



Strengthening the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Forest Landscapes in Turkey's Kazdağlari Region

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10369

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT

NGI

Project Title

Strengthening the Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Forest Landscapes in Turkey's Kazdağlari Region

Countries

Turkey

Agency(ies)

FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)

Executing Partner Type

Other Executing Partner(s)

- General Directorate Of Forestry (GDF) - General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Gender Equality, Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Mainstreaming, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Local Communities, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Beneficiaries, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Capacity Development

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Duration

60 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

442,466

Submission Date

10/10/2019

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	1,387,557	6,000,000
BD-2-7	GET	1,135,274	5,500,000
LD-1-2	GET	1,034,703	6,000,000
LD-1-3	GET	1,100,000	7,500,000
	Total Project Cost (\$)	4,657,534	25,000,000

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management in the Kazdaglari region for environmental and socio-economic benefits

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
1. Strengthening Turkey's PAs system within a sustainable landscape management context.	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Consolidated protected areas system that is representative of Turkey's biodiversity, supported by sustainably managed landscapes: with a range of clearly defined governance mechanisms, standardized monitoring framework for application to individual protected areas, buffer zones and production landscapes.</p> <p><i>Indicators</i></p> <p><i>Strategic analysis of current status of Turkey's KBAs and WWF ecotypes, accompanied by Action Plan for increasing their extent and level of protection within the PAs system.</i></p> <p><i>Comprehensive protected areas GIS and knowledge platform that also tracks monitoring of their management status and ecological condition. Linked to Noah's Ark (http://www.nuhungemisi.gov.tr).</i></p> <p><i>Modular training programme on protected areas and landscape management designed, applied in Kazdağlari Region and institutionalized within MAF for applying to other regions.</i></p> <p><i>National Financing Strategy applied to Kazdağlari Region and developed into individual Action Plans for respective protected area management plans.</i></p>	<p>1.1.1 Governance models developed for different categories of protected areas and aligned with IUCN Protected Areas Categories system, with guidelines. (Note that models will be informed by Output 2.2.1)</p> <p>1.1.2 Comprehensive gap analysis undertaken for Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and WWF ecotypes. (Note that this will inform Output 2.2.2)</p> <p>1.1.3 National policy for the managing Buffer Zones and Ecological Corridors, with guidelines for its application to protected areas.</p> <p>1.1.4 Information system established/strengthened to provide: comprehensive statistical and spatial data on location, biodiversity and status</p>	GET	600,674	3,250,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
2. Integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of productive forests and agricultural areas across Kazdağlari's landscapes.	Technical Assistance	<p>2.1 Kazdağlari Region managed in an integrated, holistic manner to safeguard its unique biodiversity, enhance the functioning of its ecosystems and ensure the provisioning of goods and services for its social and economic prosperity.</p> <p><i>Indicators</i></p> <p><i>Strategic Vision for Kazdağlari supported by Regional Forum, with members signed up to deliver specific actions – including 100% of municipalities.</i></p> <p>2.2 Improved coverage^[1], governance and effective management of protected areas for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning (health) and social well-being.</p> <p><i>Indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in total area under protection (target: tbc) • Increase in METT score for <i>Kazdağlari NP and other target protected areas for which management plans developed/strengthened. (target: tbc)</i> • Gender representation on protected area steering committees, Kazdağlari Regional Forum and other governance-related bodies (at least 30% women). 	<p>2.1.1 Strategic vision (25 years) and 5-year Action Plan developed, agreed and initiated to conserve Kazdağlari's biodiversity, sustainably manage its ecosystem goods and services and restore its degraded lands.</p> <p>2.1.2 Regional Forum, comprising representatives from government, NGOs, communities and private sector established to inform the Kazdağlari Vision and support the delivery of its Action Plan.</p> <p>2.2.1 Protected area management plans for Kazdağlari National Park, Daridere and Ayazmapinari Natural Parks^[1], Kazdağı Göknaı Natural Reserve^[2], and at least one example of each category of other protected area (Seed</p>	GET	3,511,633	18,850,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
3. Awareness raising, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge management	Investment	<p>3.1 Improved awareness of protected areas and sustainable land management at landscape scales, access to relevant knowledge, accountable project implementation with M&E results shared among stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Indicators</i></p> <p><i>Levels of awareness about sustainable integrated landscape management for conservation and for ecosystem goods and services raised within MoAF and Kazdağlari (regional and local government, private sector, NGOs, citizens and visitors), based on KAP surveys of their knowledge, attitudes and practices (targets to be set once baseline confirmed at PPG/inception stage).</i></p> <p><i>Project knowledge products (e.g. guidelines, technical reports) and implementation progress reports (e.g. annual PIRs, Project Steering Committee minutes) disseminated routinely and accessible via knowledge platform.</i></p>	<p>3.1.1 Communications Strategy prepared at project inception, with mechanisms and media for raising awareness about protected areas within the context of integrated resource management at landscape scales identified; and accompanied by Action Plan of events, coordination mechanisms, educational materials, knowledge products and media to target relevant sectors. Strategy will take into account: gender equity and other social inclusion issues, identified in the Gender Strategy and Action Plan (appended to Project Document).</p> <p>3.1.2 Project M&E results and achievements disseminated to all stakeholders and accessible via platform established under Output 1.1.4.</p>	GET	323,440	1,740,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	4,435,747	23,840,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
			GET		221,787	1,160,000
			Sub Total(\$)		221,787	1,160,000
			Total Project Cost(\$)		4,657,534	25,000,000

