Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10987

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Integrated Natural Resource Management in Very Humid Climatic Regions of Eastern Black Sea Region in Turkey

Countries
T?rkiye

Agency(ies)
UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)
General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion Control

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Land Degradation

Sector
AFOLU

Taxonomy

Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem Approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Forest, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Pasture Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Land Degradation Neutrality, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Forest, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Biomes, International Waters, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approache, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Trade Unions and Workers Unions, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Beneficiaries, Communications, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Education, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Principal Objective 2

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

Principal Objective 2

Submission Date

7/14/2023

Expected Implementation Start

4/1/2024

Expected Completion Date

3/31/2027

Duration

36In Months

Agency Fee($)
118,880.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
LD-1-1	Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management	GET	825,000.00	8,047,000.00
LD-1-4	Improve the enabling policy and institutional framework for LDN	GET	426,370.00	4,103,000.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**1,251,370.00**	**12,150,000.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To establish the institutional and technical infrastructure in Turkiye to achieve integrated natural resource management (INRM) in regions with very humid climate through demonstration of SLM techniques that blend the new global approaches and traditional knowledge in Eastern Black Sea region of Turkiye.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1. Integrated natural resource management planning in landscapes with very humid climate	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1: Improved systemic, institutional, and individual capacities for INRM planning in very humid climate zones in line with the national LDN framework for Turkiye. This will be measured by: (i) SLM Commission/ Committee for Rize province fully operational and functional and actively support mainstreaming SLM across key sectors (ii) Rules and guidelines for expansion of the SLM commission to entire EBSC Region agreed, including membership and responsibilities (iii) Weighted vulnerability analysis completed to identify vulnerable areas and practical measures to	Output 1.1. An inter-agency panel on SLM for the Rize Province is established to coordinate the efforts on SLM among relevant stakeholder organizations. Output 1.2. Evidence-based documentation of the degree of land degradation, main drivers of land degradation including the ones related to climate change, and the effect on the lowlands of floods caused by land degradation. Output 1.3. An gender-sensitive INRM Plan prepared for a pilot micro-basin covering an area of 430 ha that is	GET	239,500.00	2,440,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		control and manage land degradation in the Kirechane micro-basin. (iv) Policy papers and legislative recommendations developed on reforms needed to provide an effective framework for implementation of LDN/INRM in the EBSC Region (v) LDN compatible INRM plan developed for 430 ha for achieving LDN across the Kirechane micro-basin and under sustainable land management in production systems (vi) At least 15 points increase in national capacity for INRM/LDN/SLM as measured by UNDP capacity development scorecard	based on SLM and LDN principles Output 1.4. Identification of policy and legislative measures legislation that are needed to support implementation of the INRM Plans in humid climatic zones			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2: Land-based SLM practices in landscapes with very humid climate	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2: Agriculture and forest lands in the pilot micro-basin of Kire?hane (430 ha) are under SLM practices that integrate new approaches with traditional agricultural practices. This will be measured by: (i) At least 1,000 persons (farmers, community members, etc.) directly benefiting from GEF investment (at least 50% women) ii) At least 13,723 ha of forest land in Rize Forest Management unit with improved management plans to benefit biodiversity and indirect forest benefits for 80,000 ha forest land in Rize Forest Directorate and 5,000 ha indirect agriculture benefit from team	Output 2.1. Traditional land use practices for croplands homestead areas that cause reduced harm to soil are identified with a specific focus on women farmers and women-led households. Output 2.2. SLM practices for forests and agricultural lands implemented in pilot micro-basin site Output 2.3. Training activities and peer to peer knowledge sharing activities promoted to enhance the capacities of forest managers, local farmers and farmer associations to promote SLM	GET	727,500.00	6,950,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		plantations in Rize Province (iii) At least 1,041,227 metric tons of CO_2 equivalents mitigated over 20-year period (iv) At least two smallholder demonstration farms adopting sustainable land management and climate smart agricultural techniques (v) At least 100 staff (of which at least 50% are women) trained and engaged in SLM and SFM activities (vi) At least 10,000 community members trained in SLM best practices with 20% women (vii) At least 1 viable agri-food value chains that avoid and/or reduce land degradation	Output 2.4. Resilience-building and income-generating models for sustainable value chains for the main products are identified and implemented			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		supported by DOKAP and MOAF				
Component 3: Knowledge management, and replication	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3: Enhanced Gender sensitive learning and knowledge-sharing on SLM/LDN practices for agriculture, forest lands and community infrastructure in steep and humid areas enhance learning and replication	Output 3.1. Sharing of best practices and lessons learned on SLM techniques through documentation and dissemination	GET	108,000.00	820,000.00
Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4: Monitoring to support adaptive management	Output 4.1. Monitoring and evaluating project impacts and environmental, social and gender safeguards	GET	63,000.00	840,000.00
			Sub Total ($)		**1,138,000.00**	**11,050,000.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	113,370.00	1,100,000.00
Sub Total($)					**113,370.00**	**1,100,000.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)		
Total Project Cost($)	**1,251,370.00**	**12,150,000.00**

Please provide justification

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (CEM), Ministry of Environment Urbanisation and Climate Change	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (CEM), Ministry of Environment Urbanisation and Climate Change	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	600,000.00
Recipient Country Government	General Directorate of Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (OGM)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	General Directorate of Forestry Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (OGM)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	750,000.00
Recipient Country Government	General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	5,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Do?a Koruma Merkezi (DKM), (Nature Conservation Center)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Salarha Municipality	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**12,150,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Note: ?Investment Mobilized? details: Ministry of Environment Urbanisation and Climate Change (CEM) USD 1,600,000) includes (i) USD 1,000,000 Investment for the design and coordination of erosion, flood, snow avalanche, rock fall and landslide control, integrated basin/landscape planning and rehabilitation works throughout T?rkiye that will benefit from the outcomes of the 'Integrated Natural Resource Management in Very Humid Climatic Regions of Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region in T?rkiye' Project. General Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (OGM) (USD 3,750,000) including USD 3,000,000 in investment mobilized for on the ground implementation of erosion, flood, landslide, avalanche, and rock fall control projects designed by ?EM at the demonstration area at Rize General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (USD 5,000,000) for investment to finance creek rehabilitation, erosion and flood control works in Rize Province in line with sustainable land management principles and provision of EBSC region flood maps to support Outcome 1, evidence base and Integrated Natural Resource Management Planning outputs Salarha Municipality (USD 500,000) mobilized for on-the-ground drainage works at the demonstration area accordance with sustainable land management principles (Outcome 2 Output 2.1 and 2.2.). UNDP (USD 1,000,000) Under the ?EU partnership for local Climate Action in T?rkiye? Project under IPA III Program, providing support to local authorities in preparing Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), an approach that can be beneficially applied to the Black Sea Coastal Region. It focuses on enhancing the readiness of local authorities to address climate change impacts by conducting vulnerability and risk assessments that can be tailored for application in natural resource management in the humid regions of the Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region. The data gathered can also guide the integration of climate change adaptation into sectoral policies. Additionally, another component of this project is centered on improving local climate adaptation planning capacity. This component will provide a regulatory framework for creating Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) and pilot the preparation of these plans in selected areas. These LCCAPs can serve as a template for municipalities in the Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region, guiding them in formulating effective climate change strategies. The updated e-LCCAP system can further enhance the preparation and implementation of these plans.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNDP	GET	T?rkiye	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,251,370	118,880	1,370,250.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**1,251,370.00**	**118,880.00**	**1,370,250.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNDP	GET	T?rkiye	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	50,000	4,750	**54,750.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**50,000.00**	**4,750.00**	**54,750.00**

Core Indicators

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)
10430.00	99153.00	0.00	0.00

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)
10,000.00	98,723.00		

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)
430.00	430.00		

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 (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

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?e (direct)	0	1041227	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?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?e (direct)		1,041,227		
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2024		
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?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?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)

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	500	2,550		
Male	500	8,550		
Total	1000	11100	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Note: Indicator 4: Area of landscape under improved management (a total of 99,153 hectares) that includes two sub-indicators 4.1 and 4.3 as follows:: (1) Core Indicator 4.3 covering 430 hectares of landscape under sustainable land management in production systems in the Kirechane micro-basin as measured by: (i) survey of landslide susceptibility, SOC, fertility and productivity status, forest cover and status, biodiversity, etc.); (ii) approval of INRM for micro-basin; (iii) SLM activities under implementation in 2-3 private farmer owned tea gardens to serve as demonstration sites; (iv) CAYKUR agreement to provide technical support, training and extension to promote SLM in tea lands; activities under demonstration in selected tea lands; (v) Regional Forest Management Directorate agreement to update Rize Forest Management Unit?s forest management plan to integrate SLM and SFM through biodiversity conservation, erosion control and action towards enhancing water retention; (vi) CAYKUR agreement to provide technical support, training and extension to promote SLM in tea lands; (vii) DOKAP and DOKA consideration to finance scaling up of SLM in tea lands within micro-basin as long-term strategy; (viii) monitoring criteria agreed to monitor improved outcomes and (ix) traditional land use practices shared with local stakeholders for house construction, farming or road building; archaic drainage systems or terraces for plantations, etc. The global benefits of this target would be the reduction of land degradation through SLM that will promote the wider application of various types of interventions in forestry, agriculture, including tea plantations that will not only improve productivity of the land, but help to maintain or improve agro-ecosystem services that underpin food production and livelihoods. As a consequence of improved land/agricultural productivity, there will be less incentives for unsustainable use of land and forests that helping to conserve biodiversity and forests, reducing erosion and landslides and

improved management of water resources, and (2) Core Indicator 4.1, comprising 98,723 hectares that collectively includes the following breakdown: (a) 13,723 ha forest lands within the Rize Forest Management Unit under improved management to benefit biodiversity as defined by (i) Agreement to mainstreaming sustainable forest management and climate strategies in Rize Forest Management Unit forest management plan when due for revision (ii) Surveys completed within FMU to assess target species status for BD conservation, status of forest degradation/condition, water retention capacities, erosion assessment, topography ruggedness, etc.); (iii) revised forest management plan for Rize FMU integration of BD conservation, enhancing water retention capacity and erosion control; (iv) forest planning staff in Rize FMU trained in sustainable SFM and climate smart practices; (v) monitoring criteria s in place to access effectiveness of forest management; (b) indirect forest impact on 80,000 ha of forests in Rize Forest Directorate through training, demonstration, guidance and BMPs; and (c) indirect agricultural impact in 5,000 ha of tea plantations through training, extension, technical support and awareness raising on BMP. Through this efforts, the global benefits from improved forest management will include the conservation of the rich and unique biological diversity (including a number of endemic species) associated with the intersection of three different phytogeographical hotspots of the Europe-Siberain, Mediterranean and Iran-Turan regions and associated hotspots that lie within Turkiye. Indicator 6: 1,041,227 metric tons of CO2e mitigated over a 20-year period on account of reduced loss of natural forests (1% to zero) from fire covering 13,723 hectares of natural forests in the Rize Forest Management Unit on account of development of forest management plan that integrates ecological and biological considerations, improved emphasis on fire management and assisted natural regeneration using native species, that would be complemented by provision of training and restoration guidelines to forest managers and support for nursery development for ANR promotion. Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender: (a) At least 1,000 persons directly benefiting from GEF investment (at least 50% women) that include (i) farmers in Kirechane micro-basin, foresters, government staff from relevant institutions (?EM + OGM + AFAD + DOKAP + DOKA + DS? + governorships, etc.) receiving SLM training; and (ii) farmers and community members benefiting from SLM demonstration and promotion of traditional land use activities and value-chain and livelihood promotion); (b) 100 staff trained (50% women) in SLM and SFM techniques and participating in demonstration, extension and provision of technical support to farmers; and (c) 10,000 community members (20% women) capacitated in SLM techniques through awareness, training, demonstration and availability of BMPs.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

describe any changes in alignment with the project design with the original pif

Changes made since the PIF are marginal and are reflected in Annex H to this document.

1a. *Project Description*.

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

The targeted region of the project is the Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region of Turkiye (EBSC Region) is located in the north-eastern corner of the country and includes five coastal provinces ? Ordu, Giresun, Trabzon, Rize, and Artvin (see Annex 3 for maps on location, elevation, precipitation, and land cover). The border with the Republic of Georgia forms the eastern boundary of this region. The region is hard to access due to its distance from developed areas and harsh topographical conditions [1]. It has a mountainous shoreline and covers 36,837 km? (4.7%) of the country). The region exhibits great diversity in geological structure, topography, climate, and vegetation cover. Within the region, high mountain ranges run parallel to the Black Sea coast in the north with undulating plateau on the southern foot of the mountains. High ridges trending east-west rise abruptly from the Black Sea coast, and the coastal plain is thus narrow. The mountain ranges get higher, narrower, and steeper toward the eastern area. Less than 50 km from the coast, the Eastern Black Sea Mountains rise to more than 3700 m, with a maximum elevation of 3932 m in the Ka?kar range, one of the steepest topographies in the world [2].

The EBSC Region is among the areas with the highest amount of precipitation in Turkiye, and half of the year is rainy. Due to the topographic properties of the region, the typical precipitation is orographic in nature. The temperature difference between summer and winter is not much. Summers are relatively cool, winters are warm in the coastal area, and snowy and cold in high areas. Every season is rainy and there is no shortage of water [3]. The average annual rainfall as per the meteorological stations is around 1590.5 mm and varies from 831.3 mm (Trabzon) to 2244.1 mm (Rize) [4]. Precipitation is generally seen as snowfall at upper altitudes during the winter months, and snow melts continue until June-July.

Ecologically, Turkiye has a rich diversity, and forests are significant in terms of both species and composition. As of 2015, 28.5% of total country area is covered by forestlands, approximately 31% by agricultural lands, and approximately 19% by pasturelands. Almost entirety of forests in Turkiye is subject to the authority and initiative of the government, while private property forests are less than a thousandth of total forestlands (approximately 18 thousand hectares). Turkiye constitutes a bridge between Europe and Asia in terms of geographical and biological diversity. As it is located at the intersection of three out of 37 different phytogeographical regions (Europe-Siberia, Mediterranean, Iran-Turan), it is quite rich in biodiversity. In addition, three out of 36 biodiversity hot spots (Caucasia, Mediterranean, Iran-Anatolia) that need to be urgently placed under protection are within the borders of Turkiye as well. In this regard, Turkiye is one of only four countries along with China, USA and South Africa to contain three hotspots within its borders. In the meanwhile, concerning biodiversity, it is one of the most eminent countries in the same zone as 34% (3,150) of its plant species are endemic. As of 2021, Turkiye houses 2,783 protected sites including 40 national parks, 204 nature parks, 31 nature protection sites, and 112 natural monuments. Total of protected sites cover an area of 59,650 km2, or 7.65% of total country area.

Threats and Root Causes of Land Degradation

Being in the Mediterranean climate zone in an arid and semi-arid region, and between the intersection of Europe-Asia and African continents, the region has been home to various civilizations since the first

human settlements. However, its exceptional location also means centuries of human, animal and bird migration through its territories, leaving a trail of numerous pressures and degradation on forests, pastures, and agricultural lands. Turkiye is also heavily affected by global warming and climate change which has increased in the last century. Turkiye is highly vulnerable to desertification and drought due to its various climate and soil characteristics, and its topographical structure. Besides the climate, Anatolia has been home to civilisations throughout centuries, and been one of the first agricultural lands. The agricultural practices applied throughout history aggravated the human effect on Anatolian soils, and with the climate change?s toll, lands faced desertification. Despite the negativities, this threat indeed provided a significant knowledge and experience accumulation on combating desertification.

Due to climatic and topographic conditions, soil erosion is one of the biggest environmental problems in Turkiye. Approximately 86% of land is affected by some degree of erosion. The high altitude of Turkiye, its steep slopes, the uneven and fluctuating precipitation and rain intensity, the shallow soil profile depth, the low content of organic matter in the soil and, finally various natural disasters (forest fires and landslides) and climate change are the main reasons for natural and man-made erosion in Turkiye. Comprehensive studies have concluded that the land degradation drivers in Turkiye are climate, soil, water, topography and geomorphology, land cover and land use, socio-economy, and management.

Water erosion is one of the key concerns in Turkiye because 46% of the total land area has a slope inclination of more than 40%, and 62.5% of the total land area has a slope inclination of more than 15%. Different intensities of erosion affect 59% of the agricultural land, which is the biggest share of land use; 64% of pastures; and 54% of forest lands. The concept of erosion, and its associated threats such as flood damage is well known to the majority of the public, but despite huge public participation in related efforts, erosion remains a significant issue. For instance, incorrect cultivation practices in sloping agricultural lands still pose erosion and flood risk.

Degradation of agricultural lands and pastures, destruction of forests and natural ecosystems, and the impacts of urbanization are also among the main components of desertification and land degradation in Turkiye. This degradation leads Turkiye to undergo a revenue loss, which in turn has an adverse effect on farming, wherein revenue losses alter production habits in the short term, towards unsustainable methods. The need for input materials increases in order to compensate for the loss of efficiency in the aftermath of land degradation, which might drive farmers into inextricable financial difficulties. This whole process eventually means even more severe impacts of desertification and land degradation. Around half of Turkiye?s forestlands are classified as degraded and is in need of rehabilitation. Steppes as well are impacted by degradation, a significant portion of which has been transformed to agricultural lands for cultivation purposes or been destroyed as a result of overgrazing.

Considering the above information, Turkiye is vulnerable to erosion, due to its climate conditions, topography and soil structure. Therefore, soil conservation and watershed rehabilitation works are needed to prevent land degradation. The scope of erosion control activities include; planting forests in degraded forest lands exposed to erosion, and sloping lands with destroyed vegetation, transforming degraded forest lands to productive forest lands, rehabilitation of existing vegetation cover, and constructing plants in upper river basins to regulate water flow to restore natural balance. Moreover, other related works such as combating wind erosion, dune stabilisation works, and avalanche control efforts are undertaken as well. Such activities aim to prevent or mitigate flood and erosion through reduction or prevention of surface runoff. Moreover, different benefits of greenbelt afforestation include mitigating soil erosion on one hand, and providing for social needs such as recreation and health service on the other.

Other factors contributing to land degradation are forest fires, illegal logging, clearing for cropland and grazing pressures, allocation of forests for other uses (urbanization, tourism, mining, energy development etc.). 60% of total forest area, that is, 125,000 km2 of forestland is located in highly fire-sensitive regions, primarily the Mediterranean Region. Forest fires claimed 1,456 km2 forest land between the years 2000-2015. Article 169 of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkiye, and the ?Code of Practice in Prevention and Suppression of Forest Fires? require natural regeneration, artificial regeneration, rehabilitation and afforestation works within a year following suppression efforts in the burnt forestlands, and hence these burnt areas are continuously monitored and rejuvenated. Indeed, Turkiye is the leading country in fire fighting in the Mediterranean Region. Among the forest fires in Turkiye, 12% out of total is natural while 88% is human-induced. In terms of illegal activities, rural

communities within or nearby forests traditionally meet their firewood and other wood needs from forests. Grazing pressure and impacts are still significant degradation threats and factors in many regions. Approximately 1,090 hectares of cropland per year is illegally cleared in forests in Turkiye. The pressure from urbanization and tourism growth have resulted in clearing forests that is a very important threat to overcome, with resultant land degradation.

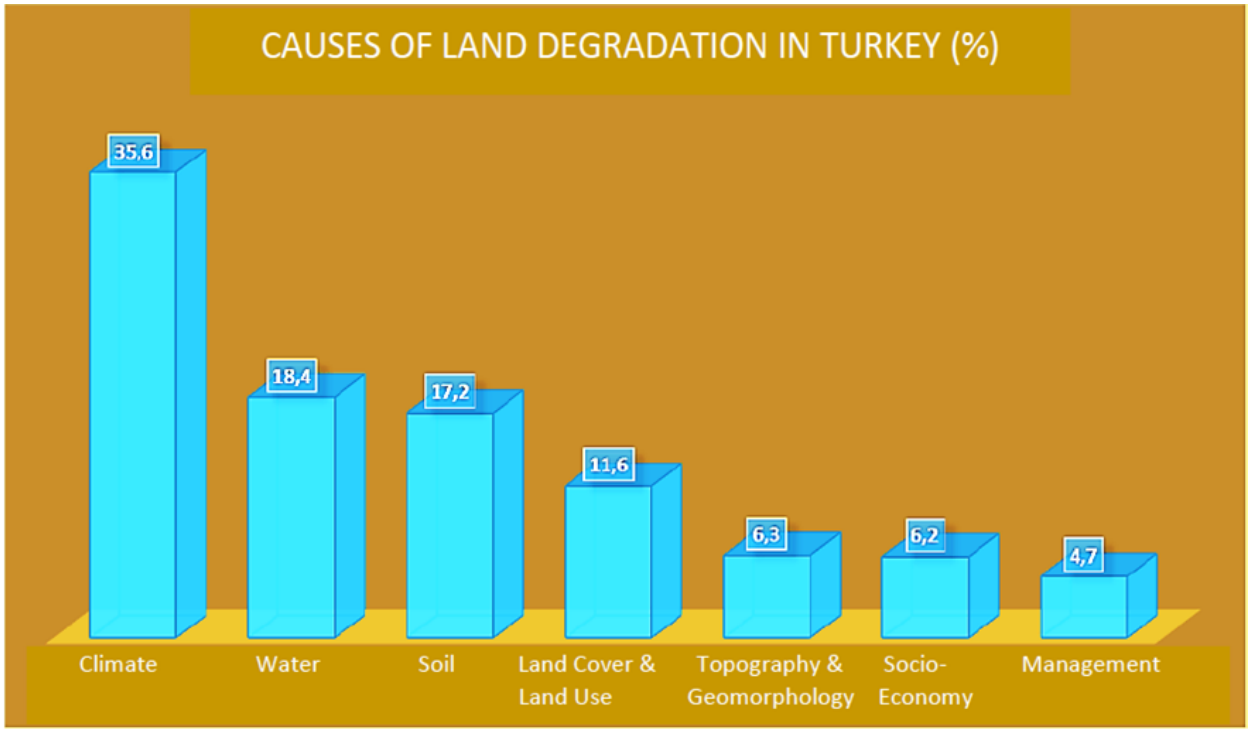


Figure 1: Drivers of land degradation in Turkiye (Basin Monitoring and Assessment System Project)

Drivers, pressures, and processes of land degradation in the EBSC Region

Competing demands on land use from urbanization, agriculture, forestry and recreation have produced new and complex landscapes in the region. External drivers of land degradation in the EBSC Region include climate change and natural disasters. Turkiye is already experiencing an increase in annual mean temperature and changes in the precipitation regime. A long-term downward trend in average yearly precipitation is projected overall for Turkiye, but the distribution pattern varies across locations. The EBSC Region and northeastern parts of the country will likely experience an increase in average annual precipitation, while the southern regions will experience a decrease. Projected climate change impacts include reduction in surface water availability, more frequent and severe incidences of floods, and more prolonged droughts. Increased frequency and severity of droughts and extreme precipitation events will negatively affect water holding capacity of the upper layers of the soil, further exacerbating soil erosion and increasing the risks of flooding and landslides, particularly in terrains with rough topography such as in the EBSC Region [5].

The abrasion power of existing streams is high due to the steep terrain structure, also allowing frequent occurrence of flood and landslide disasters caused due to the excessive water resources and precipitation. Flooding is the most commonly occurring natural disaster (39% of the total number of disasters) that has caused the loss of life and property among the local communities. Changes in precipitation induced by climate change will likely further worsen flood risks.

These external drivers are exacerbated by anthropogenic pressures of unsustainable farming practices and negative land use change. Agriculture, forest, pasture, and soils continue to form the basis of the

region?s socio-economic structure. Given the steep topography, production landscapes are scarce, and driven by increasing poverty levels, local people heavily utilize limited agricultural lands and pastures (e.g., overgrazing, intensive cultivation on slopes) leading to degradation. Negative land use changes in the region include degradation or loss of forests in the basin due to land clearing for the opening of new farmlands, pastures, roads to highlands, and high demand for fuelwood.

Another key land use change since the 1950s is the transformation of natural vegetation for hazelnut and tea cultivation in the region that has resulted in the formation and increased frequency of landslides. Landslide frequency is higher in the elevation range of 0-500 meters due to slope instability connected to the conversion of forest areas into hazelnut gardens and road construction. A 2008 paper investigated land use land cover (LULC) changes in Rize between 1976 and 2000 using remote sensing and GIS [6]. The LULC changes were analyzed according to both slope and altitude. The main change observed for the time period of 1976-2000 was that the area of agriculture (mostly green tea) increased by approximately 13700 ha, and forest area decreased by approximately 12100 ha. 60% of total tea production in Turkiye occurs in the study area.

These drivers and pressures are leading to land degradation processes; typical degradation processes for the EBSC Region include soil erosion by water, degradation of forest ecosystems, and surface water pollution. For example, an estimated 457,411 tons of soil is moved annually due to erosion in the Bolaman basin located within the Ordu-Giresun basin.

Anthropogenic factors such as intensive agricultural practices are having an impact on soils in the highland mountain ecosystems of the EBSC Region. A study to compare the soil physical, chemical and morphological properties modified after natural forestland transformation into cultivated land has found that long -erm continuous cultivation of the natural forest soils resulted in changes in the physical and chemical characteristics of soils [7]. The study examined four soil profiles selected from four sites in each of three adjacent land use types which are native forest, pasture and cultivated fields with corn and hazelnut to compare the soil physical, chemical and morphological properties modified after natural forestland transformation into cultivated land. Disturbed and undisturbed soil samples were collected from four sites. The effects of agricultural practices on soil properties taken from each of the three adjacent land use types were most clearly detected in the past 50 years with the land use change. Land use change and subsequent tillage practices resulted in significant decreases in organic matter, total porosity, total nitrogen and reduced soil aggregates stability. However, contents of available P were improved by application of phosphorous fertilizers in cultivated system. There was also a significant change in bulk density among cultivated, pasture and natural forest soils. Depending upon the increase in bulk density and disruption of pores by cultivation, total porosity decreased accordingly.

The pilot project area is the Kirechane Micro-basin in Rize Province covers 429.49 hectares that provide the target site for promotion of integrated natural resources management (INRM) and the testing of various sustainable land management practices. This micro-basin covers 74% of agricultural lands, 15% of forests and the balance of 11% are under settlements. The agricultural land is mostly tea plantations. Of the total area of the micro-basin, 10.6% is government (public land) and the balance 89.4% is under private ownership. The topography of the region is very steep and the soil is acidic and only tea cultivation is carried out. The selected pilot area is susceptible to floods and landslides like many other places in the Eastern Black Sea Region. Chemical fertilizers used in tea agriculture degrade the structure of the soil day by day and reduce the water holding capacity. The soil, whose natural structure has degraded, becomes more sensitive to landslides. With the effect of climate change, the regime of rainfall has changed and excessive rainfall occurs suddenly. This increases the frequency and effects of landslides together with soil degradation. Floods and landslides occur in the pilot area, and large losses are experienced in the tea gardens.

(2) Barriers to achieving the vision are:

While there are a number of programs that will take place in the baseline scenario that are important elements for addressing land degradation in Turkiye, they do not largely address the specific land degradation challenges of the EBSC Region. These baseline programs also do not bring together all the

necessary sectors (i.e., forestry, agriculture, pasture, water, disaster management, climate change adaptation, socio-economic development projects for tourism and entrepreneurship, etc.) under an integrated and cross-sectoral decision-making and planning effort at tackling land degradation and advancing integrated natural resource management in the EBSC Region. There remains a need to develop a body of experience and practice specifically targeting the unique situation of the EBSC Region, and to integrate this cross-sectoral approach into the internal and individual strategic plans and programs of all key institutions in the region. However, there are several barriers to realizing this long-term solution, as described below:

Barrier 1: Lack of cross-sectoral planning, lack of supportive policies/legislation, and lack of expertise for integrated natural resource management (INRM) in humid areas.

A number of Institutions are directly involved in NRM including the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and its line agencies such as the OGM, ?EM, TRGM, SYGM, DS?; the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change; the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources; the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency under the Ministry of Interior (AFAD) and a number of institutions that operate at the regional level such as the Regional Development Administrations (DOKAP in Eastern Black Sea region and associated Regional Development Higher Board and Regional Development Committee), Regional Development Agencies (DOKA in the Eastern Black Sea Region), ?AYKUR (General Directorate of Tea Enterprises) and Union of Hazelnut Agricultural Sales Cooperatives (F?SKOB?RL?K) and local administrations as well as the provincial directorates of these respective ministries, and local authorities and regional development agencies, among others operate in the region. However, given the multitude of institutions that operate in the EBSC region, this results in sustainable land, water, forest, and soil management and the conservation of biodiversity actions depends on various public agencies with overlapping functions, limiting opportunities for joint programming and enforcement. As a consequence, policies in relation to forest management, water management or soil management for agricultural purposes and other sector activities are not developed in coordination and they do not have effective mechanisms to collaborate on implementation of their sector-related activities on the ground.

Another case in point is spatial planning that is undertaken through Spatial Environmental Arrangement Plans that is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change (CSIDB), but has no authority to ensure that development activities are planned in a coordinated manner among the different sector entities. This has resulted in individual sector entities making their own decisions regarding the use of the land resulting in severe conflicts in the use and management of land. For instance, agricultural land can be converted to industrial or settlement areas based on an agreement between two or more national agencies. Similarly, a major road construction project connecting highlands of the Eastern Black Sea can be allowed despite the fact that this may cause disturbance at steep slopes of mountains and result in landslides combined with the increased precipitation amount and frequency due to climate change, or irreversible fragmentation of high conservation value habitats. Decisions affecting vulnerable lands are made without adequate information, communication and cooperation, and therefore lack a multi-sectoral perspective. Thus, the lack of an integrative approach is a critical issue. In Turkiye more broadly, and in the EBSC Region in particular, natural resource management is particularly hampered by a lack of integrated management that takes environmental, economic, and social perspectives into account.

At the local level as well, there is inadequate coordination among the stakeholders. While there are regional planning tools ? such as the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Plans coordinated by SYGM and implemented by River Basin Commissions, forest management plans prepared and implemented by OGM, or agricultural development plans prepared by TRGM for agricultural basins ? these plans and governing bodies are barely in coordination with each other due to differences in base, scale, planning and implementation approaches. As land degradation is a multi-sectoral issue, the priorities and needs arising from following an integrated approach in natural resources management have to be reflected in all of the above-mentioned planning and management processes and tools. Addressing

the governance problems will require improvement of mechanisms and tools for effective collaboration across these institutions.

All state institutions are obliged to prepare strategic plans for their jurisdiction area and almost all the state institutions mentioned above have their own plans, programs and projects, including flood and landslide control projects by ?EM and DS?. However, every institution is focused on the implementation of their own plans and end up with overlapping and sometimes contradictory actions without an adequate communication and coordination, which is especially critical in very humid regions considering the cost of disasters caused by sudden and heavy rainfalls. The introduction of INRM would help orchestrate already existing strategic plans and development plans into the same direction, allowing all parties to act towards a common objective. Weaknesses in legislation can also be an impediment to the effectiveness of institutions in addressing land degradation. Turkiye has undergone an important process of transformation to a presidential system but this has led to overlaps and gaps in institutional mandates, in addition to already existing ones.

?EM has grown as a successful agency within the last decade to effectively coordinate institutions at the national level regarding policy development and has also set national LDN targets. It has become efficient in coordinating provincial and regional institutions responsible for agriculture and forestry at the micro-basin and regional level, but this has experience has been built up for sustainable land management in drylands of Turkiye. Humid climates have their own key institutions ? such as State Hydraulic Works, State Meteorological Works or Presidency of Disaster Management ? due to floods, landslides and other region-specific issues such as production of internationally important export products such as tea and hazelnut in an area where agricultural lands are highly scarce. These Institutions tend to implement quick fixes for issues around land degradation or opt for impractical and overly structural or intensive land rehabilitation investments without an integrated approach, not consulting with other relevant authorities, nor the local communities who have been dealing with similar issues at their own scale. Integrated land use planning and implementation approaches have not been institutionalized in part because there are no practical guidelines for how to do so and no formalized mechanisms to enable local participatory management. This project will provide the basis for formalizing a new participatory mechanism utilizing the expertise and facilitative role of ?EM for sustainable land management in the EBSC Region.

