contribute to GBF's Action Area 1, and partially contribute to 6, and target GEF-8 core indicators 3, 4, 6 and 11. The project will support strengthened policies, regulatory and governance frameworks for effective biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, land use and urban spatial planning which is aligned with GBF Fund Action Area 1 - "Complementary and scaling up support for biodiversity conservation, restoration, land use and spatial planning" and it will mainstream biodiversity considerations into spatial and land use planning frameworks for Baghdad region, ensuring participation of relevant sectoral ministries, and Local Communities in the planning process, and integrating local knowledge for integrated landscape management, as appropriate (GBF Target 1). It will identify and implement restoration action in national-level priority areas in the Baghdad region to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (GBF Target 2) and scale up support to expand conserved areas and enhance effective management to achieve national goals (GBF Target 3). The project will also contribute to Action Area 6 - "Mainstreaming Biodiversity" and scale up sustainable use of urban biodiversity and biodiversity mainstreaming in production sectors (e.g., fishing) in the Baghdad region (GBF Target 10). **How the project meets the criteria on: GEBs, GBFF indicators; alignment with NBSAP; policy coherence; mobilization of resources; IPLC engagement)**

The project will generate **global environmental benefits** in a) promoting protection, conservation and restoration of biological diversity and natural ecosystems, it will restore ecosystem functions **of the globally threatened Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian Xeric Shrublands Ecoregion** and prevent biodiversity loss of **endemic** species such as the **Basra Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus griseldis***, Mesopotamian Crow *Corvus cornix capellanus*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, the endangered Euphrates softshell turtle *Rafetus euphraticus* and Binni Mesopotamichthys *sharpeyi* and ecosystems such as wetlands and the Tigris **River** riparian landscape, woodlands over an area of about 1,000 ha (CI 3.3), and mainstream biodiversity considerations in an additional 1,000 ha of production landscapes (i.e. agriculture, riparian orchids); b) by restoring and protecting ecosystems, it will build resilience against the impacts of climate change, e.g., droughts, floods, diseases, and sequester carbon and avoid emissions estimated at about 170,720 tons of C2eq over a 20-year period (CI 6.1) and reduce, avoid and reverse land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation in these landscapes. The project will apply an integrated approach of policy reforms, strengthening landscape management and sustainable application of effective biodiversity conservation with sustainable spatial planning to restore urban ecosystem remaining in the Baghdad region. The project will benefit, in multiple ways, the largely urban population of Baghdad region through enhanced ecosystem functions and the goods and services these ecosystems will generate. In total, **100,000 individuals**, 50% female **(CI 11) is expected to benefit from project activities (i.e., Direct beneficiaries 25,000 individuals, and indirect beneficiaries 75,000, 50% Female CI 11).** Direct beneficiaries will benefit from direct access to ecosystems goods and services of restored natural ecosystems, including green jobs through agriculture, fishing, ecotourism, recreation and health. Indirect beneficiaries will gain advantages from improved ecosystem functions including reduced flooding and cleaner air

Iraq is currently updating its **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP 2025–2030)** and updating its national biodiversity targets in alignment with 2030 Global Biodiversity Targets of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The project is in line with Iraq's NBSAP, specifically targeting Goal A for mainstreaming biodiversity across government and societies, Goal B on reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promoting sustainable use with Target 5 addressing habitat loss, Goal C on reducing the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use with target 12, Goal D on enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services with Target 14 and Goal E on knowledge management and capacity building with Target 18. In addition, for the first time, Iraq is initiating the process of developing a national Biodiversity Finance Plan in line with the BIOFIN approach to position itself to leverage multiple sources of finance for biodiversity conservation and nature restoration. Regarding the GEF Focal Area strategy for Biodiversity, the project aligns with objectives on improved conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems, and increased domestic resources for biodiversity. For the Land Degradation focal area, the project is aligned with objective for sustainable land management, landscape restoration, addressing desertification and drought in drylands, and enhancing the LDN policy framework. In the Climate Change focal area, the project aligns with objectives to promote innovation, technology transfer, and enabling policies for mitigation options with systemic impacts, and to enhance nature-based solutions with high mitigation potential. The Iraqi **National Development Plan 2018–2022** focuses on environmental sustainability, emphasizing terrestrial ecosystem protection, aligning with this project. Additionally, the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan targets land degradation control, combatting desertification, and biodiversity preservation, all in line with the proposed project. The project will also contribute to key international agreements and agendas, inter alia the K-M Global Biodiversity Framework, CBD, UNCCD, and the Paris Agreement as well as the achievement of the SDG 1, 2, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 15. The project will conduct meaningful **engagement with local communities** throughout the design, consultation, implementation, and decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs and traditional knowledge are prioritized in planning and implementation of ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management interventions. Scheduled consultations will further involve these communities during project design. The identified local communities will be engaged from project initiation, including on-site visits to conduct ecosystem assessments and mapping, consultations and interviews with community leaders and key groups to ensure inclusivity and active participation. The engagement of Local Communities aims to enhance environmental awareness, build capacities, deliver tangible benefits, and foster legitimacy for conservation efforts. This multifaceted approach and bottom-up strategies to conserve biodiversity and restore ecosystems will characterize the project philosophy and approach. It seeks to establish sustainable partnerships between local communities, government bodies, **private sector (banks and Zain Telecom, Iraq)** and policymakers fostering collaboration to address environmental challenges and promote resilience.