C. Indicative 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(\$)
Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (staff time, facilities, transport services, etc)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,200,000
Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Grant	Investment mobilized	17,300,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Unknown at this stage	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000
			Total Project Cost(\$)	25,000,000

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

These are MAF funds corresponding to government programs (not recurrent costs) to carry out biodiversity inventories, forest inventories, NWFP inventories and investments in the project target area.

D. Indicative 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(\$)
FAO	GET	Turkey	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,522,831	239,669	2,762,500
FAO	GET	Turkey	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,134,703	202,797	2,337,500
Total GEF Resources(\$)					4,657,534	442,466	5,100,000

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

PPG Amount (\$)

136,986

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

13,014

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Turkey	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	74,200	7,049	81,249
FAO	GET	Turkey	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	62,786	5,965	68,751
Total Project Costs(\$)					136,986	13,014	150,000

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park	125689	Select				<input type="checkbox"/>

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
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Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Kaz Mountains	125689	SelectNational Park	25,000.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
7500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
7,500.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
50000.00	0.00	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)
25,000.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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)
25,000.00			

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	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 CO₂e (direct)	909454	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
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Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	909,454			
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2021			
Duration of accounting	20			

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

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

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	750			
Male	750			
Total	1500	0	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

(i) *The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed;*

General background and problem description

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1. Due to its location between two continents and the diversity of its geographic features and climate conditions, Turkey hosts a rich and irreplaceable biodiversity. The country is almost contained by three of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots, namely the Caucasus, Irano-Anatolian and Mediterranean hotspots[1]¹, and displays the character of a small continent in terms of biodiversity[2]². Faunal diversity is high in Turkey, with an estimated 60,000-80,000 invertebrate species (mostly insects) and nearly 1,500 vertebrate species. Similarly for floral diversity, Turkey hosts nearly 9,500 seed plant species of which one-third are endemic.

2. Turkey is a center of genetic diversity and, given its 10,000-year history of natural resource use, has a rich heritage of traditional knowledge of biocultural diversity[3]³. Situated at the intersection of the Mediterranean and Near East Vavilovia gene centres, there are 5 micro-gene centres in Turkey of more than 100 species that are diversity centers or refuges for other economically important plant species[4]⁴. While the biodiversity manifest in Turkey is important for national food security, it is also regionally important, since Turkey's diverse soil and agro-climatic conditions is similar to those of some other countries[5]⁵.