In addition to the above weaknesses in the institutional environment, there is a lack of know-how and capacity both at the institutional (central and local government) and grassroots level (local communities, NGOs, cooperatives, farmer unions) to mainstream and implement INRM in humid climates with steep topography. Although recent developments in related sectors has increased knowledge on combating land degradation and vulnerabilities/risks and measures around climate change in relevant institutions, land degradation and SLM concepts are mostly interpreted as erosion control and/ or decreased productivity in production landscapes. Practical, experience-based training can provide stakeholders with the basic tools and approaches to begin applying a more holistic SLM approach in their work; and this kind of training is lacking among key stakeholder organizations. Technical guidelines based on demonstration practices can also help to increase capacity for SLM. Therefore, in order to better coordinate relevant institutions around INRM at local, regional and national levels, the capacity and awareness of these institutions need to be enhanced.

Achieving a reliable and holistic landscape-scale decision support system would not only enhance effective communication among various level of stakeholders but also joint decision-making and implementation. The lack of such a decision support system hampers the ability of stakeholders to first recognize and then to maximize synergies among various sectors, particularly the ecosystem service values provided by sustainable natural resources management including flood prevention, biodiversity conservation, water quality and quantity, and other reduced downstream negative effects. This ecosystem services ?cost-benefit? calculation gap undermines the ability of local governments and communities to serve as stewards of the natural resources upon which they depend.

Barrier 2: Lack of experience with implementing SLM practices in very humid and steep agriculture, pasture and forest areas

The very humid coastal regions of the Eastern Black Sea are confronting severe land degradation and erosion, as well as decline in quantity and quality of production landscapes resulting from intensive and polluting agricultural practices on marginal lands, deforestation and land conversion from forested land to agriculture, overgrazing of highland pastures, unsustainable tourism expansion in the highlands, increased vulnerability to climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, and degradation of ecosystem services. The lack of technical, analytical and managerial capacity for SLM among decision-makers is one of the critical constraints to addressing these land degradation trends as well as achieving LDN. One of the key barriers to SLM in the EBSC Region is the unavailability of region-specific solutions and responses to land degradation problems in very humid and unfavorably steep landscapes, their relation with development actions, and the lack of experience around these problems which keep increasing in occurrence and magnitude especially in the mountainous parts of the country. In addition, as land damage in very humid and steep landscapes generally occur rapidly and in large magnitude (as opposed to the dry lowlands), this requires a fast, coordinated and long-lasting response to be developed and implemented that is beyond the capacity of small farmers and local authorities to address. Demonstration of SLM and sharing of experiences is crucial for creating a body of best practices.

In addition, in very humid climates, there is usually an abundance of soil organic matter and water, which are still not available for crops due to improper and intensive agricultural practices. Not only are there differences in terms of pests or soil structure, but also in the social connections, traditions and behavior of farmers who are typically of various nationalities/origins, speaking multiple local languages, and not fully trusting their neighbors to establish joint and organized actions. Given the peculiarities with the humid climates and steep regions of the EBSC, in particular the differences with SLM in drylands, region-specific, practical, experience-based training is needed to provide stakeholders with the basic tools and approaches to begin applying SLM in their work. This kind of training is currently lacking among key stakeholders? organizations including not only the local authorities but the farmers? organizations, ?AYKUR, F?SKOB?RL?K and other influential actors such as DOKAP and DOKA planners (please see Annex 8 of the UNDP Project Document: Stakeholders for a wider description of the stakeholders).

Barrier 3: Inadequate awareness and absence of a mechanism for distilling and sharing of knowledge on SLM in steep and humid areas to support replication and scaling

Awareness and understanding LD, SLM and CSA is limited at all levels and in sectors, which is still suboptimal and engagement overall lacking. There is currently no communication strategy in place to raise awareness of the benefits and need for SLM/LDN/CSAs. As a consequence, low value is accorded to these matters in fiscal policy instruments which limits the scaling up of awareness to assist the local community to adopt more sustainable lifestyles. Similarly, there is limited investment in awareness raising, training and capacity building on SLM/CSA either for staff or land users. No evidence has been found during the PPG of any surveys having been conducted regarding land degradation. There is therefore the potential that raising awareness by the project that can help in some way to mitigate the lack of resources in government for enforcement etc.

Additionally, despite the existence of vast amounts of data for individual plans, there is a gap in knowledge for sustainable land management, especially for tea and hazelnut production areas, as well as pasturelands in higher altitudes. TRGM and ?AYKUR are the highest and sole authorities on agriculture and tea production in the EBSC Region and they are working to increase productivity at tea plantations and support farmers in their struggle with loss of product due to landslides, erosion or pollution. However, their data collection or monitoring programs do not cover the amount and quality of soil losses, which is a critical factor in the fight against poverty associated with land degradation in the medium and long term. Likewise, while AFAD monitors property and lives lost during disasters, the loss of soil resources is not in their monitoring list. Given the special circumstances of the region of hilly lands, heavy precipitation, limited productive lands, poverty, and a population reliant on pastures and agricultural lands, monitoring of land degradation processes needs to take comprehensive factors into account and not be narrowly focused on metrics important to individual actors/institutions. Furthermore, since ?EM?s attention has largely been on drylands, there is no system specifically aimed at building a

knowledge base on managing lands sustainably in hilly, wet areas, and the lack of this limits opportunities to share information more widely.

Threats and root causes are graphically illustrated on the problem tree presented in Figure 2.

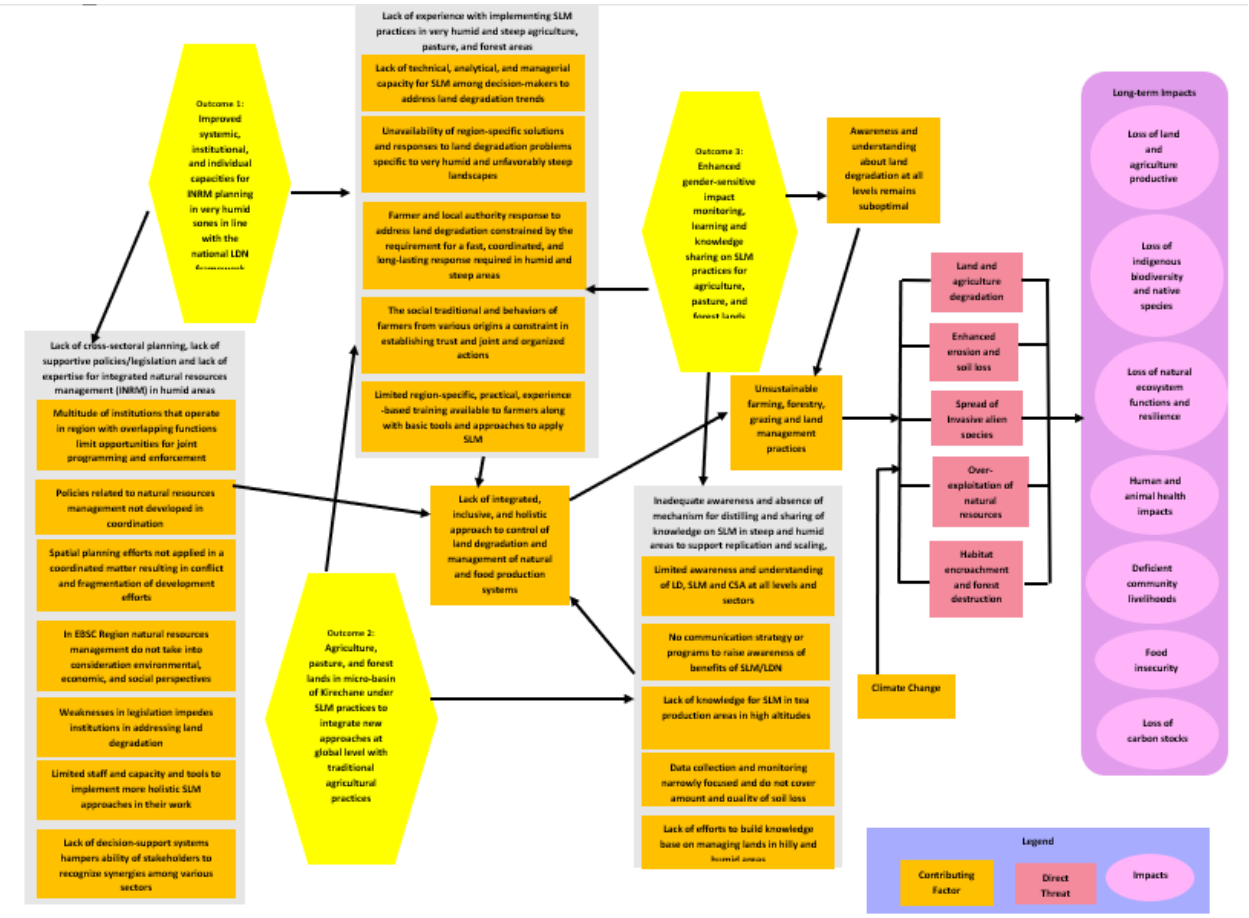


Figure 2: Problem Analysis for the project

Baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

There are several development initiatives, conservation efforts, and projects that have recently been completed in Turkiye. These efforts created important continuous impacts to address several aspects of land degradation in the region. In addition to national investments made by state authorities like DSI (drainage and flood control structures, riverbank rehabilitations, etc.), ?EM (erosion and flood control implementation plans/projects for selected micro-basins) or DOKAP (a major development program focusing on eastern and central black sea region), the most relevant multi-sectoral projects are listed in the Table 1 below:

Table 1: Relevant Baseline Projects

Project name	Time frame; geographic scope	Implementing Organization	Donor; Budget	Objectives, main outcomes and outputs	Incorporation in the project
Baseline Projects (GEF)					
Sustainable and Integrated Water Resource Management in Gediz River Basin in T?rkiye	2022-2025, T?rkiye, Gediz River Basin	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF); General Directorate of Water Management (GDWM)	GEF Trust Fund USD 1,143,139	Project Objective: To promote Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) and mainstream Biodiversity Conservation in the Gediz River Basin with a focus on the sustainable management of land and water resources. Project Components: 1. Enhancing collaborative management of the Gediz River Basin (GRB). 2. Enhanced sustainable land-use practices and integrated natural resource management. 3. Monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of best practices.	The outputs of this project in the Gediz River Basin will generate practical examples that can be used and shared in the context of the proposed MSP. The Gediz River Basin project will generate valuable experiences that can benefit the proposed MSP notably on topics such as enhancing collaborative management in river basins, capacity building and creating good practices in sustainable land-use practices and integrated natural resource management. Therefore, communication between the two project teams will be essential to benefit from the lessons learned, share data generated by the respective projects, and coordinate capacity building and legislative reform efforts to upscale the project experiences.

Strengthening the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Forest Landscapes in T?rkiye?s Kazda?lari Region	2022-2027, T?rkiye, Kazda?lar? Region	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)	GEF Trust Fund USD 4,657,534	Project Objective: To improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management in the Kazda?lari Region for environmental and socio-economic benefits. Project Components: 1. Strengthening protected areas management within a sustainable landscape management context. 2. Integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of forests and agricultural areas across Kazda?lari?s landscapes. 3. Enhancing awareness, understanding and capacities to integrate management for conservation and production purposes across landscapes.	Even though Kazda?lar? Region is very different from the EBSC region (for example, climate, topography, and land use), the project will generate valuable experiences on improved integration and sustainable landscape-scale management of forest, agricultural and other production systems that can benefit the proposed MSP. The sustainable forest management approaches and practices will help develop sustainable practices for forest lands in the pilot sub-basin of the EBSC region. The proposed MSP will benefit from the restoration and erosion prevention techniques in forests and production systems, contributing to national LDN targets and livelihood opportunities piloted in forest villages.

Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level	2020-2024, T?rkiye, Upper Sakarya River Basin	Food and Agriculture Organization, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs (MFWA), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL)	GEF Trust Fund USD 2,388,584 funding from GEF	Project Objective: To develop a model for LDN target setting, planning, and decision-making at national level and for demonstration in the Upper Sakarya basin Project Components: 1. Strengthening of the enabling environment for Land Degradation Neutrality 2. Decision support system (DSS) for LDN Demonstration of the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin	The outcomes of this project in the Upper Sakarya Basin will generate practical examples that can be used and shared in the context of the proposed MSP. Even though the Upper Sakarya Basin project is focusing on a region that is very different from the EBSC region (for example, very different rainfall regimes), the LDN approach it takes has parallels to the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP in the EBSC Region. The Upper Sakarya Basin project will generate valuable experiences that can benefit the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP notably on topics such as revising existing legislation for SLM, capacity building for LDN, designing a decision support system that builds on existing monitoring systems, developing participatory landscape specific improvement plans, etc. Therefore, communication between the two

					project teams will be essential to benefit from the lessons learned, share data generated by the respective projects, and coordinate capacity building and legislative reform efforts to amplify impact.
Sustainable land management and climate-friendly agriculture	2015 ? 2018 (close to completion); Konya Closed Basin (Central Anatolian Plateau)	The General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (?EM), FAO	GEF Trust Fund; USD 5,750,000	Project objective: To improve sustainability of agriculture and forests land use management through diffusion and adoption of low-carbon technologies with win-win benefits in land degradation, climate change and biodiversity conservation and increase farm profitability and forest productivity. Components of the project: ? Component 1: rehabilitation of degraded forest and rangeland ? Component 2: climate-smart agriculture ? Component 3: enhanced enabling environment for sustainable land management.	Even though this project in the Konya Closed Basin is in a region that is very different from the EBSC region (for example, climate, topography, land use), the outcomes of the project will contribute to the identification of SLM practices to a certain extent and will provide data for component 2 of the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP. The experience with creating an enabling environment for sustainable land management will greatly contribute for almost all the identified outputs under component 2. This will help the project team to not repeat any mistakes if there were any during the implementation of the project.

Integrated Approach to Management of Forests in Turkiye, with Demonstration in High Conservation Value Forests in the Mediterranean Region	2014-2020; Mediterranean Region	UNDP, General Directorate of Forestry	GEF Trust Fund; USD 7,120,000	Project Objective: To promote an integrated approach to management of forests in Turkiye, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean forest region Components of the project: Component 1: Policy and institutional framework for integrated forest management within landscape. Component 2: Implementation of forest based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within landscape Component 3: 3. Strengthening protection of high conservation value forests in Mediterranean landscape	The project developed Sustainable Forest Management indicators and criteria, in addition to several guidelines for integrating biodiversity, ecosystem services, ecotourism, non-wood forest products, fire prevention and forest health (pest control) approaches into forest management planning. The proposed UNDP-GEF MSP will benefit from these guidelines and approaches on sustainable forest management in developing sustainable practices for forest lands in the pilot micro-basin of the EBSC Region. It will also benefit from trained staff within GDF.

Decision Support for Mainstreaming and Scaling Up of Sustainable Land Management (DS-SLM)	2018-2020; Global project (including Turkiye)	The General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (?EM); FAO	GEF funds; USD 6,116,730	Goals and targets ? Evaluation of land degradation and support for sustainable land management and monitoring of good practices, ? Combating land degradation and desertification; adaptation to climate change; conservation of biodiversity; to increase the use of agriculture and forest areas effectively, efficiently and sustainably, ? Creating public awareness through related issues, ? Dissemination of good practices, ? Compiling good practice examples in land management and standardization of criteria, ? Organizing of capacity building activities (especially mapping, land management, etc.).	The SLM data generated through this project will be beneficial for selecting best SLM practices to be demonstrated in the pilot micro-basin of the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP. The good practices archive will also support the generation of inspiring examples to be shared with relevant stakeholders.

DBSB: Anatolia Watershed Rehabilitation Project	2004 ? 2013; Black Sea and Continental ecological regions including two of Turkiye?s 26 major river basins, the K?z?l?rmak and Ye?il?rmak basins	The World Bank; Government of Turkiye (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA); Ministry of Environment (MOE)	GEF Trust Fund; USD 7,000,000	Project?s overall development objective: ? To support sustainable natural resource management practices in 28 micro catchments in Anatolia and Turkiye?s Black Sea Region and thereby raise incomes of communities affected by resource degradation Project components: ? Component 1: Rehabilitation of Degraded Natural Resources ? Component 2: Income Raising Activities ? Component 3: Strengthening Policy and Regulatory Capacity Towards Meeting EU Standards ? Component 4: Awareness Raising, Capacity Building and Replication Strategy ? Component 5: Project Management and Support Services.	The outcomes and lessons of component 1 related to the rehabilitation of degraded natural resources will provide very useful data for the integrated natural resources management plan to be developed for the pilot micro-basin under the UNDP-GEF MSP, and lessons from component 2 will help in the design and implementation of alternative income-generation models.

Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project: Control of Eutrophication, Hazardous Substances and Related Measures for Rehabilitating the Black Sea Ecosystem: Tranche 2	2005-2008; Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkiye, Ukraine	UNDP	GEF; USD 6,000,000	Overall project objective: ? To support participating countries in the development of national policies and legislation and the definition of priority actions to avoid discharge of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Black Sea. Specific project objectives: ? to reinforce regional cooperation under the Black Sea Convention ? to set up institutional and legal instruments and to define priority actions at regional and national levels to assure sustainable coastal zone management ? to protect coastal and marine ecosystems and habitats in order to secure sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.	The measures developed to avoid discharge of nitrogen and phosphorus into the Black Sea and development of a supportive institutional setting will help inform the capacity building efforts on integrated natural resources management planning to be undertaken by the UNDP-GEF MSP (component 1).
Baseline Projects (non-GEF; with a geographical focus in the Eastern Black Sea Region)					

The World Bank Turkiye Resilient Landscape Integration Project (TULIP)	2020-2027; Bolaman Basin in Ordu Province	General Directorate of Forestry (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)	WB Investment Project Financing; USD 300 million	Development objective: To strengthen integrated management of natural resources at the landscape level and increase access to climate-resilient infrastructure to communities in targeted areas of the Bolaman Basin. Expected results: i. Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (ha) ii. Improved institutional capacity for integrated NRM at the national level (number of integrated NRM plans adopted for other basins) iii. People provided with increased access to climate-resilient infrastructure included in an integrated NRM plan.	Linkage to Component I, Component II and Component III TULIP project will provide specific data at the basin level that is representative of the Black Sea region. The experience that will be built up during the implementation period can provide data for comparison, as well as exchange of lessons. The project team will ensure early communication and connection with the project in order to benefit from the potential synergy that can be created between the two projects.

Enhancing Adaptation Action in Turkiye Project	2019-2023; four pilot metropolitan cities from the four climatic regions of Turkiye (i.e. Central Black Sea, Marmara, Mediterranean and Anatolian)	The General Directorate of Environmental Management (MoEU); UNDP	EU Financing; EUR 6,8 million	Projects? overall objective: To build societal resilience by strengthening climate change adaptation, particularly at sector and urban level. Specific objectives of the project: To establish an enabling environment for climate change adaptation in Turkiye by developing the policy, technical and operational baselines, including ? (i) better decision-making tools for national climate change adaptation policies, ? (ii) urban adaptation planning solutions (urban adaptation strategies and action plans), ? (iii) capacity building and networking activities for climate change adaptation with the EU and the international community, and ? (iv) a climate change adaptation grant program to implement climate change adaptation action.	The project will conduct sector specific impact and vulnerability assessment for eight sectors in four pilot metropolitan cities from the four climatic regions of Turkiye (i.e. Central Black Sea, Marmara, Mediterranean and Anatolian). The focus will be on five essential sectors common to all cities (energy, transport, water, waste and food) and 3 sectors of choice determined by city authorities based on their priorities. The vulnerability assessment efforts of this project in the Black Sea Region, though confined to urban environments, could be beneficial for Output 1.2 in developing the specific vulnerability assessments for the pilot Kire?hane micro-basin.

Technical Assistance to Enhance the Capacity of AFAD in the Adaptation and Reduction of Disaster Risks resulting from the Climate Change in Turkiye (Disaster Adapt) EuropeAid/132633/C/SER /multi	2020 ? 2022, Turkiye	AFAD; Agreco (BE); GIZ (DE)	Europe Aid EU R 3 million	Overall objective: To improve the quality of life of citizens through enhancing the climate change mitigation capacity and increased resilience to the impact of climate change, which ultimately contribute to the sustainable development of the country, thus contributing to Turkiye's membership in the EU. Project purpose: To enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of stakeholders on managing the natural disasters induced by climate change in line with EU and international policies. Project Results: R1: Established necessary technical and human resource capacities to identify the potential hazards and risks and adaptation capacity associated with disasters to be induced by climate change in AFAD R2: Increased local capacity and public awareness to prepare local disaster action plans to avoid, manage and adapt	The project aims to revise the vulnerability assessments made by AFAD in 2017, enhancing the layers and resolution of the previous study to produce GIS maps for each climate change induced disaster types (flood, landslide, avalanche desertification, sea level rise, fire hazard, temperature, precipitation etc.).

				to disasters induced by climate change in the selected pilot regions in line with the principles of the Resilient Cities initiative.	

Turkiye?s Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) Model and Mapping Project	2017 ? 2019; Turkiye	The General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (?EM); TUB?TAK-B?LGEM	Central Administration Budget (TR); USD 410.000	Project scope: To determine the amount of and to monitor soil organic carbon ? a Land Degradation Neutrality criterion Project results: ? A model to determine the soil organic carbon amount ? A monitoring system ? Defined carbon units of areas containing similar amounts of soil organic carbon ? Develop a Soil Organic Carbon Amount Estimation Model determining aboveground and underground soil organic carbon amounts in Turkiye ? Periodic monitoring through data logs enabled ? Offer concerned users web-based access to data created and logged in the database within the scope of Land Degradation Neutrality country targets; ? Support decision-makers in stakeholder institutions. \	The information and regular monitoring results which this project can provide would help to enhance the analysis to be undertaken in the Kire?hane micro-basin area in order to develop the most suitable soil friendly sustainable land management practices for different areas. The combination of the knowledge generated through this SOC model and mapping project and the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP in the EBSC Region will support the development of a pool of expertise on potential measures/ interventions for very humid climate zones and can therefore be scaled up in other similar regions.

?oruh River Watershed Rehabilitation Project	2011-2019; North-East Turkiye (provinces of Artvin, Bayburt and Erzurum)	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (abrogated Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs)	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): USD 53.8 million	Project objective: ? Provide integrated watershed rehabilitation including vegetation, soil and water resources ? Better living conditions for the rural population ? Soil conservation ? Rehabilitation of degraded forests ? Prevention of natural disasters (avalanche, flood and overflow control) Project outputs: ? Conservation of the watershed soils from erosion ? Increased soil productivity ? Protected the residential areas, roads and infrastructure facilities from the floods and other natural disasters ? Increased the productivity of rangelands ? Economic lives of dams extended by decreasing sediments ? The value of biomass and carbon sequestration in the forests increased ? New employment opportunities ensured for the	While the project mainly targets inland provinces of the EBSC Region (with the exception of Artvin), the project?s different areas of focus are important for all components of the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP. The experience of integrated watershed rehabilitation can provide important lessons for integrated natural resources management proposed in the pilot micro-basin of the EBSC Region, specifically lessons on improving the conditions of rural communities, implementing soil conservation practices, and prevention of natural disaster. Project Partners: General Directorate of Forestry; General Directorate of State Hydraulic Affairs; General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks; General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion;

				local people under the Project. ? Pressure on forests diminished by decreasing fuel wood consumption in the area.	General Directorate of Agricultural Reform; Provincial Special Administrations

The Eastern Black Sea Project (DOKAP)	2011 ? 2023 Eastern Black Sea Region (9 cities including Artvin, Bayburt, Giresun, Gumushane, Ordu, Rize, Samsun, Tokat and Trabzon)	DOKAP Regional Development Administration (DOKAP RDA);	Central Administration Budget (TR); TL 40 billion for 2014-2018 and TL 419 million for 2021-2023	DOKAP is a comprehensive development program for the Eastern Black Sea region and funds many projects on agricultural research on organic farming, supporting bee-keeping activities, holistic approach on tourism master plans, income generating projects such as the ?Entrepreneurship and Innovation Research Project? etc. The project aim is to ensure the sustainable economic development to increase the reaching level to the social services such as income, education, health and cultural activities and to establish necessary pre-conditions to increase the participation in sustainable use of natural resources, clean environment and decision-making phases. Under regional development Program, DOKAP is aiming at strengthening the economic structure of the region, increasing the social development and	Regional Development Program and its projects are directly related to our project especially in sustainable use of natural resources, income generating activities such as beekeeping, non-wood products including medicinal and aromatic plants, organic farming etc. tea and hazelnut cultivation for the local people, protecting the natural resources and environmental capacity of the region.

				solidarity, ensuring the long-term sustainable development while protecting the natural resources and environmental capacity of the region.	
Baseline Projects (non-GEF; with a geographical focus outside the Eastern Black Sea Region but with thematic relevance for the UNDP-GEF MSP)					

Murat River Watershed Rehabilitation Project	2013 ? 2021; provinces of Elaz??, Mu? and Bing?l (not in the EBSC Region)	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; General Directorate of Forestry	IFAD; USD 38.6 million	Overall project goal: ? Reduced poverty among the upland communities of the Murat river watershed Project development objective: ? Rehabilitate the natural resource-base in selected micro-catchments of the Murat river watershed Project components and outcomes: ? (i) Natural resources and environmental management (consultations, empowerment and planning); ? (ii) investments in natural resources and environmental assets (land, water and vegetation); (iii) investments in improved livelihoods empowering upland communities to maintain and benefit from the natural resources improvements.	While this project is not focused on the EBSC Region, the rehabilitation of land, vegetation and water resources in degraded catchment areas can provide innovative approaches in addressing challenges. The interventions to improve livelihoods of local communities will also be inspiring for the pilot micro-basin targeted by the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP.

Integrating Hydrological Functions of Forests	2017-2020; Bay?nd?r district, Izmir province, Aegean region	Nature Conservation Centre; General Directorate of Forestry	Coca-Cola Foundation and UNDP GEF SGP; USD 214,500	Project Aims: 1. Establishing the basis for identification and management of hydrological functions of forests in Turkiye. 2. Integrating hydrological functions of forests in Bay?r Forest Enterprise Directorate?s 3 forest management units	A methodology for integrating hydrological functions of forests into forest management planning (a sustainable forest management methodology) was developed. This approach was implemented in ?zmir Regional Directorate Bay?nd?r Forest Enterprise Directorate?s 3 different forest management units (Ala?am, ?demi?, ?amyayla) for effective water management in micro basins of 3 different dams in the region. The project, especially the INRM and SLM demonstration components, will benefit from this approach at the pilot area as an SLM practice at forest land for water regulation purposes, especially where floods are frequent .

Agriculture of the Future Project	2013 - 2020 Konya Basin, Central and South-Eastern Anatolia	Nature Conservation Centre; General Directorate of Agricultural Reform	Coca-Cola Foundation: USD 1 Million	Project Purpose: To build national capacity and raise awareness on agricultural adaptation to climate change, while improving water holding capacity of soil in agriculture and ensuring efficient use of land and water at demonstration sites through the use of ecosystem approach in Konya Basin and South Eastern Anatolia Region. Project activities include: Implementation of SLM practices like green manure, mulching, crop-rotation, direct seeding and wind breaks, planned irrigation and water efficient irrigation practices based on spatial databases/vulnerability analyses that take climate change modelling, ecosystem services mapping and biodiversity data into account.	The methodology that this project has used to generate products such as ecosystem services maps and the methodology developed for participative climate change vulnerability assessments can be utilized by output 1.2. to develop the spatial database/vulnerability assessment as a decision support tool.
Baseline Projects (non-GEF; with a nationwide focus but with thematic relevance for the UNDP-GEF MSP)					

Turkiye Desertification Model Verification and Calibration Project	2016 ? 2019; nationwide	The General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (?EM); TUB?TAK	Central Administration Budget (TR); USD 550.000	Project objective: To identify and monitor Turkiye?s desertification prone areas Project Outcomes: ? Turkiye?s desertification risk and risk degrees assessment ? Turkiye?s desertification model calibration based on measurement and statistical data collected from the field.	The process of identifying criteria and indicators with regard to desertification can provide important lessons for the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP. Moreover, the assessment and classification made for different land uses can enrich the baseline data on land uses in the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP?s pilot micro-basin, and contribute to the development of sustainable land management examples for the same.

National Land Cover/Use Classification and Monitoring System (UASIS)	2018 ? 2023; nationwide	The General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion (?EM); TUB?TAK	Central Administration Budget (TR); USD 2.3 million	Project objectives: ? To produce verified data ? To keep data up to date ? To develop a systematic approach ? To sustain expertise ? To provide time- and cost-efficient solutions Project outcomes: ? Stakeholder needs analysis report ? International similar implementation examples analysis report ? Report on 4th level classification screening and needs assessment with regard to national land cover/use ? Land cover/use verification plan ? National land cover monitoring report National land cover/use data needs assessment report.	The regular monitoring of land cover/use is of utmost importance for the vulnerability assessment of the pilot micro-basin of the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP. The focus on identifying the relevant stakeholders to assess their needs can also inform the selection of stakeholders for the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP (component 1). The details on land cover/use in very humid areas will help to explore practices implemented in other areas in Turkiye in order to ensure the identification of similar SLM practices (component 2) and knowledge sharing (component 3).

Soil and Water Resources Project	2012 ? 2018; nationwide	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Central Administration Budget (TR)	Project objectives: ? To develop appropriate technology and irrigation programs ensuring the optimum use of water in water-scarce conditions ? To develop irrigation techniques and technologies and develop mainstreaming strategies for their use ? To collect existing and new data on soil carbon management, soil productivity and soil toxic element content ? To develop a National Soil Information System Project results: ? Turkish National Soil Organic Carbon Map ? Turkiye?s Boron Distribution Map ? Turkish soil plant nutrition and toxic element content database ? Contribution to build capacity for climate change related topics and climate change action plan ? Water efficient modern irrigation techniques database ? Soil, plant, water analyses	The project components on creating a national soil organic carbon as well as soil plant nutrition and toxic element content database can provide important information for assessing land degradation issues as well as for developing tailored sustainable land management practices for the pilot micro-basin of the proposed UNDP-GEF MSP. The database on natural resources friendly agricultural techniques will also serve as an important resource.

				and fertilizer production techniques database ? Natural resources friendly agricultural techniques database	
The FAO-Turkiye Partnership Programme (FTPP)	Established in 2006, 2nd phase 2016 ? 2020; international level	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock; FAO	Trust fund financed by the Government of Turkiye; USD 10 Million	Program objective: To provide assistance on food security and rural poverty reduction in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Focus of the program: ? sustainable land management ? forest policy and institutional development ? forest management and protection ? forest products and services ? forest and environment ? people and forests ? assessment and monitoring ? cross-cutting issues including mountains and watersheds, trees outside forests, urban and peri-urban forestry and agro-forestry ? drought impact mitigation and land degradation assessment	The program?s experience on sustainable land management and assessment of land degradation mainly at Sub-regional Central Asia and Caucasus countries provides a range of interventions that could be reviewed and assessed to see whether and how they could be adapted to very humid climate areas. The experience and best practices from other participating countries in this program could also be applicable and useful.

CORINE (Coordination of Information on the Environment)	Nationwide 1990-2018 Renewed every 6 years.	Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs	European Union GMES (Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security) program, made with equity for 2018.	CORINE (Coordination of Information on the Environment) project is amongst the land management projects of European Union GMES (Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security) program. The main goal of the project is to create ?Land Cover/Use? maps in compliance with the European Environment Agency (EEA) criteria for European Union member states. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, the project compiled Turkiye?s CORINE change databases for the years 1990, 2000, 2006, 2012, 1990-2000, 2000-2016, and 2006-2012 and communicated them to EEA. The maps were drafted based on 5 main, and 44 sub land cover/use classifications defined by the EEA. In addition, they are renewed every 6 years in compliance with EEA standards, which posits 1/100,000 scale for classification and 25 Ha as the	

				minimum mapping unit.	

(3) The Proposed Alternate scenario

The proposed long-term aim of the project is to secure the critical ecosystem services in the Eastern Black Sea Coastal (EBSC) Region of Turkiye through climate-resilient sustainable land and coastal management contributing to LDN. This is aimed at achievement of all five objectives of LDN which are to: maintain or improve the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services; maintain or improve productivity in order to enhance food security; increase resilience of the land and populations dependent on the land; seek synergies with other social, economic and environmental objectives; and reinforce responsible and inclusive governance of land.