Core Indicators

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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1000 | 0 | 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) |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | |

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) |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Woodlands | 1,000.00 | | | |

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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | | | |

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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1000 | 0 | 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) |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1,000.00 | | | |

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 CO₂e (direct) | 170720 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Expected metric tons of CO₂e (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 CO₂e (direct) | 170,720 | | | |
| Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect) | | | | |
| Anticipated start year of accounting | 2025 | | | |
| 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 CO₂e (direct) | | | | |
| Expected metric tons of CO₂e (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) |
|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|

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 | 50,000 | | | |
| Male | 50,000 | | | |
| Total | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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

The project will restore 1,000 ha of woodlands (GEF CI 3.3). The total area of landscapes to be brought under improved practices including in production sectors (i.e. agriculture, riparian orchids) is estimated to be 1,000 ha (GEF CI 4.3) which will lead to improved environmental conditions. The project will support the population

100,000

individuals (50% female, GEF CI 11). GHGs are expected to be mitigated applying NbS from restoration interventions; it is expected to avoid 170,720 tons of CO₂eq over 20 years (GEF CI 6.1).

ANNEX A: PROJECT FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | GEF Project Grant(\$) | Agency Fee(\$) | Total GEF Financing (\$) |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| UNDP | GBFF | Iraq | Biodiversity | GBFF Action Area 1 | 372,261.00 | 35,365.00 | 407,626.00 |
| UNDP | GBFF | Iraq | Biodiversity | GBFF Action Area 6 | 372,260.00 | 35,364.00 | 407,624.00 |
| Total GEF Resources (\$) | | | | | 744,521.00 | 70,729.00 | 815,250.00 |

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4750

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Grant / Non- Grant | PPG (\$) | Agency Fee(\$) | Total PPG Funding(\$) |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| UNDP | GBFF | Iraq | Biodiversity | GBFF Action Area 1 | Grant | 25,000.00 | 2,375.00 | 27,375.00 |
| UNDP | GBFF | Iraq | Biodiversity | GBFF Action Area 6 | Grant | 25,000.00 | 2,375.00 | 27,375.00 |
| Total PPG Amount (\$) | | | | | | 50,000.00 | 4,750.00 | 54,750.00 |

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

(Only for Multi-Trust Fund projects where GEF TF is included)

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Sources of Funds | Total(\$) |
|----------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| Total GEF Resources | | | | | 0.00 |

Indicative Action Area Elements

| Programming Directions | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Co-financing(\$) |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| GBFF Action Area 1 | GBFF | 372,261.00 | 100,000.00 |
| GBFF Action Area 6 | GBFF | 372,260.00 | 16,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost | | 744,521.00 | 116,000.00 |

Amount of resource allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity:

| |
|------------|
| Amount |
| 400,000.00 |

Indicative Co-financing

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Amount(\$) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Private Sector | Sardar Group and Iraqi Private Banks League | | Investment mobilized | 100,000.00 |
| Private Sector | Zain Iraq | | Investment mobilized | 16,000.00 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|------------|
| Total Co-financing | | | | 116,000.00 |
|--------------------|--|--|--|------------|

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The private sector, including the Sardar Group and the Iraqi Private Banks League, is anticipated to contribute USD 100,000 towards Component 2 of Output 2.1.1. This component focuses on the development and implementation of Urban Ecosystem and Landscape Restoration strategies across 1,000 hectares of identified degraded urban ecosystems in Baghdad. Additionally, Zain Iraq is expected to contribute USD 16,000 to support Component 3 of Output 3.1.1, which centers on knowledge sharing and communication of the project's results.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

| GEF Agency Type | Name | Date | Project Contact Person | Phone | Email |
|------------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| GEF Agency Coordinator | Nancy Bennet | 9/24/2024 | | | Nancy.bennet@undp.org |
| Project Coordinator | Min Htut Yin | 9/24/2024 | | | Min.htut.yin@undp.org |

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

| Name | Position | Ministry | Date (MM/DD/YYYY) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Dr. Jasim Abdulazeez Humadi | Deputy Ministry for Environment Affairs | Ministry of Environment | 3/28/2024 |