3. The government of Turkey has made significant efforts to protect its globally important biodiversity including: development of a legal and policy framework for biodiversity protection, identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), establishment of a protected areas (PAs) system and design of a biodiversity monitoring system[6]⁶. Beginning with the declaration of the first national park in 1958, some 9.1% of Turkey has been designated some form of protection. This PAs system is elaborated further in the next Section (2).

4. Threats to Turkey's biodiversity vary by ecosystem and have been analyzed in detail[7]⁷. These can be summarized as: (i) habitat change/loss stemming from expansion of the agricultural frontier, infrastructural development (including transport and residential expansion), mining and forest fires; (ii) overexploitation of resources, including excessive pressure on water resources (water supply), agricultural intensification (including intensive irrigation schemes and use of pesticides) and abandonment of lands once they are no longer productive, overgrazing, and overexploitation of wood and non-wood forest products (including illegal wood cuttings); (iii) climate change; (iv) invasive species; and (v) pollution, including wastewater and discharges from urban areas and pesticides and nutrients from agriculture.

5. In terms of species diversity, the impact of these and other threats is significant. Of 1,322 vertebrate species assessed according to the IUCN threat categories, 201 species (15%) are threatened (i.e. critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable) and four fish species are extinct. Amphibians are most threatened (36% of 28 species assessed), followed by fishes (21% of 638 species assessed) and reptiles (19% of 108 species assessed). Flowering plants are similarly impacted: not only are 15% of 676 assessed species threatened but a much higher proportion (60%) of these are critically endangered (62 of 104 threatened species) as compared with 20% in the case of vertebrates (41 of 201 threatened species)[8]⁸. Many of these threatened species are endemic to Turkey, raising their conservation priority: 36 (51%) in the case of the 71 vertebrate species assessed (22 fish, 7 amphibian and 7 reptile species); and 80 (75%) of the 107 flowering plant species assessed.

6. Pressure on the country's natural resources has also resulted in significant land degradation[9]⁹, including deforestation/forest degradation, soil erosion, wind erosion, soil fertility decline, waterlogging and salinization, lowering of the water table and rangeland degradation. Turkey's 5th National Report to the CBD states that more than half of Turkey's forest ecosystems have been destroyed by overexploitation (hunting, grazing, lumbering, visitors), climate change, forest fires, pests, among others.

7. Turkey signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 1998 with a view to reducing land degradation, desertification and drought. It plays an active role in its implementation:

- An Action Plan and National Strategy to Combat Desertification was formulated, accompanied by a web-based monitoring reporting system;
- Turkey hosted COP 12 in October 2015 and continues to hold the Presidency;
- The Ankara Initiative (2016-2019) is contributing actively to the implementation of Convention;
- Turkey participated in the 2014-2015 project *Towards Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality: Turning the Concept into Practice*¹⁰; and
- Organised an LDN National Target Setting Workshop for the African Region within the scope of the *LDN Target Setting Programme*¹⁰

8. Government has formulated a wide range of national policies and legislation relating to LDN. These include: Soil Protection and Land Use Law No. 5403, Agriculture Act No. 5488, National Mobilization for Afforestation and Erosion Control Law No. 4122, Forest Act No. 6831, Pasture Act No. 4342, Environment Act No. 2872, Organic Agriculture Act No. 5262, Agriculture Reform Regarding Land Arrangement in Irrigation Areas Law No. 3083, National Parks Law No. 2873, Good Agricultural Practices Regulation and the Organic Agriculture Regulation. Also relevant is the 2018-2028 National Biological Diversity Action Plan (NBAP) in respect of human, animal and plant health protection and food safety.