The fundamental aim of the project is to preserve the land resource base, by ensuring no net loss of healthy and productive land as measured at the national level by following the response hierarchy of Avoid > Reduce > Reverse land degradation. In this hierarchy, avoid and reduce have priority over reversing past degradation, so that an optimal combination of actions can be identified and pursued with the aim of achieving no net loss across the landscape. The proposed project will address each element of the response hierarchy: Avoid - through improved land use planning and stopping further encroachment and impact of agriculture and infrastructure into natural habitats; Reduce - through SLM in the agriculture and forestry sectors; Reverse - through targeted rehabilitation of degraded lands using sustainable and nature-based solutions. This is to be achieved through equipping and empowering local communities to safeguard the country?s natural ecosystems, ecosystem services and food production systems from unsustainable land use practices (including those practices that restore and maintain fertility of currently degraded agricultural and grazing lands through climate-smart agriculture approaches). To achieve these objectives, knowledge needs to be both built and shared effectively that residents need to be aware of the impacts of unsustainable land management practices, but even more importantly engaged and empowered to play a significant role of addressing existing these issues.

In determining the above outcomes, it must be recognized that the main coordinating body for land degradation in Turkiye ? ?EM ? has, thus far, been implementing SLM activities by orchestrating relevant authorities and stakeholders in forests and agricultural lands of dryland nature. While these efforts have increased knowledge and capacities reasonably, they do not match conditions in Turkiye?s very humid climatic regions such as the Eastern Black Sea Coastal (EBSC) Region. To add value to past and ongoing efforts to control land degradation in Turkiye, the emphasis will be broadened from drylands to include mountainous areas that are affected by high precipitation and where the degradation processes vary from those in drylands. These landscapes suffer from unfavorable topography and climate. Due to steep slopes, difficult accessibility, and many cloudy or precipitation days (half the year is rainy in the EBSC Region), there is scarce productive agricultural land for cultivation. To address the unique circumstances of these steep, humid landscapes will require that the barriers to change described previously are removed. This will require (i) fostering a system of LDN compatible INRM planning at a micro-basin level (encompassing forests, plantations/orchards, water management, natural disaster prevention works, as well as socio-economic development) and improving the systemic, institutional, and individual capacities for such a planning approach; (ii) under the umbrella of this LDN compatible INRM plan, demonstrate specific SLM/LDN actions in forest and plantation agriculture sites in a target micro-basin such that new global practices are combined with traditional ones; and (iii) enhancing gender-sensitive, impact monitoring, learning, and knowledge-sharing expressly for steep and humid areas. Spatial risk analysis (Output 1.2.) based on the IPCC methodology will be providing a strong ground to integrate different knowledges. It will be an innovative decision making tool based on the robust scientific ground. Besides it will be useful tool to communicate with different stakeholders in a more objective ground.

To address the above-referenced measures, the project objective aims to ensure that the institutional and technical infrastructure in Turkiye is strengthened to achieve LDN compatible integrated natural resource management (INRM) in EBSC Region with very humid climate through demonstration of SLM techniques (and achieve LDN) that blend the new global approaches and traditional knowledge in Eastern

Black Sea region of Turkiye. Turkiye?s natural and productive ecosystems (agriculture, grazing and forest lands) are at reduced risk from land degradation and unsustainable resource use practices as a result of effective government enabling and capacity, community participation and resilient and sustainable production systems. The intent of the project is to equip and empower local communities to safeguard the country?s natural ecosystems, ecosystem services and food production systems from unsustainable land use practices (in particular support for those practices that promote and sustain the productivity of the land and also those which restore and maintain fertility of currently degraded agricultural, gazing and forest lands through climate smart approaches). To achieve these objectives, knowledge needs to be both built and shared effectively throughout the country and that residents need to be aware of the threats and impacts of land degradation issues, but even more importantly engaged and empowered to play a significant role of addressing these issues as well as taking steps to ensure that the productive potentials of these lands can be maintained or enhanced. To do so, sustainable land management efforts will be designed to address the specific challenges posed in such areas that are characterized by high precipitation, steep topography, vulnerability to natural disasters (floods, and landslides), a socio-economic structure that is reliant on agriculture, pastures, forest and soil resources, and high poverty rates. The long-term solution to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation is well-coordinated and jointly implemented sustainable land management actions by public agencies and local stakeholders in an institutionalized manner, that are supported by decision support systems such as vulnerability maps and a series of best practices, guidelines, etc.

The GEF alternative will aim to remove the barriers to the long-term solution of strengthened land management and support achievement of LDN through: (1). enhancing coordination and promoting improved tools, information and capacity in government to support management of risk through sustainable land management, work towards mainstreaming SLM/LDN in decision-making and planning processes; (2) demonstration of effective management of the selected landscape for biodiversity, soil and water conservation and food security whilst ensuring that land degradation (LD) risks are minimized across sectors through a holistic framework that embraces the fundamental role of ecological integrity. This is intended to be delivered primarily through the empowerment of stakeholders, including local communities to maximize ownership and long-term sustainability and promoting opportunities for nature-based economic livelihood development; and (3) Improving communication and awareness on the linkages and benefits of SLM/LDN and ecosystem services with the food security, economic wellbeing and prosperity of rural communities, recognizing the critical role that women and youth can play in this effort.

The project also recognizes that the demonstration landscape in the EBSC Region underpins the lives and livelihoods of many local communities, including women, men, youth and vulnerable communities and that implementation of a coherent strategy to promote effective and sustainable land management strategy is an integral part of the solution. The project seeks to achieve this solution to improve management and conservation of forest and agricultural lands and livelihoods using an integrated natural resources management approach. The intention is also to effectively reduce risks and impacts associated with unsustainable land, forest and grazing practices and other disruptive resource use activities in that knowledge needs to be both built and shared effectively throughout the Region and that residents need to be aware of LD issues, but even more importantly engaged and empowered to play a significant role of addressing these threats.

In summary, the project will be implemented over a 3-year period based on the following principles:

? Ensuring that at harmonized cross sectoral and holistic national level policy, planning, coordination and capacity are in place to support implementation an integrated natural resources management approach to land management;
? Strengthening the safeguarding at both national and localized levels to minimize land degradation risk;
? Support the goals and objectives of LDN at all levels, creating an enabling environment that empowers empower communities to halt and reverse LD through rehabilitation and monitor progress towards the Turkiye?s LDN goals;

? Supporting and implementing a participatory/consultative bottom-up project planning approach that maximizes community ownership and long-term sustainability;
? Supporting decentralized planning and management by communities, local administration using the existing traditional decision-making processes as the building blocks for integration of localized sustainable resource use that is commensurate with climate risk management;
? Strengthening capacities of communities, women and youth, local administration and other key stakeholders (including the private sector) within a cross-sectoral and holistic planning framework to address LD related concerns;
? Improving coordination and collaboration between local administration and national sector agencies to deliver technical expertise extension and best practices for management of SLM actions;
? Mainstreaming SLM into key development sectors (forestry, agriculture, etc.) through strengthening of community-managed approaches;
? Ensuring that in its development and implementation, gender is mainstreamed so that the project contributes to equality and equity, through the creation of opportunities and benefits for both women and men
? Creating an effective knowledge base that builds on successful lessons and experiences from previous and on-going programs and projects;
? Selectivity with respect to interventions and locations within the catchments to demonstrate cost-effective SLM management that at least in some cases may be replicated elsewhere

By undertaking these measures, the intermediate state expected to be achieved is one where collaborative and systematic integrated natural resource planning and SLM in the EBSC region leads to development of know-how and behavioral change in managers of land and scaling out to other humid areas with steep topography. Collaborative environment is the key for the successful implementation of the proposed activities to achieve LDN. In that regard, the proposed intersectoral approach will be instrumental to improve this collaborative environment and ensure the sustainability of outcomes. Clear identification of the relationship of different sectors with the different stages of the LDN process will be helpful to prove the value of different stakeholders and understanding the value of the collaborative environment. The expected longer-term impacts include resilient agro-ecosystems, disaster prevention, food security and improved livelihoods, as well as climate change adaptation for these unique landscapes.

The project?s theory of change rests on several key assumptions. It is expected that the government will continue to support an expansion in emphasis from land degradation in drylands to encompass the unique degradation processes in humid, hilly lands. The political support to implement needed legal and policy reforms for the same will be strong, and the institutional support exists for government staff to be active participants in capacity building, cross-sectoral dialogue, and sharing of data and information residing in stakeholder institutions. It is assumed that local decision-makers (local community leaders, mayors, politicians, opinion-makers), as well as local farmer families will be actively engaged in sustainable production and land management practices. For project efforts on exploring sustainable tea value chains and alternative agri-food value chains (such as blueberry, raspberry) to be successful, it is assumed that markets will exist for these products over the medium to long term. Finally, the EBSC Region is already seeing the effects of climate change and variability, and it is assumed that this change and variability remains in the current range. The increasing incidence of heavy precipitation events is leading to more frequent floods, landslides, and avalanches but the project?s efforts to put in place LDN compatible INRM will help promote SLM and build more resilient agroecosystems in steep and humid landscapes, in turn reducing risk to life and property associated with these weather events.

The project objective will be achieved via four interrelated and complementary strategies (Project Components comprising Outcomes and Outputs) that focus on removing the four key barriers that constrain the accomplishment of the desired long-term solution (Figure 2) by means of intervention pathways shown in the theory of change diagram (Figure 3). Indicators and assumptions for the accomplishment of expected Outcomes under the respective Components are given in the Project Results Framework. The three planned Components of the project are:

Component 1. Integrated natural resource management planning in landscapes with very humid climate.

Component 2. Land-based SLM practices in landscapes with very humid climate
Component 3. Knowledge management, and replication
Component 4: M&E

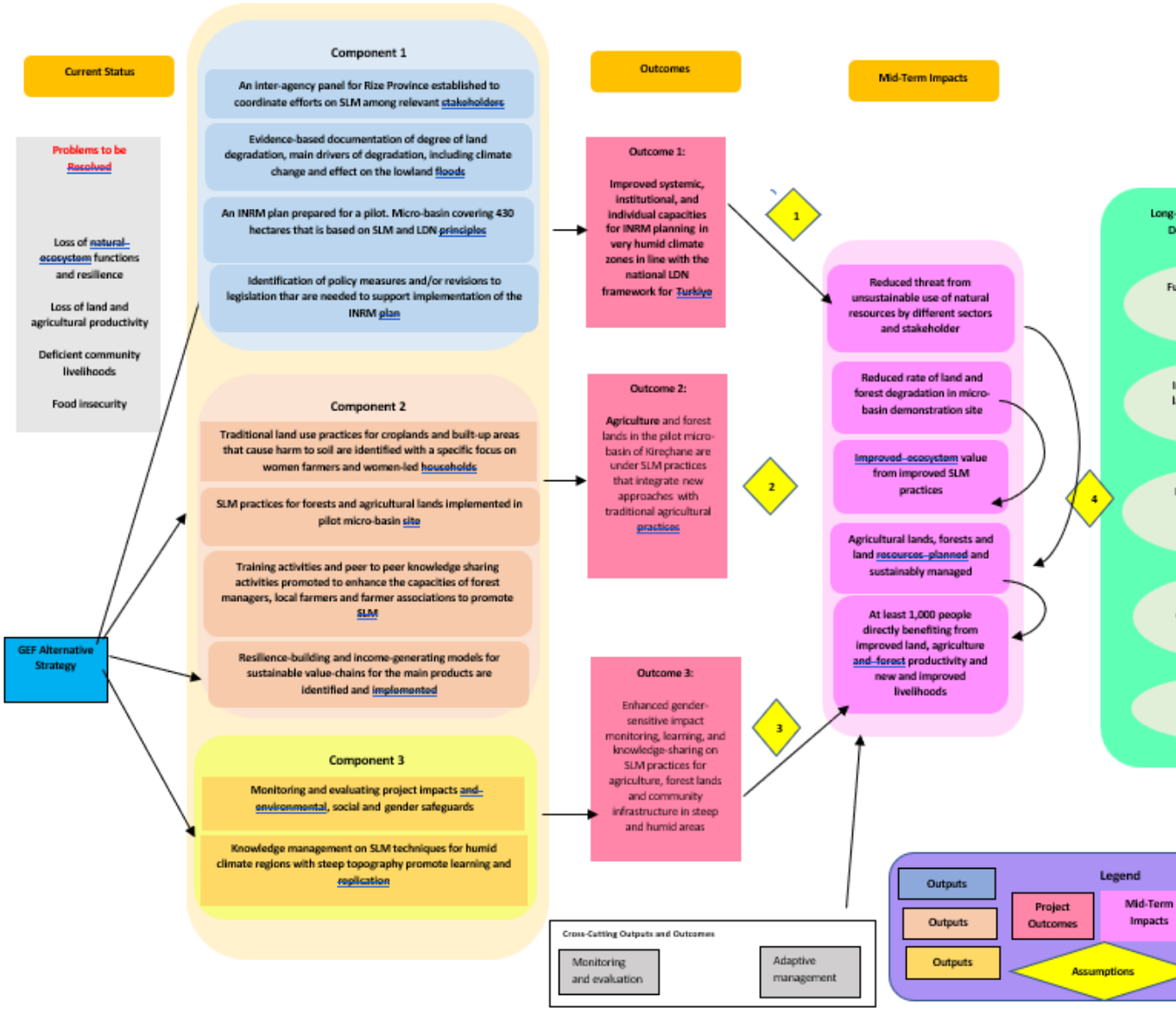


Figure 3: Project Theory of Change

Table 2: Key assumptions underpinning the Theory of Change

Number in Figure	Assumption	Notes and References

1	The increased capacities of local stakeholders, including farmers, forest dependents other stakeholders. ensure sustainable and appropriate use and management of land and natural resources that results in reduction of threat to land degradation and ecosystem functions	The Turkiye government is placing a strong emphasis on ensure improved management of its land and forests in the EBSC Region by, controlling and managing unsustainable and destructive land and natural resource use. This is to be achieved through improved coordination across different sectoral agencies and between national and provincial entities and other key stakeholders and resource dependents through establishing foundation for SLM to achieve LDN targets and outcomes and establishing the requisite policy and legislative frameworks to ensure complementarity among key sector policies to facilitate achieving LDN as well as develop appropriate local land use plans to address LD and SLM practices. The Government of Turkiye also recognizes the need to be a have system to monitor land degradation, establish targets and baseline against which to measure progress. It also recognizes that without best practice protocols and technical guidelines, Provinces and local district administrations will not be able to effectively plan land-use and development so as to avoid and mitigate land degradation. Capacity at all levels, from government, non-government and policy-making, as well as local farmers and land owners to implementation SLM actions, is an ongoing challenge. As a result, farmers land owners lack vital extension services information and best practices on sustainable land management and food production, and opportunities for improving their livelihoods ? leading to further land degradation

2	The developed capacities of provincial and district governmental (particularly agencies that would be responsible for environment, agriculture, farming, forestry and infrastructure management) and local farmers and land owners supporting land use and agricultural technologies are sufficient to create a viable and effective means to prevent land and ecosystem degradation	In line with the above, there is an increasing realization that there is a need for an improved management of micro-basins in the EBSC Region to demonstrate the benefits of SLM measures that can contribute to reduction of land and forest degradation, improve agricultural productivity, enhance local livelihood and incomes that can act as an incentive to promote local support for land management measures. To support this, a critical aspect of the project is to ensure that there is an improved landscape management plans for the proposed micro-basin, enhance community management capacities for SLM and resource conservation and sustainable use, reduction of threats and land degradation, climate risks and other catastrophic events such as flooding and landslides
3	The raised awareness and increased knowledge management expand political understanding and actions supporting SLM and ecosyste m management within the EBSC Region	The importance of actively addressing land degradation and natural resource management is recognized as fundamental to ensure the maintenance of land, agriculture and forest productivity in the EBSC Region. The project promotes increased awareness, a monitoring system and information and knowledge sharing that can enhance local efforts at conservation of land and forest resources. If this is achieved, it will provide the ENSC Region, and the country with a tested approach to direct and support land and natural resource management efforts throughout the nation.

4	There is stability in the economic and political global environment	The achievement of long-term impacts will likely be achieved if the assumptions from 1 through 3 are effective. However, this achievement is ensured based on the following assumption, namely that national and international macroeconomic conditions and other natural or man-induced factors (such a Covid-19) remain stable and manageable, so that this does not shift government priorities and focus.

Project objective: To establish the institutional and technical infrastructure in Turkiye to achieve integrated natural resource management (INRM) in regions with very humid climate through demonstration of SLM techniques that blend the new global approaches and traditional knowledge in Eastern Black Sea region of Turkiye.

The project?s incremental value lies in demonstrating the application of integrated SLM interventions to conserve the biological resources and productive natural resource base (forests and agriculture) applying a community-based resource governance and management approach. This will entail that communities are actively engaged in planning and decision-making on best approaches to prevent and manage the threats in the natural resource base so as to help conserve the productivity of agriculture, forestry and water as well as to conserve and terrestrial production ecosystems and prevent resource degradation so as to safeguard food production systems. In these target areas, an information management and monitoring network will be strengthened to support the following: (i) provide detailed information on species and ecosystem health, pathways and underlying causes for threats to the ecosystem, impacts on terrestrial ecosystems and potential impacts under different climate scenarios; (ii) identification of threats and locations of severity so as to assess urgency of actions; (iii) decision making tools that would allow comprehensive diagnosis of threats and their underlying causes, improved priority setting for SLM interventions and informed decision-making on sectoral policies and investments; and (iv) readily available data for decision makers, communities and others to respond to, and address the threats to these ecosystems. The information system will allow for defining which ecosystems within the priority micro-basin should be effectively managed and restored in order to support retention of critical productivity, ecosystem integrity and support productivity of agricultural resources and use over the long term. It will also help develop capacities and the required enabling frameworks through "learning-by-doing" approaches in the selected micro-basin and help develop and demonstrate a matrix of best practices, including sustainable resource use and productivity restoration practices for scaling up and replication in other micro-basins in the country. A series of knowledge management publications, national dialogue platforms and awareness events will support the achievement of these targets.

Component 1. Integrated natural resource management planning in landscapes with very humid climate

(Total Cost: USD 2,679,500; GEF project grant requested: USD 239,500; Co-financing: USD 2,4400,000)

Outcome 1: Improved systemic, institutional, and individual capacities for INRM planning in very humid climate zones in line with the national LDN framework for T?rkiye

Outcome 1 will address the first barrier of the lack of cross-sectoral planning, supportive policies/legislation, and expertise for LDN compatible integrated natural resource management (INRM) in humid areas. Gaps and overlaps in land management in the EBSC Region will be addressed by strengthening intersectoral governance and coordination among key institutions, capacities, strategies and tools for conserving and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services to support an integrated and sustainable nature-based development pathway, initially in the Rize province and later extended to the entire EBSC region based on lessons and experiences from Rize Province. In particular, this Outcome will support an integrated natural resource management (INRM) approach that will build on the existing technical foundations, include gender appropriate solutions, but also the legal and institutional structures and processes that need to be established and coordinated in a sustainable way to support LDN compatible INRM planning and management in both the project area and other

areas with a humid climate. This Outcome will strengthen intersectoral governance, capacity, strategies and tools for conserving and mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services to support a nature-based development pathway. This will be achieved through promotion of the voice, participation and empowerment of women, youth and disadvantaged groups by ensuring that they have access to information, gender sensitization and have equal representation in technical and governance committees. Potential impacts from ?upstream? project activities, which involve planning support, capacity building, policy advice and reform. This Outcome will be supported by four inter-related Outputs:

Output 1.1. An inter-agency panel on SLM for the Rize Province is established to coordinate the efforts on SLM among relevant stakeholder organizations.

The development and implementation of LDN compatible INRM will require the engagement of all actors from diverse sectors related to land, water, agriculture, forestry and soil management and the conservation of biodiversity to promote dialogue and coordination for joint planning, programming and implementation. This Output will help in the creation of a platform for inter-agency coordination and programming in Rize province. The intent is, through this inter-agency coordination platform to enhance synergies and collaboration, reduce conflict and overlap of functions, and promote joint programming and implementation of activities within the province. The learning and experience from the Rize Province will facilitate the expansion of the coordination mechanism to the entire EBSR region in the future. The overall objectives of the inter-agency coordination platform would be to ensure that: application of policies, legislation, guidelines and standards for land, forest and agricultural management are coordinated in a manner to ensure that they complement and support the broad LDN compatible INRM approach for the Rize Province, and in particular for LDN compatible INRM planning in the Kire?hane micro-basin, and that any contradictions and overlaps in these instruments are effectively addressed; Policy and legislative recommendations to support implementation of INRM in Kire?hane micro-basin are identified; Baseline information related to land and ecosystem condition and trends are streamlined and information flow across sector and other entities is facilitated; Encouraging provincial and district governorships to adopt gender-sensitive management practices to mainstream biodiversity conservation and SLM into key sectors; Supporting, Informing and guiding the planning, endorsement and approval process for the LDN compatible INRM plans, after a technical review of their contents to verify the compliance with operational and legal frameworks; Supporting coordination between landscape governance and planning and other potentially related policies, initiatives, and projects; Supporting fund raising to implement policies and plans to mainstream biodiversity conservation and SLM into key sectors at a large-scale level; Coordinating and supporting the development and implementation of a gender-appropriate capacity building program for all stakeholders involved in the lNRM planning and management process; Advocacy of INRM approaches and its integration with socio-economic development priorities and financial planning; and Promotion and enhancement of community capacity (including that of women, youth and disadvantaged groups), regulations and policy for improved community management of productive lands

This platform for inter-agency coordination to enhance synergies and reduce conflicts, as one of the first actions of the project, would be initially established for the Rize Province. The SLM Commission/ Committee will be composed of key actors of land management such as ?AYKUR, the local branches of OGM, ?EM, DS?, TRGM, AFAD, DOKAP and DOKA to allow for increased communication, knowledge and experience sharing, and discussion around land management in the Rize Province. (he commission, will also be supported by the provincial governor for effectiveness, will oversee province-based land management decisions including road rehabilitation, and tea plantation expansion pressures from the land degradation neutrality perspective. The intent, is that through the experience with the Rize Province to expand the inter-agency SLM commission to the entire EBSC Region in the future. Establishment of the commission will be guided by the following activities: (i) **Organize bilateral meetings and visits to local governor?s office and key sector entities** in Rize Province to review existing gaps and constraints for management of land issues. And reach agreement regarding establishment of the inter-agency commission (under the chairmanship of the Governor) and its membership. (ii) Draft and **secure stakeholder agreement on a mission statement, a basic code-of-**

conduct, and terms of reference for the commission, including development of MOUs, where necessary between agencies/sectors to enable improved vertical coordination within the province for addressing land management issues. (iii) **Establish a Council of Land and Disaster Management experts and practitioners**to support the LDN compatible INRM planning process, with representation of women and youth. Membership of this Council will be defined in agreement with the Governor and could include land management experts from government, NGOs, private sector, research and academic institutions, etc. (iv) Reach agreement on the role of the project in supporting the **implementation of national LDN targets** with the lead agency coordinating LDN target setting, baseline assessment and target development for the Rize Province, including specifically for the Kire?hane micro-basin; (v) **Hold structured and moderated meetings for the entire project duration to carry out the commission?s role of overseeing the preparation of a detailed GIS-based database** for the Kire?hane micro-basin and a broader information management system to cover the Rize Province as a shared knowledge base for all stakeholders; (vi) **Lead efforts to ensure dissemination of the project?s messages and results** within key agencies and stakeholder groups (including women and disadvantaged groups); promote integration of the project?s approach more broadly, and the LDN compatible INRM plan for the pilot sub-basin in particular, into the internal and individual strategic plans and programs of all key institutions such as DS?, AFAD, DOKAP and DOKA to ensure sustainability of the project results; and spearhead efforts to subsequently bring about legislative and policy changes necessary for effective SLM in the EBSC Region based on identification of gaps and opportunities in legislation under Output 1.4; (vii) **Make an assessment of the functionality of the SLM commission for the Rize Province, based on which initiate negotiations with governors of all provinces covered by the EBSC Region** to expand the inter-agency SLM Commission to cover the entire EBSC Region as part of the project?s long-term strategy for the Region. On the long run, this EBSC Commission could oversee the development of regulations, guidelines and protocols to promote LDN compatible INRM planning and implementation, including institutional and governance structure for these efforts throughout the EBSC Region.

Output 1.2. Evidence-based documentation of the degree of land degradation, main drivers of land degradation including the ones related to climate change, and the effect on the lowlands of floods caused by land degradation.

While, the EBSC Region suffers from severe land degradation and its social and economic consequences, there is no common base of knowledge and understanding about the causes and impacts of land degradation and associated disasters among key expert institutions such as ?EM, OGM, AFAD, DS? and regional influential development agencies such as DOKAP and DOKA. This output aims to define and determine land degradation and develop a common terminology, methodology and understanding about the reasons and impacts of land degradation in very humid regions, by using innovative state-of-the-art imaging and participatory mapping techniques in order to ensure understanding and active participation of all key institutions including farmers or NGOs, and other interest groups for the success of the project and incorporating gender considerations in line with a gender action plan that was prepared at the PPG stage to make the project?s interventions more socially inclusive. While land degradation is a long-term loss of ecosystem function and productivity which takes place due to a wide variety of land processes, namely soil erosion, soil sodification, green-cover loss, and soil conditions such as soil infertility that leads to productivity loss, many different agencies have attempted to document and address these. However, these individual attempts are not well coordinated and information is generally not shared among agencies, thus preventing influential regional development agencies to shape investments in the region taking into consideration land management issues. For example, ?EM prepares landslide susceptibility and hazard maps, DS? works on flood sensitive areas, OGM prepares ecosystem-based functional forest management plans taking ecosystem services such as water retention and flood control into account, which are often not shared among a variety of agencies that operate in the region.

The aim of this Output is to bring all these efforts together and prepare a synthesis map, initially in the Kire?hane micro-basin. A GIS-based spatial database will be prepared with the data acquired for the Kire?hane micro-basin. Overall, this would provide a biophysical baseline at landscape level, and a monitoring and evaluation framework for assessing processes of land degradation and the effectiveness of rehabilitation measures (recovery) over time. This will be achieved through the following activities:

(i) **Collect data and carry out detailed assessments for the pilot Kirechane micro-basin** that cover the following aspects: land potential and land stratification, current land degradation status, resilience of current and proposed land uses, socioeconomic context, including assessment of gender equality and barriers to participation of women and youth, cost-benefit analysis of proposed interventions[1]1 (ii) Using participatory sketching and mapping techniques, **illustrate ecosystem services** such as flood and erosion control function of forests, water provision and treatment function of riverine ecosystems, flood control function of natural riverbeds, etc.; (iii) **Produce spatial climate projections** as new layers, by downscaling global-scale climate projections to the micro-basin level with the help of climate experts and GIS experts; (iv) **Superimpose existing information on flood sensitivity; former landslide, rock-fall incidents and impacts**, as well as landslide risks; road expansion plans of DOKAP; etc.; (v) **Conduct vulnerability assessment** by means of a weighted vulnerability analysis in numeric form in order to pinpoint vulnerable areas and factors leading to those. This assessment will be finalized by a series of technical meetings and workshops among experts and interested parties. As a result of the above activities, areas that are particularly vulnerable to erosion and other forms of land degradation and climate change, in addition to vulnerabilities to other existing environmental and socio-economic conditions, will be identified. This spatial GIS-based database will illustrate vulnerable areas that are at high risk not only at present but also for the next 20-30 years under various climate change scenarios. This will improve the capacity of institutions to take these factors into account into future planning, for instance enabling ?EM to prepare landslide control engineering projects at the most needed critical spots, or allowing OGM and ?AYKUR to detect and initiate monitoring for forest areas at risk of conversion to tea plantations. This spatial database will serve as a decision support system tool and be the basis for the program of measures under Output 1.3 (Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan); and (vi) **Document and validate the methodology and analytical tools applied to the assessment** undertaken in Kire?hane micro-basin [Activities (i) through (v) above]. Using existing information and data available for the Rize Province, apply the assessment to the wider Rize Province (at a lesser detailed scale) to determine vulnerabilities within the Rize Province. The experience from the assessment of land degradation conducted in the pilot micro-basin will provide the methodology and analytical tools that can be later applied for the documentation of land degradation in the rest of the EBSC region.

Output 1.3. A gender-sensitive INRM Plan prepared for a pilot micro-basin covering an area of 430 ha that is based on SLM and LDN principles.

Currently, while there are a number of plans that are implemented by the different sector agencies that operate at that level, there is no consolidated land use management plan that integrates these different sectoral planning approaches and investments. The objective of this output is to facilitate a multi-sectoral, integrated natural resource management planning process that will result in the development of an LDN compatible integrated natural resources management (INRM) plan for the Kire?hane micro-basin. The development of the LDN compatible INRM plan will be based on remote sensing data in mapping and geospatial analysis (Output 1.2) for the Kire?hane micro-basin through structured stakeholder consultations and workshops based on SLM principles. Similar plans have already proven successful in establishing a common roadmap and monitoring base for authorities in other regions of Turkiye, such as the Mount Karacada? Resource Conservation Plan being prepared and implemented as part of a GEF-financed project (Sustainable Land Management and Climate Friendly Agriculture at Konya Closed Basin)[2]2. The output will serve for testing and implementation of LDN compatible integrated land use management planning in Kire?hane micro-basin.

The LDN compatible INRM plan will focus on the following aspects: (a) practices such as sustainable forest management and integration of biodiversity conservation and SLM outcomes in forest management planning; (b) sustainably managed practices on agricultural lands (including tea plantations), forests and watercourses that reduce risks and damage from floods, landslides and droughts; (c) sustainable land management practices and properly managed permanent vegetation cover that promote nitrogen fixation processes strongly contribute to combating soil erosion and maintaining soil health and fertility; (d) environmentally-friendly infrastructure developments that stabilize soils,

watercourses and vulnerable lands and (e) traditional land-use practices for croplands (building on outcome of Output 2.1). The LDN compatible INRM plan will be based on the following key principles: (f) seeking to treat underlying causes (not just symptoms); (f) dependent on scientific evidence; (g) adoption of an integrated approach (multi-sector, multi-stakeholder and multi-scale)to land management; (h) censuring a holistic planning and implementation approach; (i) seeking innovative low-cost solutions and co-financing; (j) ensuring that institutional arrangements are in place for coordination of effective plan implementation; (k) combining bottom-up and top-down processes; (l). Incorporating traditional knowledge; (m) reflecting upstream?downstream linkages and compensation of off-site effects.; (n) ensuring gender balance in decision-making; (o) Including capacity development at all levels and (p) supporting a flexible, adaptive long-term approach to planning and financing. The LDN compatible INRM Plan, which will be supervised by the SLM Commission (see Output 1.1.) and will be integrated into the internal and individual strategic plans and programs of all key institutions in region ? such as DSI/MAF, AFAD, GYGM, OKAP, DOKA, CAYKUR and local administration, ? to ensure funding and implementation of the plan post-project. The preparation process of the INRM Plan will be guided by the following activities; (i) **Hold consultations with agriculture, forestry and biodiversity/ecosystem services experts** through bilateral meetings, focus groups, and facilitated workshops under the moderation of strategic planning experts. The main sectors of forestry, agriculture, infrastructure, and energy will be covered in cooperation with relevant experts, as well as entities representing local farmers, women and private sector; (ii) **Evaluate the involvement of disadvantaged groups** (such as the elderly, youth, and women) in natural resources management at the micro-basin level by drawing on guidance from specific experts such as gender consultant, issue-specific institutions, and NGOs in particular. This information will support integration of a specific chapter in the INRM Plan on involvement of disadvantages groups; (iii) Through interviews and meetings with the main actors in the EBSC Region (including private sector institutions, women groups and NGOs), **identify key elements (practices, indicators, criteria) for sustainable forest management and sustainable tea production that promote SLM**; document these as a guide for future forest management and agricultural support plans in the region, at a technical/policy level; (iv) **Agree on both issue-based and site-based recommendations for LDN compatible INRM** and illustrate these on the maps prepared based on the geo-spatial database developed under Output 1.2. This will provide a visual output and establish the basis of the discussion points of the draft INRM Plan with a cross-sectoral perspective; and (v) Based on all of the above and the preparatory assessments under Output 1.2, **develop an LDN compatible INRM Plan for the Kire?hane micro-basin** that seeks to balance at a landscape scale (for the pilot micro-basin) economic, social, gender, cultural and environmental objectives, to achieve a mosaic of land uses across the landscape such that land is used for the purposes to which it is best suited, and allocation takes into account climate change as a driver of land degradation[3]3. The LDN compatible INRM Plan will integrate biodiversity conservation, enhance water retention capacity, improve soil and forest productivity, and overall ensure the environmental conditions required to support and safeguard sustainable livelihoods for local stakeholders. For different land uses and land types, the LDN compatible INRM Plan will focus on determining better modalities for managing natural resources such as tea plantations and forests in the light of sustainable land management principles to achieve land degradation neutrality targets. The planning process will be designed to integrate all relevant stakeholders for ensuring transparency during the implementation process of the project. Also, a participatory process will be followed to benefit from the relevant stakeholders? knowledge on the state-of-the-art and maximize their ownership by the end of the project.

Output 1.4. Identification of policy and legislative measures legislation that are needed to support implementation of the INRM Plans in humid climatic zones.

Turkiye has adopted several effective laws and strategic plans (e.g. protected area, forest, agriculture, wetland, economic development, strategic provincial plans, etc.) to support sustainable land use and natural resource management. However, there is no single legislative mechanism to implement an LDN compatible INRM plan, and thus its implementation will likely have to be undertaken through one or more of the existing sector legislation that operates in the region. However, there are overlaps and gaps in institutional legislation and mandates, in addition to existing ones that can act as impediments

to effectively implement an integrated plan, such as the INRM plan. Thus, issues such as this need to be identified by evaluating existing policy and legislation from the perspective of SLM in very humid regions, and by consulting on the ground implementing organizations using a holistic approach that is multi-sectoral, and identifying the best option(s) for implementing the LDN compatible INRM Plan. The policy and legislative review will be guided by the following activities: (i) Recruit a national policy/legal consultant to conduct a rapid legislative gap analysis and review of policies for land governance, land-use planning, and natural resource conservation and management through the lens of sustainable land management in very humid regions**[4]4**. The priority legislation might include, but not restricted to the Land Conservation and Use law, Environment law, Agriculture law, Tea Law, Forest law, Law on Water, Irrigation Unions law, etc.; (ii) Based on the review in Activity (i) above, identify the gaps and opportunities in legislation and policies to implement SLM related activities as reflected in LDN compatible INRM Plan. Then Identify, the best option(s) for implementation of the LDN compatible INRM Plans, either using one or more of the existing sector legislation and policy that is best suited for the purpose, such as the ecosystem-based functional forest management plan, or a limited number of existing management planning processes; and (iii) Prepare a report, based on outcome of Activities (i) and (ii) above to identify revisions that might be required in the longer-term to provide an effective policy and legislative framework for implementation of LDN compatible INRM plans for future consideration, as and when policies and legislation are being reviewed and updated. This could also involve dialogue with DOKAP and DOKA to re-shape strategic plans and project financing in the region also to secure the financial sustainability through the innovative programs that will encourage SLM by the local development institutions and local administrations, and dialogue with municipalities to revise strategic plans of municipalities, revisions to the tea law, etc.

Component 2: Land-based SLM practices in landscapes with very humid climate.

(Total Cost: USD 7,677,500; GEF project grant requested: USD 727,500; Co-financing: USD 6,950,000)

Outcome 2: Agriculture and forest lands in the pilot micro-basin of Kire?hane (430 ha) are under SLM practices that integrate new approaches with traditional agricultural practices

Outcome 2 will address the second barrier of lack of experience with implementing SLM practices in very humid and steep agriculture and forest areas. It will demonstrate how sustainable development pathways can be engaged by communities (including women and youth), improving livelihoods of men, women and youth and reducing threats and impacts from land degradation. The project will focus on integrated LDN compatible natural resource management (INRM) planning and delivery across 430 ha in micro-basin of Kire?hane that is representative of the forest and agro-ecosystems in the EBSC Region. It will demonstrate a set of tried and approved, tailored, applicable, and cost-effective SLM practices for local stakeholders to adopt and replicate. Participatory land-use planning under component 1 coupled with demonstrations of SLM under component 2 will lay the foundation for balancing out gains and losses in productivity and income for local stakeholders over the medium to long term. The objective of this component/outcome is also to build capacity and skills to lower the landslide and flood risk through restoring and maintaining the health, function, and productivity of critical ecosystems within the very humid landscapes to not only build resilience against climate-induced hazards, but also improve the sustainability of the natural resource base and enhance the livelihood security of local communities. Based on the priorities established in the LDN compatible INRM Plan developed under Output 1.3, this Outcome will include the identification of a variety of sustainable and risk-mitigating agricultural and forestry practices, land protection measures, and options for value chain options for livelihoods diversification that could be implemented (over the longer-term) by ?EM, OGM, TRGM, AFAD, and DS? through their regional and provincial units, to demonstrate successful SLM practices for DOKAP and DOKA to include and integrate in their future development projects. Integration of flood prevention and water regulation into agricultural and forest

management planning can improve the resilience and strengthen the functions of ecosystems and help combat against floods and landslides, in addition to producing long-term climate adaptation and mitigation co-benefits such as soil, water and sediment retention and reducing CO_2 emissions. Value added sustainable, gender-sensitive, and climate-smart income generation options for the most important agricultural products will be identified and help enhance the livelihood and welfare of the local people while reducing the pressure on the agricultural and forest ecosystems upon which these communities traditionally depend. The process of demonstration of SLM practices in the micro-basin of Kire?hane will also help improve the technical, analytical and managerial capacity for SLM among decision-makers and technical personnel in key provincial and regional entities that operate in the EBSC Region. This Outcome will be supported by four inter-related Outputs as described below.

Output 2.1. Traditional land use practices for croplands homestead areas that cause reduced harm to soil are identified with a specific focus on women farmers and women-led households.

The Black Sea lies at the junction of three major cultural areas: Europe, Central Asia, and the Near East. The EBSC region has thus been the home for several civilizations. As a result of such diverse cultures and traditions, the region has many examples of traditional and relatively small-scale land use practices that can be identified by trained eyes (e.g., ancient stone walls to stabilize land for house construction, farming or road building; archaic drainage systems or terraces for plantations established through collaborative work by villagers). Most of these traditional practices have been largely lost due to the outward migration of people and aging of the population. However, some women farmers have retained the knowledge of these traditional systems of land use and can serve as both the social historians/story tellers of the community. They can thus be the main workforce/mobilizer for agriculture, and can therefore be local guides for supporting this output. The identification and documentation of traditional practices will be guided by the following activities: (i) **The identification and documentation of traditional sustainable land use practices** that can serve as a cost-effective and easy to establish land use practices in the ESBC Region. This task will be undertaken by ?EM experts; (ii) Based on Activity (i) above, the **production of a manual on traditional sustainable land-use implementation practices** with recommended SLM practices for the EBSC Region. This manual will detail the following: (a) SLM practices that are appropriate for the region; (b) the importance and benefits that farmers can derive from such practices; (c) the specific abiotic and biotic conditions that are appropriate for each practice; (d) issues and challenges that farmers and extension personnel may encounter when adopting such practices; (e) step by step process for implementing such practices. The manual will be supplemented by a short-film and podcast that will be available for dissemination through local TV and radio stations, as well as pamphlets in local languages explaining the SLM practices. The manual can also be used as a training guide; (iii) .The manual and media communications will be shared with local land users (including extension workers), and the project will support through ?AYKUR, private sector companies such as Lipton and Do?u?, farming/animal husbandry cooperatives, etc., as well as with decision-making and investing authorities such as Governorships, Municipalities, DOKAP, DOKA, KGM (General Directorate of Roads), The dissemination of these methods will enable their potential integration into development and sector plans and programs in an attempt to foster promotion of innovative SLM programs in line with the respective agency mandates (such as SLM and tourism, SLM for apiculture, etc.) and investment plans and programs to further support SLM initiatives throughout the region for scaling up and sustainability purposes; and (iii) To raise the visibility and promote further replication of these traditional best practices, **region-wide contests will be held among land-users** via Governorships, DOKAP and DOKA. Winners will be rewarded with modest support such as fertilizer, seeds or small equipment, and promotional and interpretive signage for sites as per the permission of land users to encourage exchange visits for interested land owners/users in the future.

Output 2.2. *SLM practices for forests and agricultural lands implemented in pilot micro-basin site*

This Output will focus on the demonstration, skills development, awareness raising and sharing of best practices priorities defined in the LDN compatible INRM Plan developed for the Kire?hane micro-basin under Output 1.3. In particular, this Output will be selective in promoting key recommendations of the LDN compatible INRM, such as to integrate biodiversity and SLM practices in forest management

planning to conserve and protect watersheds; demonstrate SLM approaches in tea gardens to increase productivity while protecting the soil and water, promotion of traditional land use practices that stabilize land for house construction, farming and drainage systems, techniques for the efficient use of water, etc. This output will draw on lessons and best practices from several other projects in the region, to bring awareness and improve skills for new and innovative approaches on improving the conservation value and productivity of forest lands, best agricultural practices, improved fertilizer management, efficient and effective use of water, prevention of water and soil pollution, climate change adaptation and disaster management.

The project will provide cost-effective support for demonstration of selective SLM agricultural activities through the provision of technical support, planning and extension support, training and small-demonstration in farmer fields in selective parts of the micro-basin that will be defined through a mapping process, but might include selected areas of forests, tea plantations, traditional practices for stabilizing roads and creeks in the Kire?hane micro-basin in Kire?hane District, bringing together traditional and new global approaches[5]5. The planning, demonstration and implementation of SLM practices will be guided by the following activities: (i) Joint mapping and selection of all of the best cost-effective implementation methods and tools based on natural materials and methods that Turkiye and countries with very humid climate have implemented. Selection of best agricultural production and forestry practices will involve TRGM and OGM; erosion and sedimentation control works will involve ?EM; upstream natural water retention and storage interventions will involve DSI; drainage and walls to climate-proof and disaster-proof rural road segments will involve KGM and local administrations, traditional land use practices for stabilization of small-scale rural infrastructure will involve ?EM etc. Methods and tools will be selected for restoring and sustainably managing ecosystems that provide resources for income generation to local communities and critical services of soil retention and water regulation that contribute to buffering against landslides and floods and regulating the flow and quality of water. Several most cost-effective actions will be identified and prioritized for demonstration and enhancing skills of technical staff and local communities, including in particular for integration of biodiversity, SLM and water retention practices in forest management planning for sustainable agricultural and land practices and design and capacity development for stabilization of small-scale village infrastructure. The project will not physically invest in these activities, but will provide training, technical support, practical guidelines, awareness and tools for promoting these activities on the longer-term through either government or private sector investments in the future. It is anticipated that project support for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and SLM practices in forestry and agriculture will facilitate future efforts in the following priority management actions:

? Enhancing water provisioning through small-scale traditional terracing and stone walls for soil stabilization, vegetation regeneration and soil productivity and soil organic carbon management in agricultural areas
? Integration of SLM and SFM actions for enhancing biodiversity and silvicultural practices to enhance water retention capacity and water erosion control, land sensitivity considerations etc. into the forest management plans
? Maintenance activities such as weeding, chopping, shoot control and vegetative terracing and terrace repair, vegetative cover maintenance for the regulation of the hydrological system in agricultural lands
? Best practice management for landslide risk reduction and sedimentation control in agricultural areas
? Upstream natural water retention and natural vegetative storage interventions for conservation and natural regeneration of catchment area, riparian ecosystems and stream corridors
? Climate-proof and disaster-proof natural vegetation maintenance for rural/village road segments that are frequently affected by erosion, floods, and falling rocks
? Drainage and stabilized terracing for tea plantations to protect topsoil layer; multi-layered cropping and rainwater harvesting to manage soils and water sustainably; input-free or natural inputs such as compost, mulching, organic farming, good agricultural practices, etc. to reduce the application of pesticides and fertilizers that negatively affect soil structure.

(iii) Based on the mapping and identification of best practice priority SLM activities for promotion in the micro-basin, the project will support the following priority measures listed below to advance the actions identified under Activity (ii) above. To support these activities, the project will provide technical support and knowledge exchange, training and limited investments in SLM demonstration activities that would serve as a catalyst to encourage co-financing to promote uptake and scaling up, initially in the micro-basin and subsequently in the Rize Province and later throughout the EBSC region.

? Support the Rize Forest Enterprise in the Rize Forest Management Directorate through provision of technical support and training to have capacity for integration of spatial recommendations (defined via field data gathering, modelling, analysis and consultation with foresters) for biodiversity conservation, enhancing water retention capacity and others with the aim of promoting the productivity of forests, protecting watersheds, SLM measures such as drainage ditches and channels, bush fencing, fire management and soil stabilization in the micro-basin

? Support for development of appropriate tools, learning and capacity for integration of SLM measures in forestry to promote SLM integration

? Based on the lessons and experience from implementation of forestry activities in the micro-basin, the project will promote technical support to the Rize Forest Enterprise for integration and upgradation of SLM recommendations into their ecosystem-based functional forest management plans, either as addendums to the existing plans or directly into the plans when they are due for renewal in 2026, covering around 13,723 hectares (inclusive of the 430 ha Kire?hane micro-basin). The integration will primarily target the micro-basin, but it will eventually cover the entire area of the Rize Forest Enterprise of 13,723 hectares. As part of this effort that would be supported by training and guidelines, the intent is to build capacity of forest managers to promote assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and improve fire management of forests as well as support government to develop tree nurseries of native species to support the ANR process. The expectation is that through this effort, the government would on-the-long term (beyond the short 3-year period of the project) be able to enhance the condition of its forests through improved forest management and regeneration/restoration of the natural forests with its own resources. This restoration benefit is thus expected to be generated beyond the period of the project and not within the project period. The updated Forest Management Plan of the Rize Forest Enterprise will serve as a model that can be adopted in the long-term to other Forest Enterprises in the Rize Forest Management Directorate which covers around 80,000 hectares.

? Within the micro-basin provide technical support, training and investment in 2-3 farmer-owned tea plantations to demonstrate SLM conservation practices (e.g., terraces, stone walls, drainage systems, etc.) for small farmers to encourage uptake

? Support ?AYKUR in expanding SLM practices in their trial orchards within and adjacent to the micro-basin, providing training, extension and support demonstration services that can service to encourage farmers to undertake SLM conservation in tea plantations. Technical support, farmer training and extension support for scaling up of SLM practices in 5,000 hectares of tea plantations will be supported by DOKAP and DOKA on the longer-term

? ?EM support to land users and land owners with implementing selected traditional land management measures for small-scale village infrastructure as identified under Output 2.1

xv.

Output 2.3. *Training activities and peer to peer knowledge sharing activities promoted to enhance the capacities of forest managers, local farmers and farmer associations to promote SLM.*

Capacity development activities supported by the project will ensure (i) increased knowledge about the drivers for land degradation; the link between climate change, land-use methods, disasters and land degradation; benefits of moving from conventional methods of local people and actors such as forest managers, agriculturists and land owners to sustainable production methods; and (ii) increased capacity to improve the economic and welfare level of the region and local people through sustainable practices with a gender perspective. The aim is to ensure that institutions and people include the concept of SLM in their production actions/plans/programs. Training and capacity building will be guided by the following activities: (i) **Undertake of a rapid training needs assessment** to assess current capacity gaps of key institutions and stakeholders to implement SLM activities and determine which are the most critical training needs of stakeholders, including focusing on specific interests of vulnerable groups in the target region including youth, women and disadvantaged people. To support this assessment conduct

informative meetings for central administrative and strategic planners, administrative and strategic planners of local institutions, other government stakeholders, private sector, and NGOs and land owners in accordance with the gender assessment and mainstreaming action plan developed at the PPG in, particular for the Rize province to get an understanding of the gaps in knowledge on the link between land-use methods, climate change land degradation and disasters in the region, to ensure that these issues are owned and integrated into internal training programs; (ii) Based on the assessment identified in Activity (i) above, **identify key agencies and institutions** such as the Regional Forest Management Directorates, ?AYKUR, ?EM and others that can organize training activities for selected leading/pioneering farmers on a full package of sustainable production methods, with topics ranging from land management (drainage, terracing and other erosion control measures), seed/sapling selection, fertilization, to branding, marketing, and relevant government supports, credits, promotions, opportunities, etc. for land degradation-free forest and tea production; (iii) **Support key institutions** (listed in Activity 11 above and others) to build their capacity and be able to conduct training sessions for local decision-makers (local community leaders, mayors, politicians, opinion-makers) on SLM, climate change, ecosystem services, traditional land use practices and the integration of these concepts into land-use decisions via integrated, participatory and gender inclusive management; (iv) **Organize meetings, field days, and visits to demonstration sites for tea farmers** for hands-on learning about best-practice examples such as plantations with ancient terracing, drainage and stonewalls, as well as modern demonstrations such as ?AYKUR Trial Plantations and good practices of tea farming by the TEMA Foundation; (v) **Organize a study visit to a tea producing country/region with similar climate, ecology, and hilly topography** to gain and share knowledge and experience about sustainable tea farming techniques in very humid and steep lands prone to landslides and floods and (vi) Undertake general awareness-raising activities about SLM practices to avoid/reduce/reverse land degradation ? together with local NGOs, as well as DOKAP and DOKA ? in vulnerable hotspots in the Rize Province. This will also include working with local media channels to provide more effective farmer extension and awareness raising services, including specific targeting of women and disadvantaged groups.

Output 2.4. *Resilience-building and income-generating models for sustainable value chains for the main products are identified and implemented*

The main products in the EBSC Region include tea and hazelnut. However, despite the importance of the EBSC Region as the main tea and hazelnut producer and numerous studies on the development of this production, there is still considerable room for improvement, specifically from the perspective of climate change and ongoing land degradation associated with changes in land use. There is a need to bring this new perspective in the analysis of market and value chains of key products, in collaboration with actors such as ?AYKUR, F?SKOB?RL?K and private sector companies such as Lipton, Do?u?, Karali, Salarha to devise resilient income generation models for implementation also considering gender perspectives in line with the gender action plan. The project will identify one or more value chains in the Rize Province based on their potential to develop new products and services or scale up existing products and services for the benefit of a larger group of people. In this regard the GEF project will support the design and implementation of interventions to pilot and scale-up products and services having commercial potential, promote credit, marketing and cooperative agreements. This will be done in partnership with specialized agencies such as ?AYKUR, F?SKOB?RL?K and private sector companies. Wherever needed, the project will strengthen existing community- based organizations and village level entrepreneurs to address gaps in the value chain. New and improved value chain products and services are implemented by local communities to increase incomes and reduce unsustainable resource uses. A strong focus will be given to women and youth as drivers of change and community participation in development, with the aim of strengthening their morale and leadership role. Sustainable financing mechanisms to incentivize value-added livelihoods will be established. These may include blended financing solutions or the development of local funds supported via public-private partnerships (e.g. by working with tea and agricultural businesses, food retailers or processors to implement these activities or forestry entities (for forest based opportunities) operating within the Rize Province. Training, capacity development and market/value chain assessments will support value-chain business development. The project will also provide technical training to rural communities? groups, and relevant partners so they

have the relevant skills and knowledge and the appropriate procedures and processes in place to implement these activities.

Promotion of these resilient models will be guided by the following activities: (i) **Review of on-going livelihood-based activities in the Rize Province** to assess constraints, barriers and opportunities to promotion of enhanced value-chain opportunities. This would also entail the analysis of the market and value chain for existing or new key local products (i.e., tea and other potential products) for Rize Province, examine production and consumption patterns between rural and urban areas for each agricultural product, and identify opportunities for making the value chain more sustainable and efficient so as to avoid and/or reduce land degradation. The project will tap into specific opportunities for green recovery to boost the local economy to increase resilience in supply chains. This analysis will cover the baseline inventory export patterns, main actors of production/cultivation with a gender perspective, production/cultivation phases, main problems in production/cultivation, marketing problems, negative effects to land degradation, recommendations for increasing the productivity of the products and income level of the villagers, mitigating the land degradation. This study will also include the opportunities and recommendations for Nature- based Solutions (NbS) and green recovery activities which seek alignment with the national green recovery plans and increased resilience in supply chains in terms of Covid-19 pandemic. This analysis will be conducted for the entire EBSC Region. After this study, best pilot models for tea and other products to diminish the land degradation (such as terracing, stone walls, using manure instead of chemicals etc.) and to increase the income level and providing better and inclusive working conditions through new skills development, occupational health and safety measures, etc. of the villagers will be clarified and put into implementation under Output 2.2.; (ii) Based on the above review and through consultations with local stakeholders, **identify viable agri-food value chains that avoid and/or reduce land degradation**, are also climate-resilient and gender-sensitive and contribute to green recovery; and support land users/owners in implementing these. Selection of value-chains would be flexible to allow additional value chains/livelihood activities to be added during project implementation, as new opportunities can arise and market dynamics change rapidly. Three sets of criteria would be considered when undertaking a preliminary value chain selection, namely: (a) value chain growth potential (current/potential unmet market demand, competitive advantages etc.); (b) livelihood development potential (e.g. percentage of the village that can be engaged in the value chain, and additional income that can be generated from value chain) and (c) availability of technical and extension services, and regional buyers and consumers for selected value-chain products; (iii) Based on the list of preselected value chains, **undertake mapping and analysis of value chains** during early project implementation, including in-depth market and feasibility analysis. The value chain analysis will be market led, meaning it would start by mapping (i) the market potential of the product/service, (ii) the customer requirements and (iii) the challenges faced by marketers/customers. Based on the market data the existing value chain (stakeholders, role of the stakeholders, infrastructure availability, practices and processes, value extracted at each step, etc.) gaps in the value chain will be assessed. The objective of this is to identify value chains where rural producers and service providers have a competitive advantage and can establish sustainable livelihoods. Based on the gaps identified above, interventions will be designed and implemented in the project. Project interventions will be designed to complement and enhance ongoing interventions by other stakeholders such as the government, other donor agencies, private sector, etc. (iv) After determining the best pilot models for tea plantations/cultivations and other agri-products **establish or reestablish the tea plantations/other agri-product gardens as pilot bases** with the support and technical knowledge by the DOKAP, ?AYKUR, F?SKOB?RL?K and local Agriculture Directorates of the MOAF (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry). Awareness raising and training activities to the farmers will also be given by the said organizations; and (v) **Implementation of Project interventions** in the following areas, namely:

? Capacity building of stakeholders, including women, youth and vulnerable people in the value chain: Training and skill development will be provided to producers and service providers to (a) help them understand customer requirements, (b) increase productivity, (c) learn necessary business skills and (d) other specific needs as per the value chain, including developing new products and services. Systems and processes will be developed to capture adequate data and monitor the functioning of the value chain;
? Infrastructure: In case of lack of small-scale production infrastructure the project will work with relevant stakeholders and collaborate with national, provincial and private sector institutions to identify

financial opportunities to provide producers and service providers with both technical and infrastructure (small processing, storage and marketing facilities). When needed technical institutes will be approached to develop appropriate technology to address the gaps identified.

? Marketing: To allow producers and service providers to gain maximum value for their goods and services a marketing strategy will be developed and implemented. This would entail building communication material, communication strategy, identifying distribution channels, partnering with relevant stakeholders, etc.

? Promote Public-Private Partnerships to support these value-chain businesses will be pursued. The responsible agencies such as DOKAP, ?AYKUR, F?SKOB?RL?K and local Agriculture Directorates of the MOAF (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) should engage with the private sector, and the roles of those in the market chains will be described;

? Identify sustainability financing mechanisms as incentives for promoting the value-chain enterprises.

(vi) In addition to the 2-3 value chains that would be identified for the Rize Province, the project will also **explore the potential for alternative income generating activities** (other than tea and hazelnut) , in particular to further strengthen existing livelihood activities to as to supplement and increase local incomes. Options that might be considered would be non-timber forest products, medicinal and aromatic plants such as blueberry, raspberry, linden tea etc. through existing different support schemes. Preliminary rapid survey on non-wood forest products and medicinal and aromatic plants which are economically important for the villagers will be conducted in the Region. According to the findings of the survey, most important 3-4 products will be given priority to be implemented in the region. Support will be given to the villagers by DOKAP, MOAF. Under this activity, by giving local people other income-generating sources they may stop out-migration, and stay in the area to manage lands sustainably and also, with other income sources they may not convert more lands to tea plantations or may not have to farm the plantations in intensive ways that lead to further degradation. Other income generating activities such as beekeeping, organic farming, trout farming etc. will also be assessed during the survey and if they are viable and important for the region, these activities will also be promoted as sustainable value chains. These activities will be supported by DOKAP and MOAF since these organizations have already been promoting these activities and giving support to the villagers. There are successful implementations of these kind of activities in the region and Turkiye.

Component 3 ? Knowledge management and replication

(Total Cost:USD 928,000; GEF project grant requested: USD 108,000; Co-financing: USD 820,000)

This component will address the third barrier of absence of a mechanism for distillation and sharing of knowledge on SLM in areas with humid climate and steep topography. It will foster sharing of knowledge and information regarding land degradation and its causes, and promote sustainable land management practices as a solution to the problem of land productivity loss. Activities will result in a set of visual and written knowledge materials ? collation of best practices and lessons learned by not only local land users, but also by DS?, OGM, TRGM and AFAD ? and jointly defined and implemented monitoring activities and tools for key authorities and land users. The visual and informative materials will be produced in order to reach a wide audience not only in the EBSC Region, but also other very humid regions of Turkiye. This, in turn, will support replication and scaling in humid areas. The experiences will be shared with WOCAT for further dissemination.

Outcome 3: Enhanced gender-sensitive impact monitoring, learning, and knowledge-sharing on SLM practices for agriculture, forest lands and community infrastructure in steep and humid areas

Output 3.1. *Sharing of best practices and lessons learned on SLM techniques through documentation and dissemination*

Based on experiences in the pilot sub-basin, the project will promote a two-pronged approach to enhance knowledge and awareness on management of land degradation that will promote learning and replication. The first approach is aimed at knowledge management with a focus on learning. It will produce written, oral and audiovisual materials accessible to a broad audience through print, online, and other media outlets. The system will serve as a repository and mechanism for sharing and verification of land degradation data and knowledge products, best practices and experiences. Knowledge management, communication, and replication efforts will be guided by the following activities: Activity (i) **Review, analyze, synthesize, and capture project lessons and experiences** gained from pilot sites into different knowledge products ranging from more detailed technical reports to communication and outreach materials (e.g., technical reports, best practice notes, articles for peer-reviewed journals, articles for media, videos/ stories/ posters/ podcasts of project successes); (ii) **Design and maintain an online web page** containing all the audiovisual and written knowledge products produced under the project ranging from activity and progress reports, meeting reports, annual reports, technical briefs, training materials, videos/ stories/ posters/ podcasts of project successes, best practice notes, articles for peer-reviewed journals, articles in media, 3D maps. The website will also include links to other relevant materials produced by key authorities and land users, such as promotional videos, landslide and flood simulations with preventive measures at DSI Flood Museum in Trabzon Province, ?AYKUR?s Trial Tea Plantations in Rize Province, etc.; (iii) Organize **a series of know-how sharing meetings** in regions with similar climatic conditions and challenges to lay the groundwork for replication of project successes. The activities will include a set of informative meetings and workshops at similar regions struggling with landslides, floods and avalanches such as Erzurum, A?r?, etc. for upscaling purposes. The knowledge materials produced by the project will be shared with counterparts in these regions, and the meetings will also serve as an opportunity to collect their experiences, best practices and knowledge materials (for further dissemination via the project?s website). The second approach is to enhance awareness and understanding of the causes and impacts of land degradation and measures that can help reduce such threats. A pool of experiences and expertise will, therefore, be formed and made available for sharing with interested parties; and include the following actions: (i) **Design and carry out a communications and outreach plan** to increase awareness as well as disseminate successful SLM approaches and practices that can combat against land degradation causing natural disasters in the long term. The Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region SLM Commission/Committee will play an important role in this regard (ref. Activity 1.1). The dissemination plan may include actively seeking opportunities to share appropriate knowledge products through media outlets (newspapers, magazines, radio, television, internet), as well as school visits to DS? Flood Museum (potentially expanding to cover landslides and avalanches); (ii) **Implementation of the communications and outreach plan** so as to reach a large number of people within the Rize province and other provinces within the EBSC region that will include workshops, meetings, awareness raising events, etc. so as to build a constituency that can be active in promoting SLM approaches and build political support for scaling up and replication; (iii) **Undertake end-of-project seminar** to share project lessons with policy makers, practitioners and provincial entities to promote replication and scaling up in the Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region; (iv) develop a **replication strategy** to support expansion of the LDN compatible INRM approach to other micro-basins in the country.

Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

(Total Cost: USD 903,000; GEF project grant requested: USD 63,000; Co-financing: USD 840,000)

Outcome 4: Monitoring to support adaptive project management

The project will design and operate a monitoring and evaluation system to track environmental and socio-economic benefits generated by the project. The M&E system will follow UNDP and GEF M&E policies. It will also be aligned with the LDN monitoring system being developed by ?EM as part of the FAO-GEF LDN Project at Yukar? Sakarya Basin. The system can be used to inform decision-making by government resource managers and private resource users.

Output 4.1. Monitoring and evaluating project impacts and environmental, social and gender safeguards

Establishment of the M&E system will be guided by the following activities: (i) **Conduct of an inception workshop** in line with UNDP-GEF guidance within three months of the approval of the project. The intent of the inception workshop would be to disseminate key aspects of the project, start project implementation, explore specific situation, key challenges, develop action plan for implementation, identify roles and responsibilities of key partners and define project monitoring and evaluation mechanism. It will also identify and reach agreement on measures for ensuring transparency, social inclusion and gender equity, grievance redressal mechanism and means of stakeholder participation in project-related activities; (ii) **Track changes in the global indicators** ? land cover (assessed as LCC), land productivity (assessed as NPP), and carbon stocks (assessed as SOC) ? relative to baseline values and relevant complementary indicators[6]6. The project?s system will be aligned with the LDN monitoring system being developed as part of the FAO-GEF LDN Project; (iii) **Collect data to track indicator**s (as per project results framework, and GEF-7 core indicators) against baseline and target values on an annual basis; prepare annual reports on project progress and impacts; (iv) **Implement a gender mainstreaming action plan** that ensures gender equity and inclusion and means to engage vulnerable communities and youth; (v) **Monitor social and environmental risks** and implement associated safeguards management plans (for example, a livelihoods action plan if the project could displace economic livelihoods); and put in place a grievance redress mechanism and (vi) **Carry out an independent terminal evaluation** (per standard UNDP-GEF guidance) including field visits to demonstration areas and consultations with local stakeholders and national project partners, review of project reports, web-based information, with recommendations for ensuring sustainability and replication of project outcomes.

(4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies

The Project is also aligned with the GEF 7 Landscape Degradation Focal Areas **LD-1-1**: *Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management.* The project is designed to particularly contribute to the above-referenced goals of the land degradation focal area. It will bring local, provincial and regional stakeholders to jointly plan and promote SLM measures that reduce competing land uses (agriculture and forestry) and increase the resilience in the landscapes and their users. Specifically, approaches for forest and landscape management which include land and agricultural productivity maintenance, and conservation agriculture will be promoted. The project will also contribute to support integrated natural resources management planning, capacity building and assessments that reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and that increases resilience in the wider landscape and planned activities will be achieved by establishing a coordinated approach for programming and financing integrated sustainable land management in the targeted landscape and beyond. Precisely the proposed activities under this focal area include the planning, demonstration and increased awareness of small-scale physical infrastructures aimed at reducing pressure in micro-catchments; (ii) demonstration of physical and vegetative means to reduce or contain the loss of land, forest or agricultural productivity and (ii) identification and promotion of off-farm income-generating activities that can relieve pressure on the land that are intended to be aligned with the prevent/reduce/restore degraded land philosophy. Although, the project will likely not support on-the-ground investments in terms of SLM, it would instead support demonstration, training and increased awareness on best practices for SLM within the Rize Province.

Land Degradation Focal Areas **LD 1-4:** *Improve the enabling policy and institutional framework for LDN*. Beyond the targeted Kirechane micro-basin (430 hectares), the project will provide technical and planning support, training, capacity development and knowledge enhancement to enable integrated LDN compatible spatial and land use plans, and biodiversity and SLM sensitive forest and agriculture management plans, as well as support to updating the land use planning, support to local capacity building etc., that is in consonance with the principles of integrated natural resources management Through these extended efforts, the projects aims to use GIS supported analysis of land degradation that can enhance LDN compliant integrated land use planning and in particular to: (i) support development of LDN compatible and climate-sensitive forest management plans in drought prone areas in around 13,723

hectares of forests within the Rize FMU; (ii) build capacity and support of the regional forest directorate of Rize to update and or develop their current forest management plans in order to include climate risk mitigation, SLM and wildfire mitigation measures in approximately 80,000 hectares of forest land and (iii) work with tea entrepreneurs through capacity building, training, awareness creation and demonstration to help them update or develop innovative and sustainable farming plans for around 5,000 hectares of tea orchard lands in line with their mandates to promote investment plans and programs to further support SLM initiatives throughout the region. In particular, specialized training to local communities/entrepreneurs on Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) for tea may include training on mainstreaming of GAP standards in plantation management, sustainable land management (soil conservation, water management, fertilizer management, riparian conservation, etc.) and climate resilience (water storage, increased shade and good drainage) to help them develop proposals to make them aware of existing funding, to support them and teach them how to apply for existing government funding programs or concessional loans to implement these SLM measures.