9. Within the above context, the proposed project seeks to improve biodiversity conservation in Turkey by demonstrating how part of the Protected Area (PA) system can be strengthened in the Kazdaglari region within a sustainable forest and, to a lesser extent, agricultural landscape management context. The main barriers that need to be addressed to overcome the problems described above are elaborated below.

Barriers

10. The main obstacles to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Turkey are identified in the latest National Reports to the CBD. These include (i) a lack of a holistic approach to the development of the national PA system, (ii) limited inter-sectoral coordination and limited budget allocated to biodiversity conservation, (iii) weak

institutional and technical capacities, and (iv) limited alternative livelihood opportunities. Additionally, the absence of an analysis of the representativeness of Turkey's PAs system, particularly with respect to KBAs constrains the strategic direction and resourcing of the nation's efforts to conserve and sustainably manage its biodiversity because of the need to prioritise gaps in ecological representation, connectivity and management.

Barrier #1 Lack of a holistic approach to the development of the national PA system

11. The PA system has grown sporadically and as opportunities present themselves; and without any coordination or collaboration between the several agencies having a mandate for establishing and managing the various types of PA. Currently, there is little appreciation or understating about the extent to which PAs are representative of Turkey's biodiversity. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), which are identified on the basis of globally recognized criteria, have been mapped for the country some years ago but an assessment of their covering within the existing PAs system has yet to be completed. This is fundamental to the development of a holistic approach for the national PA system, along with streamlining their governance in alignment with international standards and guidance (IUCN categories system), establishing a robust framework for monitoring their condition and effectiveness of being managed, and ensuring that their *financing is viable and sustainable*.

Barrier #2 Inadequate planning, lack of sectoral coordination and local level engagement

12. There is very little coordination or integration between protected areas (PA) and productive landscapes management planning. PAs are in general managed in isolation. For example, forest management planning and implementation do not take into account any important ecosystem services, and happen completely independent from bordering protected areas management planning and implementation. Biodiversity conservation, currently, is not even a consideration in many buffer zones. The national PAs system does not include systematic conservation approaches within buffer zones and ecologic corridors. The inclusion of the buffer zones and ecological corridors in the PA system, and the institution of effective conservation regimes geared to threat mitigation are fundamental to securing long term protection. The combined effect of inadequate PA coverage and management approaches that are not geared to effective threat abatement constitutes an overarching barrier to enhancing the effective management of the PA system.

13. Lack of engagement of local level stakeholders is also a significant barrier in both planning and subsequent implementation. Participation of local level stakeholders is very minimal at this stage, and women are largely absent in decision making processes. Local level support and engagement is absolutely essential for any successful conservation and resource management effort.

Barrier #3 Weak institutional and technical capacities at national, regional and local levels

14. Institutional and technical capacities, *mainly at sub-regional and sub-district levels*, are too weak to ensure effective management of forest resources and conservation of biodiversity. The weakness extends from ability to develop proper management plans, to specific technical aspects like biodiversity monitoring, harvesting techniques, etc. This barrier is significant, as these institutions have the primary mandate to manage the protected areas and forests outside PAs, and are required to work with local stakeholders and provide technical leadership to support sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

Barrier #4 Lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities

15. One of the significant barriers in ensuring biodiversity conservation and SFM in protected areas and in forests outside protected areas is the lack of adequate livelihood opportunities for local populations living in and around the forests. Time and again, it has been demonstrated around the world that with adequate economic incentives local communities are willing to participate and engage in sustainable management of natural resources. Though at present, in the project region, communities are engaged in activities that provide them a certain level of income, this is neither sustainable nor adequate and results in over- and unsustainable utilization of natural resources.

16. The main forest-based livelihood activities at the local level are related to the collection and processing non wood forest products (NWFPs). Though there are utilization plans with detailed inventories and programmes for specific NWFPs (detailing amount of collection allowed, etc.), there are no systematic efforts to develop the corresponding value chains for local benefits (as mentioned before, there are no management plans). This severely limits the economic benefits that can be derived by the local communities from the valuable NWFPs in the forests. The local business enterprises that exist are small and weak, and do not have any local organization or connection to market entities.