(5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing.

The incremental value of this GEF project is explained in the Table 2 below.

Table 2: GEF incremental contribution as per component of the project

Baseline Situation	Incremental Value	Key Outcomes and GEBs related to project

i. Component 1. Integrated natural resource management planning in landscapes with very humid climate

-Achieving sustainable land, water, forest, and soil management and the conservation of biodiversity constrained by the multitude of institutions that operate in the EBSC region - Overlapping functions of various public agencies limits opportunities for joint programming and enforcement. -Policies in relation to forest management, water management or soil management for agricultural purposes and other sector activities are not developed in coordination and they do not have effective mechanisms to collaborate on implementation of their sector-related activities on the ground. -Limited know-how and capacity both at the institutional (central and local government) and grassroots level (local communities, NGOs, cooperatives, farmer unions) to mainstream and implement LDN compatible INRM in humid climates with steep topography	-Improved application of policies, legislation, guidelines and standards to ensure complementarity and support for integrated approaches to management of land -Improved knowledge and expertise on documentation of land degradation -integrated approaches to land management that takes into consideration individual stakeholder and sector interests -Improved policies and legislative measures to support land management actions	The likely outcomes/GEBs from the NCA work are the following: -Functional inter-agency coordination mechanism in place for the Rize province to enable decisions cross-sectoral planning for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and SLM practices in agriculture, forestry and local development -Improved understanding of social and economic consequences of land and ecosystem degradation and tools for methodology to conduct such analysis -An agreed LDN compatible INRM plan for the Kirechane micro-basin that directly focuses on sustainable forest management and integration of biodiversity conservation and SLM outcomes in forest management planning; sustainably

		managed practices on agricultural lands (including tea plantations), forests and watercourses that reduce risks and damage from floods, landslides and droughts; sustainable land management practices and properly managed permanent vegetation cover that promote nitrogen fixation processes strongly contribute to combating soil erosion and maintaining soil health and fertility; environmentally -friendly infrastructure developments that stabilize soils, watercourses and vulnerable lands and (v) traditional land-use practices for croplands, etc. - Agreement on policy and legislative changes necessary for implementation of INRM plans
Component 2: Land-based SLM practices in landscapes with very humid climates		

-The lack of technical, analytical and managerial capacity for SLM among decision-makers is one of the critical constraints to addressing these land degradation trends -Long-lasting responses to land degradation beyond the capacity of small farmers and local authorities to address. -Lack of basic tool, best practices and extension services to apply SLM at the local level	- Improved visibility, technical support and promotion of traditional best practices among land-users -Improved tools, learning and capacity for integration of SLM practices for forests and agricultural lands in micro-basins -Upgradation of SLM recommendations into ecosystem-based functional forest management plans -Training, extension, demonstration and support available for encouraging farmers to undertake SLM activities -Improved availability of support for promotion of sustainable value chains	-Farmers have better access to traditional sustainable farming practices that conserve soil productivity -430 hectares of Kirechane micro-basin under sustainable land management practices in production systems -13,723 ha forest lands within the Rize Forest Management Unit under improved management with LDN and climate sensitive forest management to benefit biodiversity -80,000 ha of forest land under indirect forest impact (area under jurisdiction of Rize Forest Management Directorate of 7 districts) -5,000 ha of tea orchards under indirect agricultural impact thro\ugh training, demonstration, extension and knowledge management -at least 1,000 direct

		beneficiaries of co-benefits (50% women)
Component 3 ? M&E, knowledge management, and replication		
-Limited awareness and understanding of LD, SLM and CSA -No communication strategy to raise awareness of benefits of benefits of LDN, CSA and SLM -Data collection and monitoring do not adequately cover do not cover specifically the loss of soil, carbon and land productivity	-Improved awareness and knowledge about LD, SLM and CSA among land owners -Gender-sensitive actions implemented to enhance SLM activities -Improved knowledge management products available	- At least 75% of sampled project stakeholders aware of benefits of SLM actions (50:50 men and women) - At least 3 best practices for per sector documented, disseminated, and being implemented by both genders and multiple social groups. - At least 10 communication products shared with stakeholders (newspapers, magazines, radio, television, internet), as well as school visits to DS? Flood Museum

(6) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovation: The proposed project will include innovative measures engaging local natural resource users, local administrations and private sector, expected to bring about change and support the shift towards a more sustainable use of natural resources. *Integrated land management decisions based on collaborative spatial vulnerability analyses:* The project will coordinate and gather all attempts of institutions such as landslide risk maps, works on flood sensitive areas, ecosystem-based forest management plans to determine climate-associated risks specific to Eastern Black sea Region a spatial perspective and produce a GIS-based geo-spatial database to serve as a decision support tool for the EBSC Region to address the impact of climate change on the landscape/ecosystems by using state-of-the-art imaging and participatory mapping techniques. As a result, areas in the EBSC Region that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, in addition to vulnerabilities to other existing conditions, will be identified for the next 30 years under various climate change scenarios based on the IPCC risk analysis procedures. This spatial database will serve as a decision support system tool and be the basis for the program of measures under Output 1.3 (Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan). The outcome

of the risk analysis study will be presented to the major private sector actors and their associations with a perspective that it can be incorporated into their business plans.

Integrated LDN compliant integrated land use management and innovative SLM techniques: The project is turning the LDN concept into practice in Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region of Turkey and will generate innovative approaches to multi-sector land use planning based on remote sensing data in mapping and geospatial analysis (Output 1.2), testing and implementation of LDN compatible land use planning in Eastern Black sea provinces. Innovative SLM techniques will be demonstrated and promoted among local communities through competitions and development authorities by adopting and modernizing traditional and effective land management tools in contemporary land management (Output 2.1).

Sustainability: The institutional and political sustainability will be ensured through an inter-agency panel on SLM (Output 1.1) for the Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region which will be established to coordinate the efforts on SLM among relevant stakeholder organizations and an LDN compatible INRM Plan to be prepared for the pilot sub-basin (Output 1.3) both of which will be established through strictly participatory approaches employed by the proposed project and aimed at multiple development dividends, empowered rural communities, conscientious and effective managers of natural resources, with increased capacities to manage their land, access financing and enhance their livelihoods. However, the main sustainability of this project lies at the existence of an enthusiastic development administration (DOKAP) and development agency looking forward to revise and mainstream their investment strategies towards managing climate and land associated risks. The project results will be owned and continued by these agencies after the duration of the project.

Socio-economic sustainability will be enhanced by improving livelihoods of local communities, through the adopted improved management of their land resources and securing ecosystem services. As project will be informing and technically supporting the private sector on climate risks, adaptation measures through land management practices and the means of consideration of this issues in their business plans this will be another line of contribution of the project to the socioeconomic sustainability.

Environmental sustainability will be enhanced by LDN compatible land use planning in the pilot area (Output 1.3), guiding the implementation of concrete SLM measures resulting in improved land and biodiversity condition. The financial sustainability will be ensured through the innovative programs that will encourage SLM by the local development institutions and local administrations (Output 2.1). The local development agencies and administrations as well as provincial administrations within EBSC are anticipated to develop their own innovative SLM programs in line with their mandates (such as SLM and tourism, SLM for apiculture, etc.) under their investment plans and programs to further support SLM initiatives throughout the region.

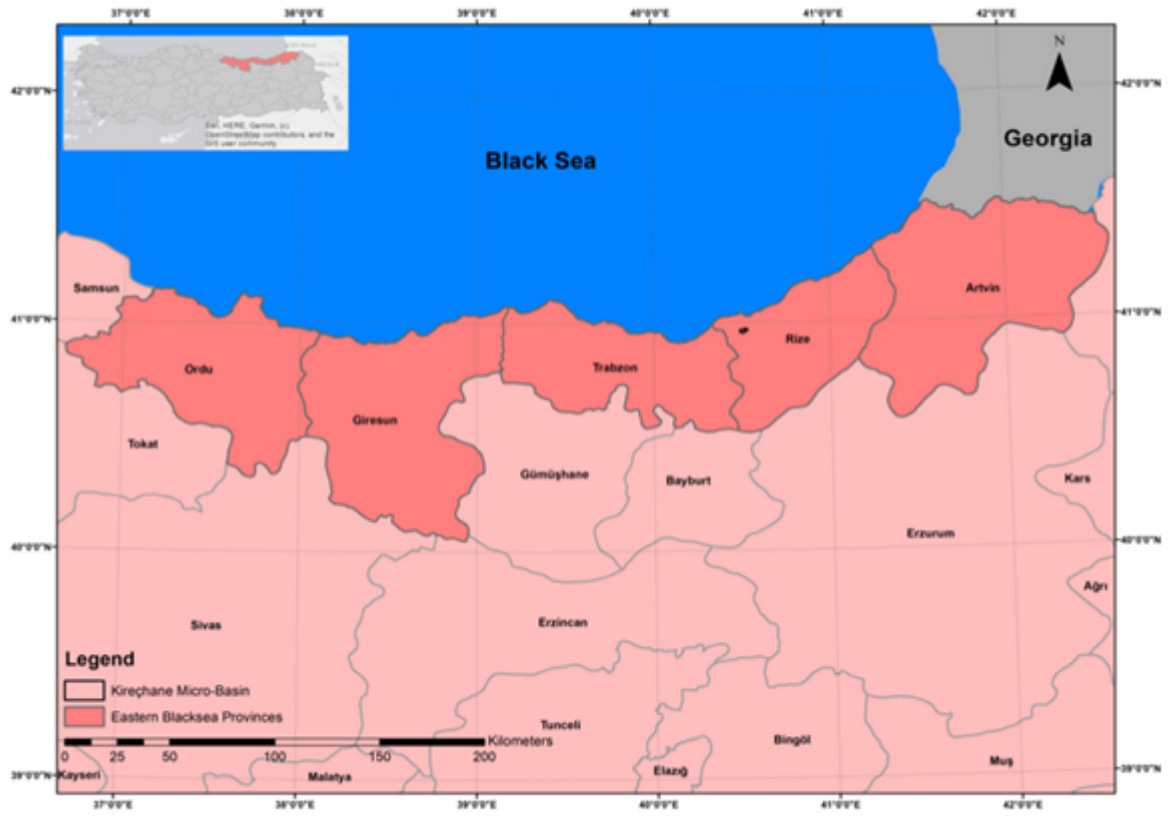
Scaling up: The project is scalable in its design, and will employ mainstreaming, replication and linking of results with on-going national initiatives in order to achieve greater impact. Its objective is to demonstrate the effectiveness SLM at very humid climates through integrated natural resource management, together with its scalable tools countrywide. The decision making tools and structures for LDN compliant land use management, as well as SLM generated experience will be institutionalized, disseminated and therefore could be replicated in other regions. The project will closely coordinate with other ongoing interventions in particular with GEF/FAO ?Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level? which is mainly operating at country level and looking for regional scale applicability of project results, and the World Bank Turkey Resilient Landscape Integration Project (TULIP), in view of scaling up demonstrated LDN implementation at sub-national levels. Furthermore, the innovative SLM techniques and traditional land use practices for croplands and pastures that cause zero harm to soil (Output 2.1.) gathered and demonstrated by the project at very humid climates can be disseminated and scaled up easily through the network of development administrations and agencies.

[1] Somuncu, M., ?nci, A. (2004). Balancing protection and utilization in overcoming inaccessibility: a rural development
model in mountainous area of Turkiye, Mountain Research and Development, 24 (4): 307-311.
[2] Japan International Cooperation Agency and State Planning Organization the Republic of Turkiye. (2000). The study on the
regional development plan for the Eastern Black Sea Region in the Republic of Turkiye (DOKAP) Final Report, T?rkiye
[3] ?zg??, N. (1998) Turizm Co?rafyas?, ?zellikler, B?lgeler, ?antay Kitapevi, ?stanbul.
[4] G??l?, Y. (2010). Do?u karadeniz b?l?m? k?y? ku?a??nda iklim konforu ?artlar?n?n k?y? turizmi y?n?nden incelenmesi. Co?rafi Bilimler Dergisi, 8(2), 111-136
[5] Enhancing Adaptation Action in T?rkiye (TR2017 ESOP MI A3 04), (2021). Climate-Adaptation Platforms In The European Union And The Member States And Recommendations For T?rkiye https://iklimeuyum.org/documents/Climate_Adaptation_Platforms.pdf
[6] Analyzing Land Use/Land Cover Changes Using Remote Sensing and GIS in Rize, North-East T?rkiye by Sel?uk Reis, *Sensors* 2008, *8*(10), 6188-6202; https://doi.org/10.3390/s8106188
[7] Effect of modifying land cover and long-term agricultural practices on the soil characteristics in native forest-land, Ceyhun Gol and Orhan Dengiz, Journal of Environmental Biology, September 2008, 29(5) 677-682

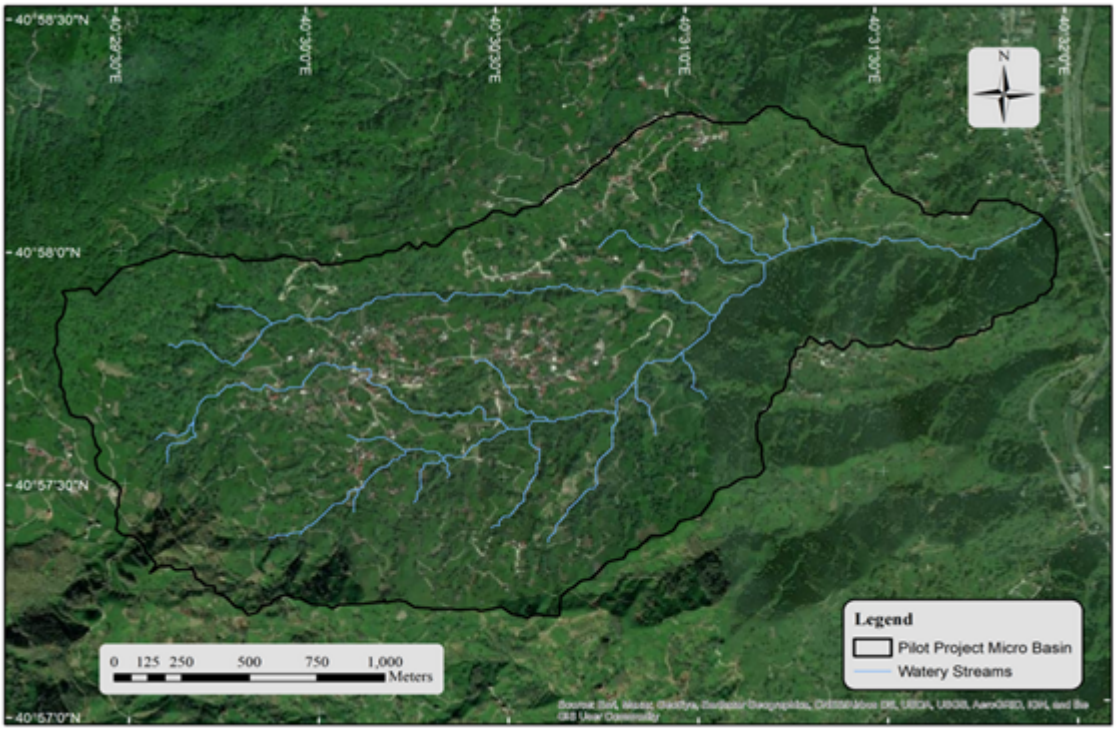
[1] Using guidance provided by the GEF-STAP in Appendix 2 of https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf
[2] Sustainable Land Management Legislation and Gap Analysis Report (March 2018) -?ngilizce-Teslim-Edilen-Rapor.pdf (gonder.org.tr)
[3] Using guidance provided by the GEF-STAP in Appendix 3 of https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf
[4] Using guidance provided by the GEF-STAP in Appendix 1 of https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf
[5] As an example, stone walls that were established about 200 years ago by the former migrated residents of the area will be identified and studied under Output 2.1., and resized/upscaled using new local material and technology for the Kirechane micro-Basin under Output 2.2.
[6] Using guidance provided by the GEF-STAP in Module E of https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



Map 1: Map above shows the EBSC Region (5 provinces) and location of Kirechane Micro-basin in Rize Province



Map 2: Drainage Map of Kirechane micro-basin in Rize Province

Within the Kirechane micro-basin, based on soil organic carbon (SOC), degradation of land cover and degradation of land productivity, the change in land degradation status (between 2001 and 2015) was assessed and shows that there was 122.3 hectares of degradation in soil organic carbon, 11,38 hectares of degradation in land cover, and 19,8 hectares of degradation in land productivity. The integration of the three SDG 15.3.1 indicators is done following the one-out all-out rule; this means that if an area was identified as potentially degraded by any of the sub-indicators, then that area that considered potentially degraded was around 171.3 hectares. This information is reflected in Table 3 below:

Type of Degradation	Gain	Stable	Loss
Land Productivity Degradation	+47.2	362.9	-19.8
Land Cover Degradation		311.5	-118.3
Soil Organic Carbon Degradation		307.6	-122.3
Total (Gain or Loss)	+10.4	248.1	-171.3
Total (Gain/Loss) hectares			-160.9

Table 3: Land Degradation in Kirechane micro-basin (2001-2015)

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Initial stakeholder analysis during the PIF stage was followed up with a wide range of consultations during the PPG stage in terms of the design of the project. During the PPG stage, the stakeholder analysis was updated and further elaborated following consultations undertaken by national consultant. The main stakeholders of the project are the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their relevant general directorates such as ?EM, DS?, OGM, TRGM, SYGM, and MGM; Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), ?AYKUR (Tea Enterprises General Directorate), Eastern Black Sea Regional Development Administration (DOKAP), Eastern Black Sea Development Agency (DOKA), Local Administrations, NGOs, Universities in addition to local residents of Eastern Black Sea Region dealing with land degradation on a daily basis. In this regard, the first round of stakeholder consultations for this project began in the summer of 2019 following major landslides and avalanches triggered by heavy rainfall in the EBSC Region. The Ministry?s core interests in combatting land degradation in the Eastern Black Sea Region were communicated by ?EM to leading governmental authorities on forest, water, protected area, and disaster management such as OGM, DS?, SYGM, TRGM, MPGM, MGM, and AFAD. Upon agreement and getting consent on a draft project concept, a mission composed of Deputy Minister and GEF OFP Mr. Akif ?zkald?, Desertification, and Erosion Control (?EM) General Director, General Director of National Parks and Nature Conservation, and UNDP T?rkiye senior experts visited the EBSC Region to consult Regional and Provincial Directorates of these authorities and to conduct site visits during 19-20 July 2019. This mission revealed potential collaboration areas, components of the project, and demonstration sites in Rize and Trabzon Provinces in agreement with key stakeholders, including ?AYKUR, who has readily agreed to fully support the project. Additional consultations were held with AFAD Rize Provincial Directorate, DOKAP, TRGM, ?AYKUR, TAGEM, OGM and national NGOs such as TEMA Foundation and DKM (Nature Conservation Center in English) in May and June 2020; the discussions were virtual due to travel limitations associated with the pandemic. This was followed by a visit to the region (19-25 July 2020) for more structured stakeholder consultation and to select a demonstration area. The team consisting of ?EM officers and a national consultant visited with and discussed the project concept with key regional and local stakeholders including OGM, AFAD, TRGM, DS?, DOKAP, DOKA, local administrations (local governors and village headmen) and local NGOs. This stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared based on these discussions, as well as the guidance and proposals of key stakeholders.

These visits mainly aimed at (i) presenting the project idea to the different stakeholders, (ii) seeking their consent and contributions, (iii) identifying potential demonstration areas. Each visit started with information gathered from the experts on the organizational structure, their mandate, partners in implementation and their capacity. Thereon, information was given on project concept by the national consultant, potential stakeholders and project partners, including the estimated budget and main budget allocation. Following this, main advisory comments and suggestions of the stakeholders were gathered, and issue-specific questions were directed on different topics, including key agricultural products in the region, sensitives of the different stakeholders, vulnerable groups in the region, lessons learned from the previous projects implemented on the ground, and lastly key stakeholders to get into contact with for this particular project, among others. On top of these stakeholder meetings, for the acquisition of the endorsement letter from the Ministry, the draft PIF was circulated among all the key governmental institutions including ?AYKUR during November-December 2021. As a result of this inquiry, confirmation of ?no objection? was gathered.

The project engagement approach was based on the following guiding principles:

? Promoting inclusive and diverse stakeholder engagement with a tailored approach for constructive, responsive, accountable, and transparent stakeholder engagement.

? Engaging stakeholders early on (in the designing stage) and throughout project implementation for ensuring fair, balanced, and inclusive participation in project governance and operation.

? Ensuring clear and transparent communication with relevant stakeholders.

? Ensuring the project?s commitment to effective and meaningful stakeholder engagement by allocating sufficient budgetary expenditure

? Respecting socio-cultural values and ethics of diverse stakeholders as one of the core principles of the engagement approach for ensuring effective participation and better results.

? Developing skills and capacities of the stakeholders through project activities for sustaining the project initiatives and results.

? Adapting collaborative approaches for safeguarding the interests and concerns of all the stakeholders.

The project will involve different stakeholders in the project decision-making through the following mechanisms:

Project inception workshop

Project stakeholders would participate in the multi-stakeholder inception workshop within three months of the start of the project. The purpose of this workshop would be to create awareness amongst stakeholder of the objectives of the project and to define their individual roles and responsibilities in project planning, implementation and monitoring. The stakeholders would be acquainted with the most updated information (objectives, components, activities, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, financial information, timing of activities and expected outcomes) and the project work plan. The workshop will be the first step in the process to build partnership with the range of project stakeholders and ensure that they have ownership of the project. It will also establish a basis for further consultation as the project?s implementation commences. The inception workshop will address a number of key issues including: assisting all partners to fully understand and take ownership of the project; detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of the government agencies like the CEM, Regional and Provincial Administration and Sector agencies, forest management authority, UNDP, NGOs, CAYKUR, community organizations and local communities, including youth, women and children. It will also discuss the role of key NGO partners who will support the implementation of activities. It will also discuss means of communication and reporting, monitoring and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Stakeholder Participation and Communication Strategy

Communication expertise will be engaged to facilitate awareness, review and informing of policy, stakeholder participation and documentation of best practices related to the project. The project will implement and maintain a communications and knowledge management strategy to ensure that all stakeholders are informed on an ongoing basis about: the project?s objectives; the projects activities; overall project progress; and the opportunities for involvement in various aspects of the project?s implementation. This strategy will ensure the use of communication techniques and approaches that appropriate to the local contexts such as appropriate languages and other skills that enhance communication effectiveness. The project will develop and maintain a web-based platform for sharing and disseminating information on biodiversity conservation, landscape and agriculture management, livelihood and marketing, especially looking at value addition chains and marketing.

Quarterly Meetings with key stakeholders

On quarterly basis, the PMU will organize meetings with the main stakeholders including regional administration, NGO partners and regional sector entities and groups of local communities (CBOs, interest groups, community Organizations, and other local stakeholders) with the aim of discussing achievements, challenges faced, corrective steps taken and future corrective actions needed for the implementation of planned activities. It would be ensured that the groups of local communities have the participation of women and vulnerable persons among the local communities. Result based management and reporting would consider inputs taken from stakeholders during such meetings.

Sharing Progress reports and work-plans

Copies of the annual and quarterly progress reports and work plans would be circulated to main stakeholders to inform them about project implementation and planning and outcomes.

Participatory approach for involving local communities

A participatory approach will be adopted to facilitate the involvement and participation of local communities through their CBOs and local committees and implementation of the project activities.

Agreements with Private Organizations

Contractual agreements will be made with any private entity that is ready to support and contribute to the project initiatives, in particular relating the value chain aspects of the project.

Stakeholder consultation and participation in project implementation

An extensive stakeholder consultation and participation process will be developed and implemented for the project.

Under Component 3, the project will develop, implement and maintain a communications and knowledge management strategy to ensure that all stakeholders are informed on an ongoing basis about: the project objectives; the project activities; overall project progress; and the opportunities for involvement in various aspects of the project?s implementation. This strategy will ensure the use of communication techniques and approaches that appropriate to the local contexts such as appropriate languages and other skills that enhance communication effectiveness. The project will develop and maintain a web-based platform for sharing and disseminating information on agricultural farmers, district, provincial and local stakeholders. In project area, the Regional and Provincial Administration and target local communities will provide a platform for sharing and reporting ongoing project activities including the so-important coordination of interventions.

The project communication strategy will ensure that all stakeholders, including communities have direct access to the information about the project activities and results. The local coordinators will be selected based on their understanding of the local language and community dynamics. The information will be shared via newspapers; posters, radio and television developed in non-technical manner and shared at existing information centers.

Roles and responsibilities of main stakeholders during project implementation are summarized in Table 4 below and in Annex 8 of UNDP Project Document.

Table 4: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
GD Combating Desertification and Erosion (?EM) under the Ministry of Environment Urbanization and Climate Change (MoEUCC): ?EM is the main coordinating government body for combating land degradation in T?rkiye, specifically dealing with erosion, avalanche, landslide and flood control and integrated basin improvement.	National mandate- This project is considered by the Ministry as an opportunity to meet the national LDN targets in compliance with the commitment with the UNCCD	+	5	5	?EM will support the design, implementation, financing, and mainstreaming of the strategy, policy improvements and related activities for this project and will be a member of the Project Board. ?EM will also be responsible for establishing the links between baseline projects and relevant government and non-government parties for the successful implementation of the project, and finally for the dissemination and national replication/scaling up of project success.	As a key Project Board member, continuous engagement will be maintained with ?EM through: ? informal and Project Board meetings to get updates on activities and intentions ? consulting and collaborating with them on developing the workplan and expenditures ? consenting with them on the consultations with stakeholders
UNCCD National Coordination Body: Formulation and implementation of the National Action Programs and to mobilize national and international resources.	National mandate- ensuring the contribution of the project to the achievement of national LDN objectives	+	3	3	Upscaling the SLM and LDN efforts of the project to the national and international scale.	UNCCD National Council will be informed about the project outputs and outcomes on a biannual basis and sought for policy guidance throughout the project implementation.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
GD Forestry (OGM) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF): OGM is the main government body for the conservation and management of forests. Its Giresun and Trabzon Regional Directorates fulfill duties and responsibilities at the regional/local level in the project target area.	National mandate- This project will improve the sustainable management of forests in Rize Province and build the capacity of regional directorates/forestry managers and officers.	+	5	4	OGM will provide support and cooperation in sustainable management of forests and integration of SLM principles in forest management planning and operation in the target area. Specifically, the regional and operational directorates will be local members of the project steering committee and will support project implementation through the provision of their facilities, vehicles, personnel and equipment; in addition to sharing of information and local follow-up of monitoring activities.	As a key collaborating institution, the Project will have frequent engagement with OGM and regional directorates through: ? informal and Project Board meetings for updates on activities and intentions ? consulting and collaborating with them on implementing the workplan and expenditures ? seeking their guidance for local operations and consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
GD Hydraulic Works (DS?) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF): DSI is the main government body for river rehabilitations and flood control infrastructure, including construction of dams and reservoirs. Trabzon and Artvin Regional Directorates fulfill duties and responsibilities at the regional/local level in the project target area.	National mandate- This project will help mitigate the destructiveness of floods through promotion of SLM practices and build the capacity of regional experts.	+	2	3	DSI will make sure its plans and projects (flood management plans and creek and river rehabilitation works) in the EBSC region are guided to achieve SLM objectives and standards. DSI will be a member of the project steering committee and support monitoring of objective achievement and information sharing. DSI will also support the project in the creek rehabilitation works at Kire?hane Creek within the proposed demonstration area (-COFUNDING)	As an influencing stakeholder and key collaborating institution, regular engagement with DS? and regional directorates will be maintained through: ? informal and Project Board meetings for updates on activities and intentions ? seeking their inputs for the spatial database & vulnerability analyses, LDN compatible INRM Plan preparation and implementation process in addition to working in close cooperation for the creek rehabilitation in the demonstration area ? seeking their guidance for local operations and stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
GD Water Management (SYGM) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF): SYGM is the main government body for river basin management plans and allocation of water supply at basin scale. SYGM is responsible for the preparation of Integrated River Basin Management Plans for Eastern Black Sea and ?oruh administrative river basins, effective operation of Basin Management Councils, and Flood Management Plans under development for these two administrative river basins.	National mandate- This project will provide data, best practices, awareness raising, and an enabling environment for future Integrated River Basin Management Plans for the EBS River Basin	+	3	2	Climate change together with land use changes are negatively affecting the EBSC region?s freshwater resources. The snow/glacier levels keep decreasing in the ?oruh and EBS River Basins. SYGM has studied the impacts of climate change on water resources in 2016, however, on a non-spatial quantitative basis. SYGM will follow the project up in terms of its contributions to the future river basin management planning and support the project database and operations with this perspective.	SYGM will be informed about the project outputs and outcomes on a biannual basis and its guidance will be sought for data and policy guidance for spatial database/vulnerability analyses and LDN compatible INRM Plan. The project implementation unit of the project may participate in the EBS river basin council upon invitation to support river basin scale management decisions.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
GD Nature Conservation and National Parks (DKMP) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF): DKMP is the main government body for nature conservation, sensitive habitats and management planning and utilization of protected areas.	National mandate- This project will provide data, best practices for SLM in agricultural lands, and associated awareness raising which could be useful for biodiversity conservation and protected area management particularly in buffer zones of PAs in the EBSC region	+	1	1	DKMP will follow the project up in terms of its contributions to their mandate and support the project database and operations with this perspective. Noah?s Ark National Biodiversity Database coordinated by DKMP will also be utilized as a biodiversity data source for the project.	DKMP will be informed on a biannual basis about the project outputs and outcomes regularly and sought for data and policy guidance for spatial database/vulnerability analyses and LDN compatible INRM Plan.
GD Meteorology (MGM) under the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change (MoEUCC): MGM is the main government body for the regular monitoring and assessment of meteorological events.	National mandate- This project offers an opportunity for MGM to showcase the application of its meteorological expertise to address a key development challenge of the EBSC region.	0	2	2	MGM prepares and makes weather forecasts for use in the affected areas in fighting adverse agricultural conditions and conducting a ?Drought Monitoring System?. MGM will provide all climatic data that will be needed during the implementation of the project.	MGM will be informed about the project and its guidance sought for meteorological/ meteorological event data for spatial database/vulnerability analyses and LDN compatible INRM Plan.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
General Directorate of Agrarian Reform (TRGM) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF): TRGM is the main government body for agricultural areas, managing agricultural product planning activities and related support; enhancing efficiency of agricultural irrigation; ensuring use of proper irrigation methods; carrying out studies relating to global climate change, drought and desertification.	National mandate-conservation and sustainable use of agricultural land in the EBSC Region.	+	2	3	TRGM and its provincial directorates will collaborate with the project in the activities on agricultural land, SLM activities in particular. TRGM?s knowledge-base and experience will be crucial for successful implementation of SLM demonstrations and regularly sought in terms of agricultural practices and farmer training activities.	As an influencing stakeholder and authority, regular engagement with TRGM will take place, especially with its provincial and district directorates through: ? informal and Project Board meetings for updates on activities and intentions ? seeking their input for spatial database/vulnerability analyses, LDN compatible INRM Plan preparation and implementation process in addition to working in close cooperation for the activities on agricultural land ? seeking their guidance for local operations and stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (TAGEM) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF): TAGEM conducts research studies on vegetable and animal production issues via its research institutes including the F?nd?k Ara?t?rma Enstit?s? M?d?rl??? (Hazelnut Research Institute) in Giresun and also collaborates with international research institutions.	National mandate-access to new SLM implementation practices/know ledge demonstrated by the project	+	2	2	Research units of TAGEM will assist in monitoring information on soil, including organic carbon levels.	TAGEM, F?nd?k Ara?t?rma Enstit?s? M?d?rl??? in particular, will be informed about the project and sought for relevant research/practices for the SLM demonstrations, agricultural production issues and LDN compatible INRM Plan.
General Directorate of Crop Production (B?GEM) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF): is mandated to ensure recovery and conservation of grasslands, meadows, summer pastures and winter pastures, and taking necessary measures	National mandate-access to new SLM implementation practices/know ledge for pastures demonstrated by the project	+	2	1	Pasture units of B?GEM will be consulted in pasture management.	B?GEM will be informed about the project and sought for relevant research/practices for the SLM demonstrations at pastures and LDN compatible INRM Plan.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) & its Provincial Directorates under the Ministry of Interior: AFAD is responsible for disaster (landslide, flood, forest fire, etc.) mitigation and disaster related damage minimization.	Access to demonstration of SLM practices that can help prevent and minimize damage from disasters in very humid and steep regions of T?rkiye,	+	3	3	AFAD Provincial Directorates are responsible for disaster mitigation and damage minimization in the provinces of the EBSC Region. AFAD will contribute to the project with their knowledge and experience base and benefit from the outputs and outcomes of the project. In addition to the regular work of Provincial Directorates, the Disaster Adapt Project of AFAD (pls. see baseline projects) aims to enhance the climate change mitigation capacity and increased resilience to the impact of climate change through capacity building in T?rkiye,. The project may be implemented to include the EBSC region and if so the AFAD provincial directorate will play a key role in ensuring synergies between this project and Disaster Adapt to amplify impact on the ground.?	As an influencing stakeholder and authority, regular engagement will be maintained with AFAD especially with its provincial directorates through: ? informal and Project Board meetings for updates on activities and intentions ? seeking their input to spatial database & vulnerability analyses, LDN compatible INRM Plan preparation and implementation process ? seeking their guidance in the collaboration of relevant projects and for other project operations and stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
General Directorate of Environmental Management (?YGM) under Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change (MoEUCC): They are mandated to conserve underground waters and surface waters, as well as seas and soil resources, preventing or removing of any pollution; ensuring coordination with other institutions and establishments in order to determine plans, policies and strategies aimed at measures against global climate change	National Mandate-Building awareness on adaptation to climate change; ensuring that adaptation recommendations are implemented	+	3	2	?YGM has been working on the impacts of climate change in T?rkiye,, and risk assessments under various scenarios for various regions. They can bring to bear this body of experience and knowledge for application in the EBSC region and the project target area in particular.	?YGM will be informed about the project and sought for relevant overlapping climate change analyses, for Component 1 in particular.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
Local Administrations, Governorships, and Municipalities of EBSC Region, Rize and Kire?hane in particular: They are mandated to ensure civil and administrative management and coordination at the provincial level	Local mandate- Meeting local common needs of the province and the residing population; conserving soil resources and preventing erosion, afforestation and continuity/ sustainability of social services	+	4	5	The local administrations are the key to access residents and land users of the region. They will play a community opinion-shaping; informative, coordinative and disseminative role in the project, especially in on-the-ground project activities. These administrations are also the key to influence local policies through their strategic plans; therefore, they will be the key for the sustainability and replication of project outcomes.	As a key influencing stakeholder, regular engagement will be maintained with local administrations through: ? informal and Project Board meetings for updates on activities and intentions ? seeking their input to spatial database & vulnerability analyses, LDN compatible INRM Plan preparation and implementation process ? seeking their guidance regularly for collaboration on relevant projects in the region and for stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
DOKAP- Eastern Black Sea Project Regional Development Administration under the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology: They are mandated with developing and implementing action plans in line with regional priorities in order to accelerate regional development, especially in the agricultural sector; monitoring and assessing investment projects carried out by other institutions in the 11 Provinces of Eastern and Central Black Sea Region.	Regional mandate-regional development stake for the EBSC Region	+	5	2	DOKAP has been planning, designing and implementing regional development projects with around 1 million USD/year in the 11 Eastern and Central Black Sea Region Provinces, 4 of which correspond to the EBSC region. DOKAP finances several projects including soil and water quality analyses, alternative income generation activities such as bee-keeping, trout farming, etc., agricultural value-chain improvement actions such as cold storages or frosting facilities, packaging and marketing of medicinal aromatic plants. DOKAP can be considered as one of the main implementing organizations of the INRM Plan of the demonstration area and the replication/ dissemination of SLM activities throughout the Eastern and Central Black Sea	As a key influencing stakeholder and future implementing authority for the sustainability of the project outcomes, the Project will have regular engagement with DOKAP through: ? informing them of project activities and intentions (at informal and Project Board meetings); ? seeking their input to spatial database & vulnerability analyses, INRM Plan preparation and implementation process ? actively contributing to DOKAP strategic plan revision processes ? seeking their guidance in the collaboration of relevant projects and for other project operations and stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
					Region, thanks to their mandate and the coordinative and financing role of DOKAP in the region.	

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
DOKA- Eastern Black Sea Development Agency under the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology: Mandated to develop region-specific development strategies mainly focused on tourism sector and improve supporting financial resources through multi-partner projects.	Regional mandate-regional development stake for the EBSC Region	+	4	2	DOKA has been planning, designing and implementing regional development projects with around 1 million USD/year budget in 6 Eastern Black Sea Region Provinces, 4 of which correspond to EBSC region. DOKA has also been a contact point where international and national level financial resources and institutions meet with local administrations. Therefore, DOKA can also be considered as one of the main implementing organizations of the INRM Plan of the demonstration area and the replication/dissemination of SLM activities associated with tourism sector throughout the Eastern Black Sea Region, thanks to their mandate and the coordinative and financing role of DOKA in the region.	As a key influencing stakeholder and future implementing authority for the sustainability of the project outcomes, the Project will have regular engagement with DOKA through: ? informing them of project activities and intentions (at informal and Project Board meetings); ? seeking their input to spatial database & vulnerability analyses, LDN compatible INRM Plan preparation and implementation process ? actively contributing to DOKA strategic plan revision processes ? seeking their guidance in the collaboration of relevant projects and for other project operations and stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
?AYKUR (Public Economic Enterprise) -Tea Enterprises General Directorate; Tea Factories, Marketing and Production Regional Directorates, etc. ?AYKUR- Atat?rk ?ay ve Bah?e K?lt?rleri Ara?t?rma Enstit?s? M?d?rl??? (Tea Research Institute under ?AYKUR) Developing tea agriculture of T?rkiye, in conformity with the Agricultural Policy, improving tea quality, executing its processing technology according to technical principles, producing dry tea to meet domestic and foreign market needs, importing and exporting it, creating investment resources by helping capital accumulation through management policy which is based on efficiency principles	Conservation of tea orchards for sustainable tea production purposes	+	5	5	?AYKUR is the main authority in tea production; management of tea orchards. This jurisdiction has also been acknowledged by the TRGM and its provincial directorates. Therefore, ?AYKUR plays a critical role in any action regarding tea production and the interaction with tea farmers in the EBSC region. ?AYKUR agreed to support the project implementation in any respect, become a partner, provide co-funding and utilize and disseminate relevant project outputs in the activities of the institution including trainings, trial orchards, etc. ?AYKUR is also highly supportive the idea of owning the project demonstration area during and after the completion of the project as a ?sustainable tea-orchard management basin? in a similar fashion that it	As a key influencing stakeholder and future implementing authority for the sustainability of the project outcomes, the Project will have regular engagement with ?AYKUR through: ? informing them of project activities and intentions (at informal and Project Board meetings); ? seeking their input to spatial database & vulnerability analyses, LDN compatible INRM Plan preparation and implementation process ? actively contributing to annual planning/training needs assessment processes ? seeking their guidance in the collaboration of relevant projects and for other project operations and stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
					acknowledges/promotes the Hem?in Basin of Rize Province as a pilot ?organic tea production basin?.	
Academic Institutions of EBSC and Central Black Sea Region, Karadeniz Technical University of Trabzon, Recep Tayyip Erdogan University of Rize, ?oruh University of Artvin and 19 May?s University of Samsun in particular: Data generation, analysis and research project development and expert training	Knowledge and expertise development on SLM, climate change, disaster mitigation and joint project implementation	+	2	1	The academic institutions can play an important role in the provision of the experience and research capacities and expert pools of the organizations.	Relevant departments of academic institutions will be informed about the project and they will be sought for relevant research/practices and expertise.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
Farmers and farmer associations, tea &hazelnut production and marketing and/or organic agriculture production/development cooperatives/unions in particular whose mandate are providing agricultural or marketing services to members. Including F?SKOB?RL?K- Union of Hazelnut Agricultural Sales Cooperatives with a mandate of purchasing, storing, processing and marketing the hazelnut yield of members as the biggest producer association of the world in its field, with a variable number of partners, from Istanbul to Artvin, with 50 cooperatives.	Conservation of agricultural land for sustainability of production and income	+	5	4	Farmers play a crucial role in the adoption of SLM practices and successful implementation. F?SKOB?RL?K is the leading organization in the EBSC Region in hazelnut production, thus influencing the management of hazelnut orchards. Therefore, F?SKOB?RL?K plays an opinion-shaping role in any action regarding hazelnut production and the interaction with hazelnut farmers in the EBSC region.	As key influencing stakeholders and future implementors of the project outcomes, the Project will have regular engagement with farmers directly and through farmer associations including F?SKOB?RL?K through: ? informing them of project activities and intentions (at informal and Project Board meetings); ? seeking their input to spatial database & vulnerability analyses, LDN compatible INRM Plan preparation and implementation process ? actively contributing to annual planning/training needs assessment processes ? seeking their guidance in the collaboration of relevant projects and for other project operations and

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
						stakeholder consultations
Organizations/cooperatives for vulnerable groups such as women, elderly (retired), youth, children, people with disabilities, etc.	Improving the conditions of vulnerable groups	+/-	3	2	The project aims at improving land management for all people, however, it needs guidance and contributions from representatives/opinion leaders of vulnerable groups for acknowledgement of the role of these groups, as well as for better participation and integration of these groups in sustainable land management. Therefore, these organizations will support the gender and other vulnerable groups? integration into both the project and specific project outcomes.	As an influencing stakeholder, the Project will have regular engagement with these organization through: ? informing them of project activities and intentions regularly ? seeking their input to spatial database & vulnerability analyses, LDN compatible INRM Plan preparation and implementation process ? seeking their guidance in the gender action plan development, collaboration of relevant projects and for other project operations and stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA): The main aim of TEMA is to create effective and conscious public opinion on environmental problems, specifically soil erosion, deforestation, desertification, climate change and biodiversity loss.	National mandate- Upscaling and training collaboration between existing micro-scale SLM demonstrations in Rize Province in the EBSC region.	+	1	1	TEMA Foundation has been working on land conservation and proper fertilization of tea orchards at micro-scale demonstration areas at Rize (pls. see baseline projects). The Foundation is eager to share and disseminate good practice results and scale them up through this project through trainings/ field visits among farmers.	TEMA Foundation will be informed about the project and sought for relevant research/practices for the SLM demonstrations at tea orchards and LDN compatible INRM Plan.
Nature Conservation Centre Foundation (DKM): Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources.	Nation-wide interests relating to biological diversity, management of land, forest and water resources, climate change adaptation, site safeguarding, etc. Replication and dissemination of ecosystem-based management planning approach promoted by the organization to EBSC region.	+	1	4	DKM is an expert organization on spatial database and vulnerability analyses, INRM planning with ecosystem-based approaches at forests and drylands (pls. see baseline projects). DKM will be the institution responsible for the implementation of the project and will act as the Implementing Agency. DKM will also support the project activities through its expert pool and knowledge base. .	DKM would be the institution responsible for the implementation of the project through a cooperation agreement, based on the discussions during the PPG phase.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
Ye?il T?rkiye Ormanc?lar Derne?i (YTOD): Conservation of forests	Nation-wide interests relating to forest management	+	1	1	YTOD is an expert organization on forest management planning and interaction with forest villagers. YTOD will support the project activities through its knowledge base and experiences on stakeholder interactions.	YTOD will be informed about the project and sought for relevant experiences from other regions of T?rkiye,

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
Local environmental NGOs: KarDo?a Federation, Ye?il Artvin Derne?i, Hem?in Ya?am Derne?i, etc.: Mandate is to promote conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources	Regional and site-specific interests relating to biological diversity, management of land, forest and water resources, site safeguarding.	+	1	1	The project aims at improving land management for all people; however, it needs guidance and contributions from representatives/opinion leaders of local people and of environmental concerns for acknowledgement of the importance of local environmental issues, and better integration of these issues in land management. Therefore, these organizations will support the integration of local environmental issues and represent the rights of natural assets into both the project and specific project outcomes.	As influencing stakeholders, the Project will have regular engagement with local environmental NGOs through: ? informing them of project activities and intentions (at informal and Project Board meetings); ? seeking their input to spatial database & vulnerability analyses, LDN compatible INRM Plan preparation and implementation process ? seeking their guidance in the collaboration of relevant projects and for other project operations and stakeholder consultations

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
Local offices of Chamber of Forest Engineers (OMO), Chamber of Agricultural Engineers (ZMO), etc.: These offices provide professional services according to targets and goals of the government in order to develop the relevant industry, facilitating professional activities and representing relevant target groups.	Improving the enabling environment and thus the quality of professional services of target groups	+	1	1	The project aims at improving land management for all people, however, needs guidance and contribution of representatives/opinion leaders of relevant expert and coordinating organizations for the better participation and integration of these groups in different aspects of land management, including capacity building. Therefore, these organizations will support the integration of agricultural and forest engineers/experts working in the EBSC region into sustainable land management.	Local offices of OMO and ZMO will be informed about the project and sought for collaboration in all activities including LDN compatible INRM Plan and capacity building activities in particular.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
Local communities (villages)	Improving the living conditions of local people	+	2	2	Local people are the main beneficiary of sustainable land management, thus, will play a significant role in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and in turn adoption and dissemination of SLM practices proposed by the project in their land use patterns.	Inhabitants of the villages within the selected pilot project areas will be made aware of the issues and invited to take part in the decision-making processes through project outputs. They will be represented in project meetings by village headmen (muhtars) and actively involved in the project activities. Their cooperation will be sought in implementing project activities. The village headmen will be the main counterparts in linking the project objectives and activities to the needs of the people in the project area.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
Regional and local press and media: Serving the interests of a diverse group of viewers/listeners	High quality and reliable informative visual materials on land management issues of EBSC Region	0	2	1	Local and regional media institutions (radio and tv) reach millions of residents/local land users and managers in the EBSC Region. Therefore, these organizations play a significant role in the dissemination of project messages to EBSC residents.	Local offices of key regional and local press organizations will be spotted in the first month of the project, will be informed about the project outcomes and outputs in advance, and sought for collaboration in all project activities through various levels of involvement.
UN FAO ?Food and Agriculture Organization: Build a world without hunger through technical cooperation and assistance	EBSC as a dissemination area for the FAO-GEF LDN Project	+	2	2	FAO, the implementing agency of LDN Project (pls. see Baseline Projects) will follow up the implementation process and determine the EBSC Region as a dissemination area.	FAO SEC (Subregional Office for Central Asia) will be informed about the project and sought for collaboration in all activities including LDN compatible INRM Plan, SLM demonstrations and capacity building activities.

Stakeholder name and mandate	Interest at stake in the project	Effect of project on interests (-, 0, +)	Importance of stakeholder to project[1]	Influence of stakeholder on project[2]	What specific role they will play in the project	How will they be included
World Bank: Mandate is to end extreme poverty and to promote shared prosperity	EBSC as a collaboration, exchange and dissemination area for TULIP Project	+	2	2	World Bank is the implementing agency of TULIP Project (pls. see Baseline Projects) will follow up the implementation process and may determine the EBSC Region as a dissemination area.	World Bank will be informed about the project and sought for collaboration in all activities including LDN compatible INRM Plan, SLM demonstrations and capacity building activities.

[1] Scale of 1 to 5; 1=low, 5=high
[2] Scale of 1 to 5; 1=low, 5=high

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

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) Yes

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Despite progress over the recent decade, gender differences in T?rkiye, are still a challenge, and are frequently wider among vulnerable groups. Increasing women?s economic participation and addressing disadvantages among vulnerable groups and regions remain two main challenges for T?rkiye,. Gender gaps in participation in the labor market and entrepreneurship are common across countries and entail substantial economic losses for women and their families in the form of foregone income, but also losses in aggregate terms, for the societies where women are deprived of those opportunities. Estimates suggest the loss associated with the gender gap in labor participation reaches 22 percent of income per capita. This is especially relevant in the current demographic context of T?rkiye, in which higher participation of all those in the economically active age group represents a unique window of opportunity for growth and savings.

While the percentage of people experiencing poverty has also decreased in the country as a whole, poverty rates remain higher for people living in rural areas and for women. Levels of poverty are also closely correlated with an individual?s educational attainment and the number of dependent children in the household. Turkish agriculture is predominantly based on family production, which is characterized by small-scale producers or subsistence production that relies heavily on women?s unpaid family labor and seasonal work. Today, there are four main groups that are active in the agricultural sector: (1) poor village dwellers, mostly elderly, in need of state support for subsistence; (2) petty commodity producers able to produce relatively high priced products; (3) landowners in capitalist agricultural enterprises; and (4) landless laborers who work in agriculture, for example, seasonal agricultural workers. While, female entrepreneurship has been increasing annually in T?rkiye, and at a greater intensity than male entrepreneurship, women-owned businesses tend to be small. The small size of female-established businesses is attributed to women?s more limited access to capital and other financial support. Further women establish enterprises in a less diverse range of sectors than men. Only 14 percent of all entrepreneurs engaged in the sector of agriculture, forestry and fishing are women. A lack of access to financial resources (both formal credit institutions and informal financial services) is one of the main difficulties faced by female entrepreneurs in T?rkiye,. The data available also indicate that in crop production, the general pattern of women?s lower involvement as registered farm owners holds true, and women represent less than 20 percent of farmers of any crop. Nevertheless, women have greater involvement in some types of crop production (for example, nuts, fruit and tea) than in others (potatoes and vegetables). In terms of forestry, gender analysis suggests that in T?rkiye, there is a, ?widespread belief that forestry work is unsuitable for women because of difficult working conditions.? Therefore, while women have played key roles in nursery, plantation, harvesting and silviculture practices, they are underrepresented in forestry engineering. The dominance of social norms such as these also means that there are very few female members of forestry cooperatives, and no female cooperative leaders, despite the fact that there are no legal prohibitions in T?rkiye, preventing women from taking these roles.

In the coastal Eastern Black Sea Region, there is a high level of labor force participation of women and most of these women are working in agriculture. Gender inequalities in the Turkish agricultural sector were reported on by FAO in the gender profile of agricultural and rural livelihoods in T?rkiye, (National Gender Profile of Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods T?rkiye,. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Ankara). The report concluded that these inequalities take the form of unequal access to real estate, property, livestock, farming equipment, entrepreneurship opportunities and financial resources, all to the detriment of women. The predominant production model relies heavily on non-paid family labor and a seasonal, and often migratory, workforce. Women take on a large share of the agricultural labor but are largely unseen in national statistics, and the informal nature of their employment means that they miss out on critical social benefits, such as accruing pensions. Having said that, programs dedicated to supporting rural women and female farmers specifically demonstrate the tremendous potential for further growth. When provided with training, knowledge and access to credit and technology, women are often quick to adopt innovative approaches and to seek ways to reach new markets. In contrast, women?s limited decision-making over agricultural production and inadequate

control over the returns from their labor serve as considerable disincentives and, ultimately, impede production.

The proposed project will promote an environment that will help overcome gender biases, promote women? empowerment and foster inclusion and equal opportunities. Gender considerations will be fully mainstreamed into project implementation. A gender action plan will be prepared at the PPG stage which aims to make the project?s interventions more socially inclusive, by ensuring a close fit with local contexts, culture and livelihoods. The objectives of the gender action plan will be to promote gender equity in all practices aimed at addressing land degradation in the EBSC Region; given the significant role of women in agricultural and rural livelihoods, to ensure that they are active participants in decision-making on integrated natural resource management; and to monitor the progress of project outcomes disaggregated by gender. The project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment by closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources, improving women?s participation and decision-making; and generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. the project?s results framework or logical framework will include gender-sensitive indicators. The action plan will be guided by the following over-arching principles:

? Pursue efforts to mainstream gender and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women
? Address and do not exacerbate existing gender-based inequalities
? Consider women and men as active agents of change
? Conduct stakeholder engagement and analysis in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner
? Promote women?s access to resilience-building and income-generating models for sustainable value chains for the main products of the EBSC Region
? Ensure women?s access to training, decent work and technology opportunities to facilitate their participation in INRM
? Recognize the knowledge, needs, roles and interests of women and men
? Provide equal opportunities to women and men in terms of decision-making and participation throughout the identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project activities
? Capitalize on opportunities to address gender gaps and support the empowerment of women in order to help achieve global environmental benefits
? Provide equal opportunities for women and men to benefit
? Collect gender-disaggregated data and information, use gender-sensitive indicators, gender-disaggregated targets and results, as relevant, and regularly incorporate these in monitoring, evaluation and reporting on activities
? Prepare and disseminate case studies on gender-sensitive LDN compatible INRM solutions to enhance policy guidelines and standards
? Support partners to ensure gender-responsive LDN compatible INRM, including land, water and forests
? Ensure integration of gender equality into legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions addressing LDN compatible INRM in steep and humid landscapes
? Emplace a gender-responsive perspective within the project team through training; and
? Promote women?s participation and leadership in all forms of decision-making.

The gender action plan will be implemented by the responsible institutions with the support of the project team including the project coordinator, field officer, and a gender consultant. The Project Board will be the ultimate project body to resolve any issues arising from the implementation of the gender action plan and will take necessary decisions to successfully implement the plan. Gender responsive approaches in the LDN compatible SLM measures will be identified and implemented throughout the project. Dedicated support to women farmers, women entrepreneurs and support to youth participation and trainings will be embedded in the project strategy. The project will also gather gender-disaggregated data for evaluation purposes and use gender sensitive indicators (particularly around beneficiaries) to

facilitate planning, implementation and monitoring. In terms of ensuring gender mainstreaming, several practical steps will be undertaken. The project team and partners are committed to delivering following:

? The inter-agency panel on SLM (Output 1.1) will include at least 30% women representatives.
? Targets for inclusion of women in training and capacity building initiatives among policy makers (minimum 30%)
? Gender equality considerations/gender perspectives to be well reflected in the project components, in particular, in Output 1.2 - Evidenced-based documentation, Output 2.3 - Training activities, Output 2.4 - Resilience-building and income-generating models.
? Gender balanced approach to selection of the farms to benefit from tailored assistance that will facilitate accessing SLM demonstrations.
? Ensure women are not at a disadvantage in the selection and contracting process for local technical and administrative personnel (e.g., gender-responsive interview and hiring practices).
? 50% of staff recruited by and for the project will be women.
? Adopt participatory approaches where possible to include all relevant social groups, including marginalized people (e.g. unemployed youth), with attention to any special measures that may be required to increase the participation and inclusion of women in targeted communities (e.g., women-only consultation meetings)

Implementation strategies to deliver these targets will be designed and implemented by the project team in conjunction with key project partners. This will be done through the clear setting of targets in project agreements and regular monitoring of progress. A full and comprehensive gender assessment will be conducted during the project development phase, whose results will be reflected into the project gender action plan.

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The Eastern Black Sea Region is the heart of tea production of T?rkiye as almost all the tea orchards are found in this region. The Tea Enterprises General Directorate (?AYKUR), which is a public economic enterprise and has the monopoly in tea production in T?rkiye is responsible for tea production in the EBSC Region and plays a critical role in any action regarding tea production and the interaction with tea farmers in the EBSC Region. However, as the private sector has been given access to tea production in the region since 1984, resulting in a tripled production at the region, the role and influence of private companies has increased in the last couple of years. Some of these companies established trial tea orchards at the region and work in parallel to ?AYKUR.

?AYKUR has already agreed to support the project implementation in any respect, become a partner, provide co-funding and utilize and disseminate relevant project outputs in the activities of the institution including trainings, trial orchards, etc. ?AYKUR is also highly supportive the idea of owning the project demonstration area during and after the completion of the project as a ?sustainable tea-orchard management basin? in a similar fashion that it acknowledges/promotes the Hem?in Basin of Rize Province as a pilot ?organic tea production basin?. A similar private sector engagement is envisioned for the major tea brands such as Do?u? ?ay, Lipton and local brands such as Karali and Salarha tea enterprises etc. to increase productivity at tea plantations and support farmers in their struggle with loss of product due to landslides, erosion or pollution. Therefore, the project will have regular engagement with private tea companies in addition to ?AYKUR through:

? informing them of project activities and intentions (at informal and Project Board meetings);
? informing them on climate risks and the means of inclusion issues such as ecosystem services, Nature-based Solutions in their business plans
? actively contributing to annual planning/training needs assessment processes
? seeking their guidance in the collaboration

Additionally, the project will seek support from small-private business investors to support training and marketing for small-business development activities. There is good potential to promoting small-scale community-private sector partnerships for the agriculture, forestry resource sectors and livelihoods through engagement between local producers, agricultural cooperatives and retailers to build stronger markets for local, healthy foods from well-managed ecosystems.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Table 5 below identifies the key risks (general risks and social and environmental risks) and mitigation strategies to manage these risk:

Table 5 Project Risks

During project development, the project was reviewed using UNDP?s social and environmental screening procedure (SESP). The analysis identified a range of potential social and environmental impacts associated with the project activities. The SESP report (Annex 4) details the specific environmental and social risks that apply. The significance of each risk, based on its probability of occurrence and extent of impact, has been estimated as being Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. Where a risk is identified and assessed as being of Moderate, Substantial or High risk, it triggers the relevant standard or principle.

The Project contains 0 High Risks, 0 Substantial Risks, 10 Moderate Risks, and 5 Low Risks. **The overall risk is Moderate**. The main risks are a result of the small-scale infrastructure and livelihood activities that are envisioned. The details of these activities will be clarified as the project progresses and at that point the activities must be screened for social and environmental risks. Note that this may change the risk categorization if Substantial or High risks are identified, however, this is unlikely given the scope of the project. The UNDP?s Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) has thus resulted in an overall ?moderate? risk rating for the project. According to the 2019 SESP guidelines, a project is considered to have ?moderate? social and environmental risk when it *?includes activities with potential adverse social and environmental risks and impacts that are limited in scale, are largely reversible and can be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty and readily addressed through application of recognized good international practice, mitigation measures and stakeholder engagement during project implementation?*.

The Project?s design has integrated the requirements triggered by the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) in order to ensure that any potentially adverse effects can be avoided or mitigated during implementation, and that the anticipated positive social and environmental outcomes are achieved. Nevertheless, there are some specific project activities and locations that will not be fully defined until the Project is initiated. Therefore, the project?s ESMF (Annex 10 of UNDP Project Document) establishes a framework that guides the screening and categorization, level of impact assessment, required institutional arrangements, and processes to be followed for components or activities of the project that will be further specified during project implementation.

A summary of the risk significance under each SES principle and standard, and the project-level safeguard standards triggered by the relevant project interventions/activities, are shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Summary of safeguard standards triggered based on screening conducted during project preparation

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Strategy
General Risks		
Risk 1: Competing mandates and poor coordination between government sector agencies and provincial authorities might interfere with the effective implementation of project activities	Moderate	Coordination between sector agencies will be strengthened through the creation of improved coordination mechanism across sectoral agencies at provincial level, improved information flows, and development of integrated natural resources management plan for the target micro-basin will strengthen governance and institutional measures for successful implementation
Risk 2: The developed capacities of governmental (particularly agencies that would be responsible for resource planning and management) and supporting collaboration, coordination and technologies are not sufficient to create a viable and effective means to prevent resource degradation and its unsustainable use	Moderate	In line with the above, there is an increasing realization that there is a need for an enhancement of capacity for strengthening the management of micro-basins in the country. To support this, a critical aspect of the project is to ensure that there is a strategy for improving capacity of all stakeholders in the planning, management, monitoring and enforcement related to the natural environment
Risk 3: Limited awareness and knowledge might result in limited political support for integrated natural resources management approaches to manage land degradation and other unsustainable activities	Moderate	Awareness and knowledge management activities will aim to promote a better understanding and acceptance of supporting natural resource management and its sustainable use
Risk 4: Instability in the economic and political global environment might impact on co-financing, government priority shift away from conservation goals	Moderate	This impact would be addressed to an adaptive management approach to adjust and revise project implementation activities to take global concerns, including climate impacts
Risk 5: The overall feasibility and likelihood of the long-term sustainability of the project might be constrained by the varied activities leading to the fragmentation of resources and impacts	Moderate	The design of project activities was made following an extensive review (and consultation) of institutional capacity, resources and skills to determine realistic targets and activities for project investment. On the basis of this, project design entailed (i) selection and focus of a limited number of demonstration activities in the target micro-basin to ensure impacts and benefits to communities; (ii) planning at site level will be made in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders to ensure that these are meaningful and manageable within the community capacity; (iii) planning and implementation of on-the-ground activities to be made through existing community organizations rather than create new institutions; and (iv) planning and implementation will be undertaken in consonance with efforts at enhancing community capacity and skills, demonstration and extension provided to enable uptake, with the support of the local agricultural, forestry and land management staff
Social and Environmental Risks[1]		

Risk 6: There is a risk that the stakeholders may perceive the distribution of project benefits, such as support for livelihood activities, to be inequitable, thus causing social tension.	Moderate	Stakeholder Engagement and FPIC processes will be used to clarify project activities and ensure stakeholder have freely agreed to them prior to implementation. A livelihood action plan or benefit-sharing agreement may be will be required to map out who benefits from the project?s activity and how the profits will be shared. These measures will be contained in the ESMP.
Risk 7: There a risk that rights-holders (e.g., project beneficiaries) do not have the capacity to claim their rights because they are unaware or unable to access UNDP accountability mechanisms	Moderate	The Stakeholder Response Mechanism (and possibly a Grievance Redress Mechanism) will be developed and implemented in the project areas. Stakeholders will be made aware of these accountability mechanisms, as well as the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU), during the stakeholder engagement meetings. The project field staff will ensure that they are available to assist Stakeholders with triggering a grievance or complaint.
Risk 8: There is a risk that potentially-affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, will not be able to participate in decisions that may affect them such as the design of Sustainable Land Management Plans.	Low	During the stakeholder engagement and FPIC processes it will be essential that all stakeholders who wish to take part are included. In conjunction with the Project Management Unit, local level government and Implementing Parties/Responsible Parties will ensure that marginalized groups are informed about the stakeholder engagement meetings and that accommodations are made to facilitate their attendance.
Risk 9: There is a risk that the implementation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and associated related regulatory proposals may have unintended or unanticipated negative social and environmental impacts.	Low	A SESA for the LDN compatible INRM Plan may be required to ensure that unintended negative impacts do not result from the LDN compatible INRM Plan or regulatory reforms. The LDN compatible INRM and regulatory reforms must build in measures to mitigate the potential social or environmental risks.
Risk 10: There is a risk that the project is supporting private sector actors that have caused social or environmental harm in the region.	Low	A human rights due diligence check will be required for all private sector actors that are supported by the project. Stakeholders must be engaged about their experiences (if any) with the proposed private sector actors. The project should refrain from supporting any companies that have caused harm in the stakeholder communities.

Risk 11: There is a risk that the project could reproduce discrimination against women if they are not engaged in contributing to the design and implementation of project activities.	Moderate	A gender assessment and action plan will be conducted for the target basin in the project preparation stage to assess gender equality. The LDN compatible INRM Plan to be prepared as part of the project will have a section specifically addressing disadvantaged and marginalized groups and will include specific measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate discriminatory adverse impacts on women. This risk will be further assessed during PPG stage and included in an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project. This will include consultations with affected people to inform project design and the identification of social and environmental risks and management measures. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan for project implementation will also be developed during project preparation that will ensure representation of women and marginalized groups.
Risk 12: There is a risk that the alternative livelihood activities may exacerbate environmentally sensitive areas.=	Moderate	All livelihood activities must be screened using the SESP once they have been defined. The ESMF will articulate the process and requirements for social and environmental risks that have yet to be determined.
Risk 13: There is an occupational, health and safety risk for the project team and stakeholders working in the field due to the frequent landslide and flooding events throughout the ESBC region.	Moderate	The project team must remain vigilant about landslide and flooding risks and frequency while planning the organization of field consultations and training events. Stakeholders must do the same when implementing activities in the field. Consulting available meteorological information prior to missions and activities and delaying activities when forecasts suggest inclement weather will mitigate this risk
Risk 14: There is a risk that the project activities such as support walls and terraces are vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change such as heavy rains, floods, landslides, avalanches, and earthquakes and that the failure of structural elements may pose risks to communities and workers.	Moderate	The project will strive to increase awareness among all stakeholders in the region and develop a knowledge base for the potential adverse impacts of climate change for the target area, with the goal being to facilitate decision-making and implementation of actions that take climate change risks into account and address the potential impacts. The spatial GIS-based database to be established under Output 1.2 will illustrate vulnerable areas that are at high risk not only at present but also for the next 30 years under various climate change scenarios, and therefore will be instrumental in this regard. The coordination body to be established by the project (ad hoc Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region SLM Commission under Output 1.1) will also play a critical role in influencing local policies and actions and addressing potential risks. This risk will be further assessed during the PPG stage and included in an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project.