(ii) Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

Protected areas system in Turkey

17. The existing PAs system is neither holistic in terms of its representativeness of Turkey's biodiversity nor effectively managed with regard to conserving ecosystems and their associated species in perpetuity and to securing ecosystem services upon which local communities and society at large are increasingly dependent (e.g. carbon sequestration, public enjoyment and mental health, public and agricultural water supplies, clean air, safe food, forest products etc)..

18. Turkey's PAs system amounts to some 71,102 km², which equates to 9.1% of the country's total area (783,562 km²), details about which are summarized in Table 1. It comprises a variety of many different types of protected area, from national parks and forest reserves to *in-situ* seed stands, urban forest and caves that fall within the mandate of two separate ministries – Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry (MAF) and Ministry of Environment & Urbanization (MEU). Thus, 3.2% of the country falls under the management of MAF and 5.8% under that of MEU.

19. A small number of these protected areas, parts of them or larger areas that incorporate them as in the case of biosphere reserves are also recognized for their global conservation importance under a various international conventions and other policy instruments. In the case of World Heritage sites (natural and mixed natural/cultural) a third Ministry, Culture & Tourism, is involved as the focal point to the Convention. It is also notable that having signed up to the Barcelona Convention in 1976 (ratified in 1981) and also ratified the Specially Protected Areas Protocol in 1986, Turkey has yet to designate any SPAs (**Table 1**).

20. Assessment of the PAs system is fraught by many shortcomings with the data, notably:

- Relative inaccessibility of basic information about Turkey's PAs, to the extent that virtually none is recorded in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) maintained by UNEP–WCMC. This reflects a lack of coordination among agencies and their respective ministries to share data on their respective PAs and establish a common PAs information system that can be made widely accessible.

- Such PAs data that are accessible are rife with mistakes, particularly with regard to use of decimal points when denoting the size of PAs, as in the case of Table 2 of the 2018-2028 NBSAP Addendum Action Plan that summarises Turkey's PAs. [11]¹¹

Some categories of protected sites, such as *ex situ* seed orchards and possibly some urban forests, may not comply with the IUCN (or CBD) definition of protected area[12]¹². Not only does the WDPA act as a filter for validation purposes but it also provides the opportunity to classify PAs according to a global system of categories, which is useful both globally and nationally for accounting, accountability, assessment and comparison purposes.

Table 1: List of Protected Areas in Turkey (NBSAP Addendum Action Plan 2018-2028, corrected/updated)

#	Protected Area Designation	Number	Area (ha)	Legislation	Responsible Authority
Nationally designated protected areas					Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
1	National Park	44	846,288.40	2873 National Parks Law and Bylaw on National Parks	
2	Natural Park	243	106,452.70		
3	Natural Reserve	30	46,797.18		
4	Natural Monument	112	7,487.82		
	Subtotal	429	1,007,026.10		
5	Wildlife Development Area	81	1,172,133.00	4915 Hunting Wildlife Law and Bylaw on Wildlife	
6	Wildlife Protection Site	1	8,000.00		
	Subtotal	82	1,180,133.00		
7	Wetland of National Importance	48	714.13	Bylaw on Protection of Wetlands	
8	Wetland of Local Importance	9	10.29		
	Subtotal	57	724.42		
9	Forest Reserve	55	251,519.00	6831 Forest Law	
10	Gene Conservation Forest (in-situ)	312	42,329.00		
11	Seed Stand (in-situ)	317	41,992.00		