Risk 15: There is a risk that the construction, operation, or decommissioning of walls and terraces will pose potential safety risks to local communities or workers.	Low	?EM and DSI have vast experience with construction and implements occupational health and safety measures as an indispensable part of construction contracts. In addition to mandatory occupational health and safety procedures, the project will use caution during the transportation of materials, and construction of these demonstration SLM practices and use warning signs and tape during construction and comply with the OHS measures throughout the operation and decommissioning phases.
Risk 16: There is a risk that stakeholder engagement meetings or capacity building training may result in increased health risks due to the spread of COVID-19.	Low	Total number of cases of Covid-19 in the EBSC Region corresponds to only 3% of Turkey. This is mainly due to the relatively high protection rate and as well the secluded nature of the project sites in the mountainous areas of the region. Turkey has initiated countrywide follow up for infected individuals and applies a clean health code (HES Code) rule for granting access to public areas. The UNDP country office and the project team will follow best available guidance from public health professionals in the project area, for example, holding virtual consultation events when possible, and when this is not feasible promoting the use of masks and physical distancing. This risk will be further assessed during the PPG stage and included in an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project.
Risk 17: There is a risk that the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and associated related regulatory proposals may result in economic displacement by limiting access to resources.	Moderate	?EM has experience implementing similar project and will use this experience to ensure that access to natural resource areas will not be restricted without Free, Prior and Informed Consent. If any potentially significant access restrictions are identified these activities will be avoided or alternative livelihood activities will be identified to compensate for the access restrictions. This risk will be further assessed during the PPG stage and included in an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project.
Risk 18: There is a risk that the alternative livelihood activities will fail to comply with national and international labor standards or use of child labor.=	Moderate	Seasonal workers from other parts of Turkey, Georgia, Syrian or Afgani refugees often work in the tea harvest in the EBSC. Historically there has been no child labor problem for tea harvesting. However, in the hazelnut harvest, workers from the Southeastern Anatolia region often include children. The project will take strict measures to avoid child labor, ensure that working conditions meet the national and international standards including occupational health and safety measures, and proper wages. This risk will be further assessed during the PPG stage and included in an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project.

Risk 19: There is a risk that the alternative livelihood activities may use pesticides for agricultural production.	Moderate	The project will avoid the use of pesticides in its supported activities. In order to prevent the usage of pesticides by local people Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Vector Management (IVM) approaches will be utilized that entail coordinated use of pest and environmental information along with available pest/vector control methods, including cultural practices to prevent pest damage. This risk will be further assessed during the PPG stage and included in an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project.
Risk 20: Is there a risk that duty-bearers such as the UNDP PMU, implementing partners, and government agencies do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project such as the enforcement of land tenure rights.	Low	During the stakeholder engagement process land tenure must be established for all areas where the project will be implementing activities that affect land or resources on the area in question. If land tenure claims are made from multiple people, families or groups the project must resolve these prior to moving ahead with the relevant activities. If the claims cannot be resolved the activity should be implemented on a different tract of land where land tenure can be established.

Overarching Principle / Project-level Standard	
Principle 1: Leave No One Behind	? Moderate
Principle 2: Human rights	? Moderate
Principle 3: Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment	? Moderate
Principle 4: Sustainability and resilience	? Moderate
Principle 5: Accountability	? Moderate
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	? Moderate
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	? Moderate
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security	? Low
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage	
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement	? Moderate
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples	
Standard 7: Labor and Working Conditions	? Moderate
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	? Moderate
Number of risks in each risk rating category	
High	-
Substantial	-
Moderate	10
Low	1
Total number of project risks	15
Overall Project Risk Categorization	Moderate
Number of safeguard standards triggered	11

As a consequence of the initial project SES categorization, an ESMF was developed as part of project preparation. The ESMF identifies the steps required for detailed assessment of the project?s potential social and environmental risks, and for preparing and approving the required management plans for avoiding, and where avoidance is not possible, reducing, mitigating and managing identified adverse impacts. It also sets

out the additional safeguards measures that apply to the project during the inception phase, including but not limited to:

i. Using a **Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)** approach to involving planning support, policy advice and reform, and/or capacity building;
ii. Screening of project activities and specific interventions/outputs not yet fully specified, using the SESP, to ensure that associated impacts are adequately managed;
iii. Developing **Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP)** for implementation of restoration plans**;**
iv. Ensuring adequate consultation and consensus with affected stakeholders; and,
v. Livelihood?s assessment to assess the project?s impact on the socio-economic and livelihoods conditions of project affected peoples at the demonstration sites (to be incorporated into the **Livelihood Action Plans** ? part of the ESMPs to be developed in Year 1).

The relevance of the currently identified risks may vary across sites, and the significance or likelihood of the risks or impacts identified by the current SESP will not necessarily be uniform across all locations. Further screening is required to identify site-specific risk significance, and to effectively target any required further impact assessment or management.

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[1] Social and Environmental Risks are rated as per the SESP: low, moderate, substantial or high.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects? governance mechanism:

The Implementing Partner for this project is the **General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion Control (?EM)**, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change (MEUCC - hereinafter referred to as ?the CEM?). The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance, specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

•Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
•Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
•Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
•Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
•Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.

•Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year.
•Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.
•Providing political leadership and ensuring coordination among all project partners, coordination with the provincial administration and initiatives supported by other development partners.
•Providing political leadership and ensuring coordination among all project partners, coordination with the provincial administration and initiatives supported by other development partners.
•Appointing Project Coordinator tasks and responsibilities as identified in the project document.

? Chairing of the Project Board meetings.

? Providing a project office in the General Directorate of Desertification and Erosion Control premises for the full-time project team members for assuring separation of project implementation and execution services.

? Providing logistical and administrative support to the project, including organizing travel, local project missions and events.

Responsible Party: Based on consultations between UNDP and the Government of T?rkiye, the Nature Conservation Center, hereinafter referred to as DKM, has been identified as a Responsible Party for the implementation of technical components of the project. The selection of the RP was discussed and agreed between CEM and UNDP. CEM is the technical government agency responsible for managing and coordination of efforts for combating erosion and land degradation in Turkey, and specifically dealing integrated basin improvement. An execution options analysis was carried out, discussed, and explained in the UNDP audit checklist verified by the UNDP IRH team and signed by the UNDP-NCE Executive Coordinator, with notice of the planned arrangements shared in advance with the GEF Secretariat. The PCAT and HACT for the CEM and HACT for the DKM are attached as Annex 16 to this Project Document. In line with UNDP POPP, RP agreements will be signed only after funds are approved and the inception report is finalized after the Project Document is signed by UNDP and the Government of T?rkiye.

The DKM as Responsible Party will support delivery of selected technical activities under Components 1, 2 and 3, and report to UNDP,). After the RPA reports to UNDP, through administrative clearance, the Project Coordinator and the Associate will check the substantial part of the report (activities, etc.) to clear the report. The execution services to be provided by the DKM as a project Responsible Party are expected to include:

? In accordance with the UNDP Project Document, The RP will be responsible for the following project activities, namely: Component 1: undertaking the evidence based documentation of the main drivers of land degradation (Output 1.2), producing a participatory LDN compatible
INRM plan for the pilot micro-basin based on SLM and LDN principles (Output 1.3), supporting the IP in establishing the inter-agency panel on SLM for the Rize Province (Output 1.1) and the policy and legislative assessments to support the implementation of LDN compatible INRM plans (Output 1.4). Component 2: identifying traditional land use practices for croplands, homesteads and agricultural lands that cause reduced harm to soil (Output 1.1), planning and supporting SLM practices for forests and agricultural lands in the pilot micro-basin (Output 2.2), identifying and implementing resilience-building and income-generating models for sustainable value chains (Output 2.4) in addition to supporting the IP in training and peer to peer knowledge sharing to enhance capacity of forest managers, local farmers and farmer associations to promote SLM (Output 2.3). Component 3: The RP will undertake knowledge management and awareness activities on SLM techniques to promote learning and replication. Component 4: The RP will support the monitoring and evaluating of the project indicators and management of social, environmental and gender impacts.
? Contracting and contract management for procurement of goods, services, and works for the project at the ground-level. Detailed arrangements for the procurement with UNDP support will be clarified through the Responsible Party Agreement

? Logistical support, including duty travel for project personnel and consultants, and project event management (to be detailed through the Responsible Party Agreement with UNDP).

The balance of project outputs and activities for Component 1, Component 2, Component 3, and Component 4, will be executed under the management the **Project Management Unit** (PMU), including but not limited to capacity building for farmers, data and map purchase, project coordination and provision of GIS, spatial planning and expertise (as part of co-financing) and organization of related workshops. The PMU will report to the National Project Director, with oversight by the UNDP Country Office.

Project stakeholders and target groups: The participation and contribution of stakeholders and key target groups is critical for the success of the project, for stakeholders at both the national and local levels. The project applies multiple strategies and mechanisms to ensure stakeholder engagement. First and foremost is the Project Board (as discussed further below), involving the CEM as the primary beneficiary, and UNDP as the Development Partner. UNDP and the CEM have a long history of collaboration in Turkey. The project will ensure gender balance and gender sensitivity are mainstreamed throughout all aspects of the project's stakeholder engagement approach.

ii.

There are multiple stakeholder types at the local level in the planned project activity sites in the micro-catchment in the Rize province representatives of provincial, district and municipal levels, community-based groups, individual agricultural smallholders, farms, agricultural businesses, and NGOs. The project will facilitate participatory planning and integrated natural resource management processes. The project will support the capacity development of local stakeholders and resource users, which will include private sector companies, local government representatives, forestry and agricultural staff, and other site-specific key stakeholders. In addition, the project has multiple education and awareness activities planned that will engage local communities, resource managers, and agriculture sector participants in biodiversity friendly development. Partnerships will be developed and established with gender balance and gender mainstreaming approaches in mind. The project will highlight at various points the mechanisms and channels of communication that stakeholders may employ if they have any grievances related to the social and environmental impacts of the project. For example, this point will be indicated during the project inception workshop, and through the project education and awareness activities.

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. The UNDP-NCE Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

A strict firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and charged to the GEF Fee and any support to project execution performed by UNDP (as requested by and agreed to by both the Implementing Partner and GEF). The segregation of functions and firewall provisions within UNDP in this case is described in the next section.

The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP?s Program and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. The program staff managing the contract with the RP does not perform any oversight function. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

iii.

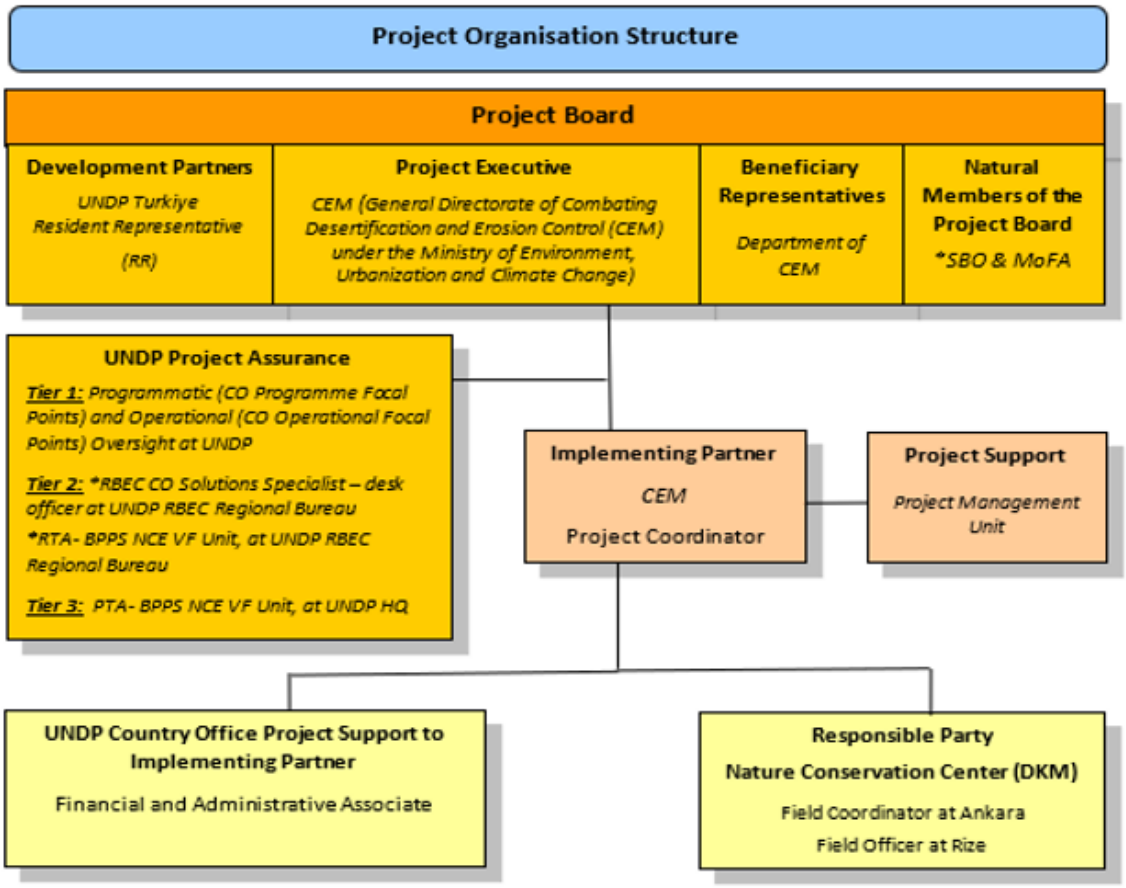
UNDP project execution support: The Implementing Partner as represented by the GEF OFP has requested UNDP to provide support services for the full duration of the project, and the GEF has provided no objection for UNDP to provide such execution support services, as follows:

? Signing agreements for implementation of specific tasks, including in particular with the Responsible partner (i.e. the Nature Conservation Center of Turkey)
? Transparent and competitive process for procurement of services for international consultants in relation to safeguards and independent external evaluation for terminal evaluation.
? Financial services, including processing of payments for the project contracts concluded with UNDP, which includes creation of vendors and payment reconciliation.
? Annual work planning, risk management, stakeholder engagement, coordination, communication, M&E, results tacking and project progress and financial reporting for the respective identified project activities in line with UNDP and GEF requirements.
? Arranging for financial auditing of project in line with UNDP rules and procedures; and
? Organization of training sessions for the Responsible Party on project management and capacity building on project execution

In line with agreements reached during the PPG, the GEF budget will not be charged for compensation (Direct Project Costs (DPC) to UNDP Country Office. Any costs associated with rendition of execution support by UNDP Country Office will be borne by UNDP Country office itself (as in-kind contribution to the project). To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independent from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

Section 2: Project governance structure

The **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be established by the General Directorate of Desertification and Erosion Control (CEM) and will consist of the Project Coordinator (assigned by the CEM), and a Financial and Administrative Associate (hired by UNDP). The Project Coordinator will be assigned by CEM and will be a CEM staff member. The PMU will perform day-to-day management of project activities, regular reporting and quality control. Also, the Project Management Unit, based on the Letter requesting UNDP?s execution support services, will be in charge of implementing the following activities as detailed in Annex 12 of UNDP Project Document.



First line o
- UNDP oversigh support to IP ca staff providing or providing pr oversight suppo

Second line
- Regional Burea and Country Of at portfolio lev
- BPPS NCE RTA quality assuran compliance. BB oversees RTA fu
- UNDP NCE Exec Coordinator an Bureau Deputy revoke DOA/ca project or prov oversight.

? BPPS-NCE: Bureau for Programme and Policy Support (BPPS) - Nature, Climate & Energy (NCE)

? The SBO (Strategy and Budget Office, Presidency of Republic of T?rkiye) and the MoFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) are natural members of the Project Board with a role to link the project results to the national development policy and oversight for international agreements.

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-?-vis UNDP representation on the project board:

As noted in the Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

In this case, UNDP?s oversight role in the project ? as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function ? is performed by UNDP Resident Representative, or their designated representative (member in the project board) and UNDP country office environment focal point (project assurance- non-voting member in the project board). UNDP?s execution role in the project will be performed by ?Financial and Administrative Associate? who will report to the Project Coordinator of the Implementing Partner.

Section 4: Roles and Responsiblities of the Project Organization Structure:

a) Project Board: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the ?Provide Oversight? section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.
2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ?Manage Change? section of the POPP).

Requirements to serve on the Project Board:
? Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
? Meet at least once annually;
? Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
? Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.
? Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the Project Board:
? Consensus decision making:
o The project board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
o Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
o The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
o In order to ensure UNDP?s ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
o In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.
? Oversee project execution:
o Agree on Project Coordinator?s tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the Project Coordinator?s tolerances are exceeded.
o Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
o Address any high-level project issues as raised by the Project Coordinator and project assurance

o Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
o Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
o Track and monitor co-financed activities and realization of co-financing amounts of this project.
o Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
o Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.
? Risk Management:
o Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
o Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project?s area of influence that have implications for the project.
o Receive and address project level grievances, including overseeing whatever specific compliance and stakeholder response (or grievance) mechanisms have been put in place so that individuals and communities potentially affected by the project have access to effective mechanisms and procedures for raising concerns about the social and environmental performance of the project.
o Provide oversight, guidance and monitoring of the implementation of social and environmental safeguards as defined by the UNDP SES procedures

? Coordination:
o Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programs.
o Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the Project Board: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner. In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is: **General Director of Desertification and Erosion Control (CEM) of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change (MEUCC)**
2. **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities such as from agriculture and forestry sectors benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are: **Department of Carbon Sinks** of the General Director of Desertification and Erosion Control (CEM)
3. **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner is **Resident Representative to UNDP Country Office of T?rkiye.**

b) **Project Assurance:** Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Coordinator. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP?s project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is/are: Programmatic (CO Programme Focal Point) and Operational (CO Operational Focal Point) Oversight at UNDP, RBEC CO Solutions Specialist ? desk officer at UNDP RBEC Regional Bureau, RTA- BPPS NCE VF Unit at UNDP RBEC Regional Bureau and PTA- BPPS NCE VF Unit at UNDP HQ.

Project Management ? Execution of the Project: The Project Coordinator (PC) (is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the activities executed by UNDP and RP, and mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The project coordinator typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers. A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is: The Project Coordinator.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

i. X National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC
ii. X National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD
iii. - ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury
iv. - Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
v. X National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
vi. - National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC
vii. - Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC
viii. X National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
ix. - National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
x. - Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
xi. - National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
xii. - Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC

- Others

The Turkiye National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2028 (NBSAP) is aligned with the Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with clear linkages to the National Rural Development Strategy. At least five of the seven Strategic Goals of the National Biodiversity Action Plan are to some extent embedded within the framework of this project: reducing pressure and threats on biodiversity and ecosystems, conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity of areas exposed to agriculture, forest and fisheries activities; raising awareness on ecosystem services; rehabilitating and restoration of ecosystems damaged and to prevent damage to healthy ecosystems; and long terms plans and programs to be developed. In addition, the project is highly relevant to and consistent with Turkiye?s national priorities related to land degradation as outlined in key national policy documents. Several measures against land degradation especially at productive agricultural landscapes have been mentioned in almost all development plans and annual programs of Turkiye. The Eleventh Development Plan of Turkiye (2019-2023) currently under implementation.

The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD: recognizes that need to develop action programs within the thematic areas of biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation, explore capacity needs within and across the three thematic areas, catalyze targeted and coordinated actions and link the country action to the broader environmental management and sustainable development framework. In terms of GEF, Turkiye has sought to seek if projects give priority to economic growth without sacrificing the environment; whether they serve the economic and social development of disadvantaged communities or support renewable energy and the green economy; whether they are feasible and result-oriented for concrete outputs; and whether they are able to mobilize multifocal areas and mechanisms other than the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources. Many strategies and action plans on combating climate change and land degradation, and on conserving biological diversity, have been developed with the support of GEF. Concrete examples so far developed in Turkiye are: ?In-Situ Conservation of Genetic Biodiversity?, ?National Capacity Self-Assessment for Global Environmental Management?, ?Development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan?, ?Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework?, ?Alignment of National Action Programs with the UNCCD 10-year Strategy and Reporting Process?, and ?Update the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants?. GEF-funded biodiversity projects have enabled us to perform gap analysis for our protected areas, to improve their national network, and to increase the number of steppe and marine ones. Projects on mitigating the impacts of climate change include promoting clean technology and energy efficient motors for small and medium sized enterprises, and the market transformation of energy efficient appliances and energy labelling to reduce carbon emissions. Global approaches on sustainable forestry have been integrated into Turkiye?s perspective with sustainable management of high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean Region, thus providing efficient carbon sequestration. As for combating desertification, a specific project will implement the concept of ?Land Degradation Neutrality? in Turkiye.

National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan: Following from "National Climate Change Strategy (2010-2020)" (NCCS) in 2010 and the "National Climate Change Action Plan (2011-2023)" in November 2011, Turkiye's "National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan" became available in 2011 (1st Edition). In addition to the framework of the strategy and the strategic objectives, this report defines certain adaptation objectives and describes actions on five vulnerability fields: water resources management; agricultural sector and food security; ecosystem services, biodiversity and forestry; natural disaster risk management; public health. Time periods, output and performance indicators, responsible for coordinating and other relevant organizations are also defined. The proposed project will also contribute to the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which specifically addresses land use, agriculture and forestry strategies. The project will support many of the short, medium and long-term strategies identified for mitigating GHG emissions (e.g. improved agricultural techniques, adoption of proven technologies for carbon sequestration and/or absorption in soil). Furthermore, the project will directly address one of the cross-cutting issues requiring capacity development, namely sustainable land management.

National Action Program on Combating Desertification (2019-2030): Turkiye undersigned the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 1998 with a view to reducing the effects of land degradation, desertification and drought, and it plays an active role in the implementation of the Convention.

In line with this purpose, the Action Plan and National Strategy to Combat Desertification was formulated, and a web-based monitoring-reporting system was established and the national LDN targets were set including forest soil conservation in 9,000 sq km by 2030, rehabilitate 7,500 sq km of pasture by 2030 and Rehabilitate 20,000 sq km agricultural land to improve productivity by 2030. The project is fully in line with the National Action Program on Combating Desertification, i.e. the National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Desertification 2019-2030 of Strategic Objective 1: To improve the condition of affected and prone to effect ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote SLM and contribute to LDN and Strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected and prone to effect populations and impacts 1.1, 1.2., 1.4., 2.1 and 2.3. of these strategic objectives which aim to improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, calls for identifying the causes of desertification and specifying appropriate responses for addressing the problems caused.

Land Degradation Neutrality National Report (2016-2023) establishes a range of national targets related to forestry, pasture lands, agricultural lands. The report assess that approximately 50,000 km2 of cultivable land (out of a total of 240,000 km2) is used for uneconomic activities resulting in loss of fertility due to erosion. It recognizes that the shrinking and fragmented nature of agriculture holdings, inappropriate ploughing-seeding planting in high slopes and margin regions, the inappropriate use of farm machinery, drought and unpredictable rainfall, inappropriate irrigation practices, limited efforts at land rehabilitation, stubble fires and overuse of pesticides and fertilizers are the drivers of land degradation. In terms of pasturelands, 64% of these lands are subject to various degrees of erosion that are caused by uncontrolled and excessive grazing, In terms of forests, a significant portion (estimated at 43%) of the country?s forests are degraded or damaged due to forest fires, illegal logging and change of land use for development purposes. Table 6.1 of the LDN report provides targets to be achieved by 2030 covering a total of around 275,000 km2, of which the project will contribute towards rehabilitation of agricultural, forest and grazing lands.

National Rural Development Plan (2021-2023): The project will support implementation of the National Rural Development Plan (2021-2023), which targets conservation of rural environment and natural resources in the view of principles of adaptation to climate change and green growth. The Rural Development Plan underscores the relationship between rural poverty and natural resource degradation, recognizing a significant increase in recent years in erosion and degradation of land and water resources in the country, in many cases due to improper farming techniques and increasing climate variability (droughts, floods and landslides). To mitigate these processes, the Plan gives priority to strategies, measures and activities that address desertification and promote proper management of land and water land resources. The sustainable land management practices included in the proposed project will directly contribute to the objectives and implementation of this Rural Development Plan.

The Eleventh Development Plan of Turkiye (2019-2023) currently under implementation clearly prioritizes the prevention of environmental pollution, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources and builds upon the priorities of the tenth development plan which strived for the management of the soil and water Resources through ?management systems? aiming at the sustainable use of water and soil. The eleventh development plan of Turkiye also prioritizes disaster risk reduction studies taking socio-economic and physical characteristics of the regions into consideration, prioritizing different types of disasters and by increasing cooperation activities throughout the country. According to the plan, disaster hazard and risk maps will be prepared taking scenarios regarding the impacts of climate change throughout the country into account and risk maps will be prepared according to the types of disasters in places with high levels of disaster hazard.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

Output 3.2 details the knowledge management activities to be undertaken by the project. This will in particular include knowledge generation and dissemination of experiences in the pilot sub-basin, including

written and audiovisual materials accessible to a broad audience through print, online, and other media outlets. The system will serve as a repository and mechanism for sharing and verification of land degradation data and knowledge products, best practices and experiences. Knowledge management, communication, and replication efforts will be guided by the following activities. this output will capture project lessons and experiences gained from pilot sites into different knowledge products ranging from more detailed technical reports to communication and outreach materials (e.g., technical reports, best practice notes, articles for peer-reviewed journals, articles for media, videos/ stories/ posters/ podcasts of project successes), design an online web page containing all the audiovisual and written knowledge products produced under the project, help organize a series of know-how sharing meetings in regions with similar climatic conditions and challenges to lay the groundwork for replication of project successes and design and undertake a communications and outreach plan to disseminate successful SLM approaches and practices that can combat against land degradation causing natural disasters in the long term. The Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region SLM Commission/Committee will play an important role in this regard. An end-of-project seminar will be conducted to share project lessons with policy makers, practitioners and provincial entities to promote replication and scaling up in the Eastern Black Sea Coastal Region.

The costs for specific knowledge management activities for the project (excluding capacity building) is discussed in Table 7 below:

Table 7: Knowledge Management Products and Costs

Knowledge Management Products	**Costs USD**	**Time Line**
Design and implementation of awareness and communication programs	20,000	Year 1 ? QTR 1 and 2
Documentation of best practices and manual	15,000	Year 3 ? QTR 3 and 4
Brochures, written documents and other KM materials	10,000	Year 1 ? QTR 2 through Year 3 -QTR 4
Best practice virtual products etc.	15,000	Year 1 ? QTR 2 through Year 3 -QTR 4
Conduct of communication and dissemination events	22,000	Year 1 ? QTR 2 through Year 3 -QTR 4
Technical oversight for supporting the communication and KM	5,000	Year 1 through Year 3
Travel associated with development and conduct of KM events	7,000	Year 1 through Year 3
Launch and Terminal Workshops	14,000	Year 1 ? QTR 1 (launch workshop) and YEAR 3 -QTR 4 (terminal workshop)
Total Costs	**108,000**	

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. The Monitoring Plan included in the UNDP Project Document details the roles, responsibilities, and frequency of monitoring project results. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation requirements.

Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies[1]. The costed M&E plan included below, and the Monitoring plan in Annex, will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be

undertaken by this project. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management.

Table 8: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget for project execution

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution:		
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)	**Indicative costs (US$)**	**Time frame**
Inception Workshop and Report	NA[2]	Inception Workshop within 2 months of the First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	7,000	Annually and at closure.
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	none	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring of SESP, ESMP, GAP, GRM, SEP etc.	25,000	On-going.
Supervision missions	None	Annually
Learning missions	None	As needed
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR): costs associated with conducting the independent review/evaluation to be commissioned by UNDP not the Implementing Partner or PMU.	NA	NA
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE): costs associated with conducting the independent evaluation to be commissioned by UNDP not the Implementing Partner or the PMU.	31,000 (including travel)	January 31, 2027
Add other project M&E activities noting this cannot include audit costs as these must be charged to the Project Management Costs.	NA	
TOTAL indicative COST	63,000	*Equivalent to TBWP component (M&E)*

[1] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

[2] Included under knowledge management component as its major intent is to inform key stakeholders of the details of the projects, its objectives, activities and anticipated roles of key stakeholders.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The socio-economic benefits in the project will be observed at the individual (household level) as well as at the collective community level for economic groups like farmers and forest dependents as follows:

? At least 1,000 people living, in and around the Kirechane micro-basin will directly benefit through improved tea plantation and SLM practices, forest resource use, sustainable agriculture, diversified livelihood improvements and improved ecosystem services.
? At least 20,000 persons indirectly benefiting from GEF investment (at least 50% women), including farmers receiving training and extension services by ?AYKUR and forest management plans updated to provide for community use of forest products
? Improved conservation of forested areas and watersheds, wetlands, community production areas practices will enhance the ecological value of the ecosystems for community benefits.
? Implementation of strategies and mainstreaming of sustainable resource use via the community organizations will result into sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry and community managed areas and f value chain products and services. This will collectively result in better conservation and livelihoods outcomes;
? Improved access to basic goods and technical services, technology and improved agriculture and forestry practices as well as diversification of livelihoods will ensure more livelihood options and better prices and income.
? The focus on addressing gender inequality wherein various initiatives, such as promotion of alternative livelihood options, participation of women in various local conservation committees are proposed. The project envisages more gender equality in context of sex ratio, decision making powers, ownership and control on marine sources and women leadership as well as participation;
? A reduction in the resource use conflicts and increase in effective implementation of sustainable agricultural and forestry resource use practices.
? Incremental funding through sustainable resource management measures will protect critical biodiversity and provide for improved and diversified livelihoods and incomes and a sustainability of such investments beyond the life of the project;
? Stable or improved populations of native species and improved environments will greatly enhance visitor experiences for increasing potential for community financial benefit.

Reduction in erosion and land degradation will help mitigate current loss of community productive assets

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Please find the SESP and ESMF documents attached.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex 10_ESMF_Turkey_FINAL_20 May_2023	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Annex 5_SESP_FINAL_4_	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Annex 10_Pre-SESP Turkey INRM	Project PIF ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture; SDG 5: Gender Equality: SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 15: Life on Land.				
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNSDCF & CPD): UNSDCF Outcome 3.1: By 2025, all relevant actors take measures to accelerate climate action, to promote responsible production and consumption, to improve the management of risks and threats to people, and to ensure sustainable management of the environment and natural resources in urban and ecosystem hinterlands. CPD Output 3.2: Integrated solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resource				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Project Objective: To establish the institutional and technical infrastructure in T?rkiye to achieve integrated natural resource management (INRM) in regions with very humid climate through demonstration of SLM techniques that blend the new global approaches and traditional knowledge in the Eastern Black Sea Coastal (EBSC) Region of T?rkiye	Indicator 1: GEF Core Indicator (CI) 11: (a) # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by sex (individual people) (b) # indirect project beneficiaries disaggregated by sex (individual people)	*(a) 0* *(b)* 0	*(a) At least 300 persons directly benefiting from GEF investment (50% female)* *(b) At least 1,200 persons indirectly benefiting (50% female)*	*(a) At least 1,000 persons directly benefiting from GEF investment (50% female)* *(b) At least 20,000 persons indirectly benefiting from GEF investment (50% female)*
	Mandatory GEF Core Indicator (CI) 2: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas) CI 4.1 Area of landscape (ha) under improved management to benefit biodiversity CI 4.3 Area of landscapes (ha) under SLM in production systems	*Direct impacts* *CI 4.1: 0 ha* *CI 4.3: 0 ha* *Indirect Impacts* *CI 4.1: 0 ha*	*Direct impacts* *CI 4.1: 2,000 ha of forest landscapes under improved management practices* *CI 4.3: 200 hectares* *Indirect Impacts* *CI 4.1:* *(a) 2,000 ha of forest production systems improved to benefit biodiversity* *(b) 1,000 ha of agricultural impact area under improved management to benefit biodiversity*	*Direct impacts* *CI 4.1: 13,723 ha* *CI 4.3[7]: 430 ha* *Indirect Impacts* *CI 4.1[8]:* *(a) 80,000 ha of indirect forest impact (total forest area within jurisdiction of Rize Forest Management Directorate)* *(b) 5,000 ha of indirect agricultural impact area (tea orchards in EBSC Region)*

	Mandatory Indicator 6: Number of metric tons of CO_{2e} mitigated over a 20-year period	0	*$C0_2$ measurement system established*	*1,041,277 metric tons of CO_2 mitigated over a 20-year period**[9]***
Project component 1	Integrated nature resource planning in landscapes with very humid climate			
Project Outcome 1 Improved systemic, institutional, and individual capacities for INRM planning in very humid climate zones in line with the national LDN framework of T?rkiye	Indicator 4 Status of Coordination mechanisms for planning and implementation of INRM/SLM activities among diverse sectors[10]	*No coordination mechanism in place for planning and implementation of INRM/SLM activities among diverse sectors**[11]***	*Rules and guidelines for platform for inter-agency coordination to enhance synergies and reduce conflicts agreed to and approved**[12]***	*SLM Commission/ Committee for Rize province fully operational and functional and actively support mainstreaming SLM across key sectors**[13]*** *Rules and guidelines for expansion of the SLM commission to entire EBSC Region agreed to, including membership and responsibilities defined*
	Indicator 5: Status of documentation of degree of land degradation in the Kirechane micro-basin and availability of methodology for assessment of land degradation in other areas, including entire EBRC Region Evide	*National and regional policies for plans and programs do not take adequate consideration factors such as climate change, degree of land degradation, etc.*	*Data and preparatory assessments for the pilot micro-basin covering land potential and land stratification, current land degradation status, resilience of current and proposed land uses, socioeconomic context, including assessment of gender equality and barriers to participation of women and youth, cost-benefit analysis of proposed interventions completed*	*Based on assessments, weighted vulnerability analysis completed to determine vulnerable areas and factors leading to this, resulting in development of practical measures to control and manage land degradation in the Kirechane micro-basin. Methodology note prepared for the replication in the EBSC Region.*

	Indicator 6: Status of recognition of opportunities in legislation and policies to implement the INRM Plan in the EBSC Region.	*Weaknesses and overlaps in policies and legislation impede effectiveness of institutions in addressing land degradation*	*Legislative gap analysis and review of policies for land governance, land-use planning, and natural resource conservation and management completed using SLM as a means to promote LDN compatible INRM*	*Policy papers and legislative recommendations developed on reforms needed to provide an effective framework for implementation of LDN/INRM in the EBSC Region*
	Indicator 7: Increase in capacity for integrated natural resources management in key sectors as measured by UNDP capacity development scorecard	*12 points*	*17 points*	*27 points*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	**Output 1.1.** An inter-agency panel on SLM for Rize Province established to coordinate the efforts on SLM among relevant stakeholder organizations. **Output 1.2.** Evidence-based documentation of the degree of land degradation in Rize Province, the main drivers of land degradation including the ones related to climate change, and the effect on the lowlands of floods caused by land degradation. **Output 1.3.** An INRM Plan prepared for a pilot micro-basin covering an area of 430 ha that is based on SLM principles. **Output 1.4.** Identification of policy measures and/or revisions to legislation that are needed to support implementation of the INRM Plan in humid climatic zones.			
Project component 2	Land based SLM practices in landscapes with very humid climate			
Outcome 2 Agriculture and forest lands in the pilot micro-basin of Kire?hane (430 ha) are under SLM practices that integrate new approaches at the global level with traditional agricultural practices (in line with the priorities set in	Indicator 8: # of demonstration smallholder farms adopting SLM and climate smart agricultural techniques	*Limited number of land users employing SLM techniques, including composting and a very poor interpretation of agroforestry. Baseline will be determined at inception phase when community planning and mapping is initiated*	*An additional 1 smallholder demonstrate farm*	*At least additional 2 smallholder demonstration farms*

the INRM plan defined under Output 1.3.)	Indicator 9: (i) Number of trainees from central administrative staff and strategic planners in local institutions, private sector and NGOs, disaggregated by sex (ii) Number of community members disaggregated by sex capacitated through awareness-raising, outreach and solutions for the control and management of unsustainable land practices	*(i) 0 (Current number not available, however, some SLM related training available, but no comprehensive cross-sectoral training program available for key staff)* *(ii) 0 (Current number not available due to limited integration of SLM management into natural and food production systems in the project area)*	*(i) 50 trainees (50% female)* *(ii) 1,000 community members (20% female)*	*(i) 100 trainees (50% female)* *(ii) 10,000 community members (20% female)*
	Indicator 10: # of viable agri-food value chains that avoid or reduce land degradation under implementation (i) identified and piloted with land-users/owners (ii) supported by DOKAP and MOAF	*0 (Opportunities for green recovery to boost local economy limited)*	*(i) 1 viable agri-food value chain identified and piloted with land-users/owners*	*(ii) 1 viable agri-food value chain supported by DOKAP and MOAF*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	**Output 2.1.** Traditional land use practices for croplands that cause zero harm to soil are identified with a specific focus on women farmers. **Output 2.2.** SLM practices for forests and agricultural lands planned in 430 ha of pilot micro-basin **Output 2.3.** Training activities and inter-basin peer to peer knowledge sharing activities promoted to enhance the capacities of forest managers, local farmers and farmer associations. **Output 2.4.** Resilience-building and income-generating models for sustainable value chains for the main products of the EBSC Region are identified and implemented			
Project component 3	Knowledge management and replication			

Outcome 3 Enhanced gender-sensitive impact monitoring, learning, and knowledge-sharing on SLM practices for agriculture, pasture and forest lands in steep and humid areas to promote learning and replication	Indicator 11: Percentage of sampled project stakeholders aware of potential threats and adverse impacts of unsustainable land management practices increased, disaggregated by sex	*Coordinated outreach on conservation threats and LD lacking. Limited awareness of impact unsustainable LD practices among the general public. Baseline Knowledge, Aptitudes and Practices (KAP) survey established to be undertaken in Year 1*	*25% of sampled project stakeholders (50:50 male and female) aware*	*75% of sampled project stakeholders aware (50:50 male and female)*
	Indicator 12**:** Number of best practices for sustainable land management documented, disseminated and under implementation nationally.	*0 (A few undocumented best practices and lessons available, but currently limited resources for their implementation)*	*1 Best Practice per sector documented, disseminated, and under implementation (agriculture and forestry)*	*3 best practices per sector documented, disseminated, and under implementation (agriculture and forestry)*
	Indicator 13: # of gender-sensitive communication products developed and shared with the stakeholders in the EBSC Region and beyond reaching up to 10,000 individuals	*0 (Gap in knowledge for sustainable land management, especially for tea and hazelnut production areas, as well as pasturelands in higher altitudes)*	*3 communication products shared with stakeholders (newspapers, magazines, radio, television, internet)*	*10 communication products shared with stakeholders (newspapers, magazines, radio, television, internet, in addition to school visits to DS? Flood Museum)*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3	**Output 3.1.** Sharing of best practices and lessons learned on SLM techniques through documentation and dissemination			
Project component 4: M&E				

Outcome 4: Monitoring to support adaptive project management	Indicator 13: Status of Annual Reports, safeguards compliance and evaluation	*No PIR reported, safeguard compliance tracking done and evaluation conducted*	*PIRs submitted annually; indicators monitored bi-annually, safeguards compliance tracked and Gender Action Plan Core Indicators followed-up periodically*	*All annual reports (PIRs) submitted; safeguards compliance tracked and Gender Action Plan Core Indicators followed-up periodically and Terminal evaluation conducted*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4	Output 4.1. Monitoring and evaluating project impacts and environmental, social and gender safeguards			

[1] *Current number not available, however, some SLM related training and extension services available, but no widespread and comprehensive actions being implemented.*

[2] *Includes (i) farmers in Kirechane micro-basin, foresters, government staff from relevant institutions (?EM + OGM + AFAD + DOKAP + DOKA + DS? + governorships, etc.) receiving SLM training; and (ii) farmers and community members benefiting from SLM demonstration and promotion of traditional land use activities and value-chain and livelihood promotion*

[3] *This will be measured by (i) number of farmers receiving training by ?AYKUR; (ii) number of farmers provided extension services by ?AYKUR and (iii) Forest management plans updated to provide for sustainable use of forest products*

[4] (a) ha of forest area within the 13,723 ha under Rize Forest Management Unit directly benefiting from SFM/SLM activities; (b) ha of indirect forest impact within around 80,000 ha forest area under jurisdiction of Rize Forest Management Directorate; (c) ha of indirect agricultural impact area within the 5,000 ha tea orchards in EBSC Region

[5] *No concerted efforts currently exist at landscape level that enables integrated and holistic natural resources management and practices. This explanation is valid for the baseline data of CI 4.3 as well.*

[6] *(a) 13,723 ha forest lands within the Rize Forest Management Unit under sustainable management to benefit biodiversity as defined by (i) Agreement to mainstreaming sustainable forest management and climate strategies in Rize Forest Management Unit forest management plan when due for revision (ii) Surveys completed within FMU to assess target species status for BD conservation, status of forest degradation/condition, water retention capacities, erosion assessment, topography ruggedness, etc.); (iii) revised forest management plan for Rize FMU integration of BD conservation, enhancing water retention capacity and erosion control; (iv) forest planning staff in Rize FMU trained in sustainable SFM and climate smart practices; (v) monitoring criteria s in place to access effectiveness of forest management.*

[7] *4430 hectares of Kirechane micro-basin under sustainable land management practices in production landscapes as measured by: (i) survey of landslide susceptibility, SOC, fertility and productivity status, forest cover and status, biodiversity, etc.); (ii) approval of LDN compatible INRM for micro-basin; (iii) SLM activities under implementation in 2-3 private farmer owned tea gardens to serve as demonstration sites; (iv) CAYKUR agreement to provide technical support, training and extension to promote SLM in tea lands; activities under demonstration in selected tea lands; (v)*

Regional Forest Management Directorate agreement to update Rize Forest Management Unit?s forest management plan to integrate SLM and SFM through biodiversity conservation, erosion control and action towards enhancing water retention; (vi) CAYKUR agreement to provide technical support, training and extension to promote SLM in tea lands; (vii) DOKAP and DOKA consideration to finance scaling up of SLM in tea lands within micro-basin as long-term strategy; (viii) monitoring criteria agreed to monitor improved outcomes and (ix) traditional land use practices shared with local stakeholders for house construction, farming or road building; archaic drainage systems or terraces for plantations, etc

[8] *(a) Around 80,000 ha of indirect forest impact (total forest area within 7 FMUs under jurisdiction of Rize Forest Management Directorate) as measured by: (i) general guidelines and practices developed for extending SFM within Rize Forest Management Directorate; (ii) survey and assessment methodology standardized for replication in FMUs within Rize Forest Management Directorate; (iii) Forest Directorate staff exposed to policies, guidelines and practices for integration of BD, enhancing water retention capacity and erosion control in forest management planning*

(b) 5,000 ha of indirect impact on agricultural productions systems in EBSC Region (covering around 6% of tea farmers in EBSC Region) as measured by (i) ?AYKUR training reaching around 1,600 farmers; (ii) promoting demonstration of SLM practices in their field trial sites; (iii) technical support and extension available to farmers who are willing to take up support sustainable agricultural practices; (iv) CAYKUR enhancing awareness materials, media promotion, availability of best management practices guidelines to promote SLM awareness and uptake; and (v) CAYKUR developing mechanisms/award schemes to recognize farmers and land owners that take up sustainable agricultural practices

[9] *Calculated on the basis of reduced loss of natural forests (1% to zero) from fire covering 13,723 hectares of natural forests in the Rize Forest Management Unit on account of development of forest management plan that integrates ecological and biological considerations, improved emphasis on fire management and assisted natural regeneration using native species, that would be complemented by provision of training and restoration guidelines to forest managers and support for nursery development for ANR promotion*

[10] *In (i) supporting implementation of LDN targets; (ii) development of GIS database on baseline status of LD; (iii) supporting and overseeing the development of LDN compatible INRM for the pilot Kirechane micro-basin (iv) promotion of coordination across the EBSC Region*

[11] *There are different levels of planning with some of them focused on specific sectors or landscapes, each being led by different institutions that are neither coordinated or managed collectively thus leading to severe conflict in management and use of land*
[12] *SLM Commission/ Committee for Rize province composed of key actors of land management such as ?AYKUR, the local branches of OGM, ?EM, DS?, TRGM, AFAD, DOKAP and DOKA to allow for increased communication, knowledge and experience sharing, and discussion around land management in the EBSC Region.*

[13] *As measured by: (i) number of key sectors participating; (ii) number of annual meetings; (iii) number of mainstreaming decisions made and acted upon*

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

No Comments received from STAP or Council Members

Comments	Response	Edits in Document
GEFSEC Comments		
Ensure that LDN is incorporated into the project	LDN is now reflected as a key aspect of the project	Refer UNDP Project Document Section III (pages 26 onwards) and GEFCEO ER Alternate Scenario (pages 22 onwards)

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 50,000 USD

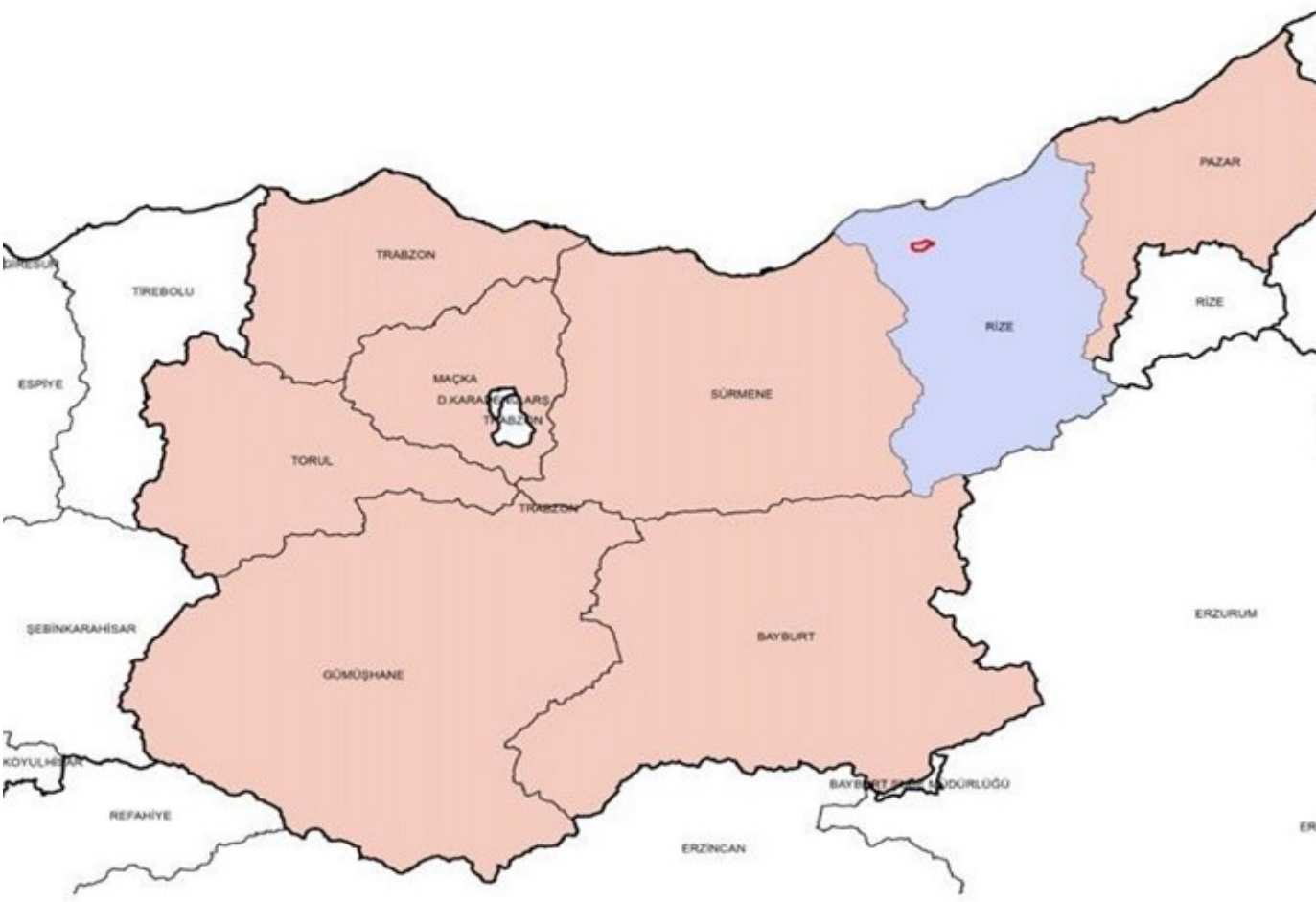
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	*GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)*		
	Budgeted Amount	*Amount Spent To date*	*Amount Committed*
71200 ? International Consultants ? International Consultant for Integrated Natural Resource Management and Project Development (Team Leader) ? International Consultant on Sustainable and Environmental Safeguards Procedures (SESP) & Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)	USD 31,000.00?????	USD 31,050.00?????	USD 3,250.00?????
71300 ? Local Consultants	USD 14,000.00	USD 0.00	USD 0.00
71400 ? Contractual Services Individual	USD 0.00	USD 7,653.10	USD 0.00
71600 ? Travel	USD 3,000.00	USD 0.00	USD 3,000.00
71500 ? Supplies	USD 300.00	USD 0.00	USD 0.00
74500 ? Miscellaneous Expenses	USD 200.00	USD 0.00	USD 0.00

74100 ? Professional Services ? Cost of expertise required to conduct a micro-assessment study for the Implementing Partner (CEM)	USD 0.00	USD 1,860.00	USD 0.00
75700 ? Training, Workshops ? Workshops/Stakeholder Meetings: Project validation workshop (including venue hire, audio-visual hire, international&national consultant travel, etc.)	USD 1,500.00	USD 1,245.93	USD 1,940.97
Total	USD 50,000.00	USD 41,809.03	USD 8,190.97

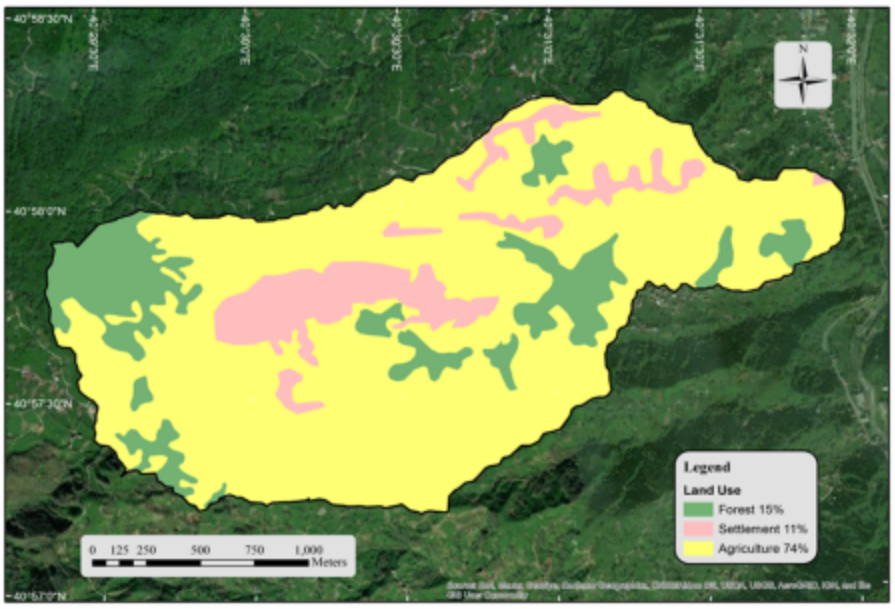
The figures under Amount Committed column are indicative and the unspent PPG funds will be returned to GEF.

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

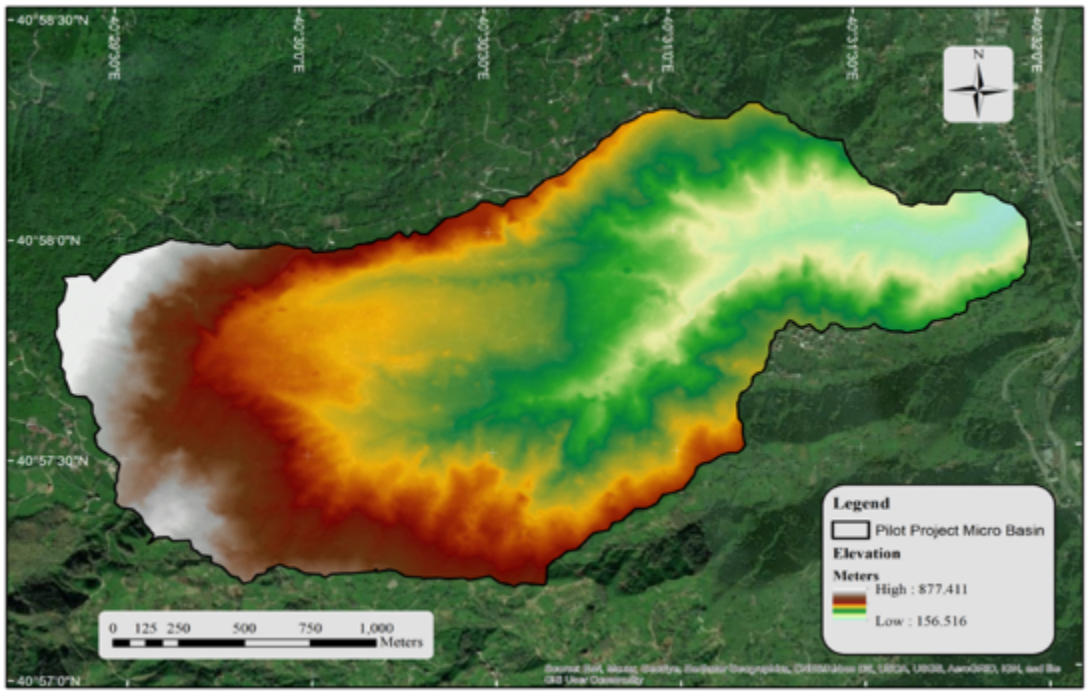
Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.



Map E 1: EBSC Region Map showing provinces, including Rize Province



Map E 2: Land Use in Kirechane Micro-basin



Map E 3: Elevation in Kirechane Micro-basin

Please refer to CEO ER (p.82-83) for Map E 4 and E 5 as the GEF Portal is not uploading more images within this section.

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as:https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)												Total (USD eq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency) [1]
		Component 1				*Component 2*				*Component 3*	*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Sub-component 1.1	*Sub-component 1.2*	*Sub-component 1.3*	*Sub-component 1.4*	*Sub-component 2.1*	*Sub-component 2.2*	*Sub-component 2.3*	*Sub-component 2.4*	*Sub-component 3.1*					

Equipment/ Vehiches	Field equipment for farmers ($15,000), maps ($10,000), IT equipment ($5,000) - (RP)						30,000				30,000			30,000	RP (DKM)
Equipment/ Vehiches	IT equipment ($5,000) - (RP)								5,000		5,000			5,000	RP (DKM)
Equipment/ Vehiches	Data and map purchase, sampling for monitoring purposes - (RP)													-	RP (DKM)
Equipment/ Vehiches	Laptop and software purchase for PMU - (RP)												5,370	5,370	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services ? Company	For INRM planning exercise cost (RP)			40,000							40,000			40,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services ? Company	Best practice visuals ($3,000), economic activities ($5,000) and brochures on SLM ($5,000) - (RP)					13,000					13,000			13,000	RP (DKM)

Contractual Services ? Company	Cost of Integrated Forest Management Planning ($50,000), Farmer demonstration ($250,000), Non-agriculture demos ($30,000), cost of pilot investments ($20,000), SLM brochures cost ($4,000), Field activities ($4,000)-(RP)						358,000				358,000			358,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services ? Company	SLM brochures ($4,000), Field activities ($4,000) - (RP)							8,000			8,000			8,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services ? Company	SLM brochures ($4,000), Field activities ($4,000), income generation activities ($20,000) - (RP)								28,000		28,000			28,000	RP (DKM)

Contractual Services ? Company	Preparation costs of communication plan and activities ($20,000), SLM education materials cost ($10,000), visual publications, short-films and podcasts cost ($15,000) - (RP)									45,000	45,000			45,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for Field Coordinator ($15,000 - [$35,000 per year@for 3 years total salary $105,000]) and Field Officer ($4,000 - [$33,334 per year@3 years total salary $100,000]) - (RP)	19,000									19,000			19,000	RP (DKM)

Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for Field Officer ($10,000 - [$33,334 per year@3 years total salary $100,000]) - (RP)		10,000								10,000			10,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for ield Officer ($25,000 - [$33,334 per year@3 years total salary $100,000]) (RP)			25,000							25,000			25,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for Field Coordinator ($17,000 - [$35,000 per year@for 3 years total salary $105,000]) and Field Officer ($9,000 - [$33,334 per year@3 years total salary $100,000]) (RP)				26,000						26,000			26,000	RP (DKM)

Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for Field Officer ($10,000 - [$33,334 per year@3 years total salary $100,000]) (RP)					10,000					10,000			10,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for Field Officer ($25,000 - [$33,334 per year@3 years total salary $100,000]) - (RP)						25,000				25,000			25,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for Field Coordinator ($10,000 - [$35,000 per year@for 3 years total salary $105,000]) and Field Officer ($4,000 - [$33,334 per year@3 years total salary $100,000]) (RP)							14,000			14,000			14,000	RP (DKM)

Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs Field Officer ($11,000 - [$33,334 per year@3 years total salary $100,000]) (RP)								11,000		11,000			11,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for Field Coordinator ($3,000 - [$35,000 per year@for 3 years total salary $105,000]) and Field Officer ($2,000 - [$33,334 per year@3 years total salary $100,000]) - (RP)									5,000	5,000			5,000	RP (DKM)
Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for Field Coordinator ($7,000 - [$35,000 per year@for 3 years total salary $105,000]) a (RP)											7,000		7,000	RP (DKM)

Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Financial and administrative associate part time (600 day * $66.67 per day @ 3 years $40,000) - UNDP												40,000	40,000	UNDP
Contractual Services-Imp Partn	Partial costs for Field Coordinator ($53,000 - [$35,000 per year@for 3 years total salary $105,000]) (50% of salary costs of FC)												53,000	53,000	RP (DKM)
International Consultants	Safeguard Consultant ($25,000), terminal evaluation consultant ($25,000) - all RP										-	50,000		50,000	UNDP

Local Consultants	For Sustainable Forest Specialist (40 days @$250/day=$10,000), Sustainable Agriculture Specialist (20 days @$250/day=$5,000), Climate expert (20 days @$250/day=$5,000) - (RP)		20,000								20,000			20,000	RP (DKM)
Local Consultants	For Sustainable Forest Specialist (40 days @$250/day=$10,000), Sustainable Agriculture Specialist (60 days @$250/day=$15,000), Climate expert (20 days @$250/day=$5,000) and Gender Specialist (8 days @$250/day=$2,000) - (RP)			32,000							32,000			32,000	RP (DKM)

Local Consultants	For Sustainable Forest Specialist (20 days @$250/day=$5,000), Sustainable Agriculture Specialist (20 days @$250/day=$5,000) - (RP)				10,000						10,000			10,000	RP (DKM)
Local Consultants	For Sustainable agriculture specialist (20 days @$250/day=$5,000) - (RP)					5,000					5,000			5,000	RP (DKM)
Local Consultants	For Safeguard Specialist (50 days @$400/day=$20,000) - UNDP						20,000				20,000			20,000	UNDP

Local Consultants	For Sustainable Forest Specialist (40 days @$250/day=$10,000), Sustainable agriculture specialist (60 days @$250/day=$15,000), Soil&Water consultant (20 days @$250/day=$5,000) Gender specialist (8 days @$250/day=$2,000) - (RP)						32,000				32,000			32,000	RP (DKM)
Local Consultants	Gender Specialist (8 days @$250/day=$2,000) - (RP)							2,000			2,000			2,000	RP (DKM)
Local Consultants	Income generation expert (25 days @$400/day $10,000)								10,000		10,000			10,000	RP (DKM)
Local Consultants	For Best practice documentation expert (60 days @$250/day=$15,000) - (RP)									15,000	15,000			15,000	RP (DKM)

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	For inter-agency panel consultation costs ($6,000) - (RP)	6,000									6,000			6,000	RP (DKM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	For inter-agency panel consultation costs ($2,000) - (IP)	2,000									2,000			2,000	IP (CEM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	For consultation costs for mapping micro-basin ($9,000) (RP)		9,000								9,000			9,000	RP (DKM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	For consultation costs for mapping micro-basin ($3,000) (IP)		3,000								3,000			3,000	IP (CEM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Consultation meetings for INRM planning ($8,000) and Workshops for gender mainstreaming ($2,500) - (RP)			10,500							10,500			10,500	RP (DKM)

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Consultation meetings for INRM planning ($4,000) - (IP)			4,000							4,000			4,000	IP (CEM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Consultation workshops cost for the policy and legislative review ($3,000) - (RP)				3,000						3,000			3,000	RP (DKM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Consultation workshops cost for the policy and legislative review ($3,000) -(IP)				3,000						3,000			3,000	IP (CEM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Consultation workshops cost for traditional practices (IP)					3,000					3,000			3,000	IP (CEM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Consultation workshops for pilot SLM implementation ($4,000) - (RP)						4,000				4,000			4,000	RP (DKM)

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Consultation workshops for pilot SLM implementation ($2,000) - (IP)						2,000				2,000			2,000	IP (CEM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training cost for in site demonstrations ($5,000), Capacity building for SLM farmers ($43,000) and SLM training for staff ($2,500) - (RP)							50,500			50,500			50,500	RP (DKM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training cost for in site demonstrations ($5,000) - (IP)							5,000			5,000			5,000	IP (CEM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training on income generation activities for communities ($13,000) and Training on income generation activities for farmers ($10,000) - (RP)								23,000		23,000			23,000	RP (DKM)

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Training on income generation activities for farmers ($2,000) - (IP)								2,000		2,000			2,000	IP (CEM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	KM and demonstration workshops cost ($22,000) - (RP)									22,000	22,000			22,000	RP (DKM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Launch workshop ($6,000) and Terminal workshop cost ($8,000) - (IP)									14,000	14,000			14,000	IP (CEM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Cost of meetings related to safeguard management ($7,000) - (RP)													-	RP (DKM)
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Inception workshop cost ($6,000) - (IP)													-	IP (CEM)
Travel	Travel cost of inter-agency panel for the Rize Province -(RP)	5,000									5,000			5,000	RP (DKM)

Travel	Travel cost for mapping micro-basin (RP)		5,000								5,000			5,000	RP (DKM)
Travel	Travel cost for INRM planning consultation meetings (RP)			5,000							5,000			5,000	RP (DKM)
Travel	Travel cost for the policy and legislative review meetings (RP)				2,000						2,000			2,000	RP (DKM)
Travel	Travel cost for consultation on traditional practices (RP)					3,000					3,000			3,000	RP (DKM)
Travel	Travel costs for supporting SLM practices (RP)						10,000				10,000			10,000	RP (DKM)

Travel	Travel cost for capacity building programs ($14,000) and Travel cost for staff to participate in regional SLM related study tours ($35,000) - (RP)							49,000			49,000			49,000	RP (DKM)
Travel	Travel cost for income generation activities - (RP)								5,000		5,000			5,000	RP (DKM)
Travel	Travel cost related to KM and awareness (RP)									7,000	7,000			7,000	RP (DKM)
Travel	Travel cost for international consultants ($4,000), travel cost related to monitoring ($2,000) - (RP)											6,000		6,000	RP (DKM)
Other Operating Costs	Audit charges (3 years@$5,000 per/year=$15,000) - (UNDP)										-		15,000	15,000	UNDP

Grand Total	**32,000**	**47,000**	**116,500**	**44,000**	**34,000**	**481,000**	**128,500**	**84,000**	**108,000**	**1,075,000**	**63,000**	**113,370**	**1,251,370**	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).