12	Seed Orchard (ex-situ)	197	1,457.00		
13	Urban Forest	137	10,363.00		
	Subtotal	1,018	347,660.00		
	MAF Total	1,586	2,535,543.52		
14	Special Environment Protection Area	18	2,582,968.00	383 Decree	Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
15	Natural Site (1st, 2nd and 3rd Degree)	2,434	1,991,700.00	2863 Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets Law	
16	Natural Assets (monument - tree)	8,724	-		
17	Natural Assets (cave)	249	-		
	Subtotal	11,407	1,991,700.00		
	MEU Total	11,425	4,574,668.00		
	NATIONAL TOTAL	13,011	7,110,211.52		
Internationally designated protected areas					
	Biosphere Reserve	1	*27,152	UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
	Ramsar Site	14	184,487	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar 1971	
	Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)	0	0	Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) 1976	Ministry of Environment and Urbanization
	World Heritage Site - natural	0	0	World Heritage Convention 1972	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
	World Heritage Site - mixed natural/cultural	2	10,961		

*Listed as 27,152 ha in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, comprising a 2,237 ha core area, 13,731 ha buffer zone and 11,184 ha transition area [<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/europe-north-america/turkey/camili/>]. According to government sources, however, the actual area is 25,258 ha.

21. While Turkey's KBAs[13]¹³ have been identified and are numerous, their overlap with respect to the PAs system is incompletely known due to incomplete (limited access to) spatial PAs data (**Figure 1a**). PAs under the remit of MAF have been mapped (**Figure 1b**) but comprehensive spatial data from PAs under MEU are currently unavailable. Visual comparison of the KBAs map (1a) and MAF's PAs map (1b), suggests that much of Turkey's globally significant biodiversity has yet to be included with its PAs system.



Legend

Site Type  Alliance for Zero Extinction  Important Bird and Biodiversity Area  Other Key Biodiversity Area  Terrestrial Protected Area  Marine Protected Area



Figure 1: (a) Top map showing the overlap between KBAs and PAs in Turkey, based on data held by IBAT that is incomplete for PAs. (b) Bottom map showing PAs under the remit of MAF (2018).

Biodiversity legislation and governance

22. The legal status of biodiversity in Turkey is covered under Turkey's Constitution and various legislation (laws and related bylaws), as well as international conventions and protocols to which the nation has signed up. Thus, the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity in Turkey is under the authority and management responsibility of various different institutions. The Institutional structure for the governance of biodiversity, its conservation and sustainable management is shown in Figure 2.

23. The principle of conservation of cultural and natural resources is stated within Article 63 of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey: "*State shall ensure the conservation of historical, cultural and natural assets and values, and shall take supportive and promotive measures with this purpose*". As for the conservation of environment, Article 56 states, "*Everyone shall have the right to live in a healthy and balanced environment developing the environment, protecting the environmental health and preventing the pollution in environment is the task of State and the citizens.*"

24. According to Article 410, paragraph (d) of the revision of Presidential Decree No. 1 published in the Official Gazette No. 30474 dated July 10, 2018, it is MAF's responsibility to "*Develop policies for the conservation of nature, detection of protected areas, national parks, parks of nature, monuments of nature, nature preservation areas, wetlands and conservation, management, development, operation and authorizing for operation of biodiversity and hunting and wildlife.*" Moreover, according to Article 420, the tasks of "*taking measures and cooperating with relevant institutions with regards to the flora and fauna that are protected under international conventions and to protection of areas*" in paragraph (e) and, "*performing the tasks and operations related to the conservation and improvement of flora and fauna genetic resources within its field of authority*" in paragraph (g) are under the authority of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP).

25. The forest estate, in general, is protected and managed by MAF's General Directorate of Forestry (GDF). The GDNCNP is the main unit responsible for conserving natural resources and biodiversity, including forest and other ecosystems such as wetlands, mountains and marine. The General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion works mainly on the development of strategies and policies to conserve natural values and prevent desertification and erosion. Some forest areas declared as natural sites areas and special environmental protection areas are managed by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Figure 2).

26. Of Turkey's 22.3 million ha of forests, 99.9% belong to the State and only 0.1% is in private ownership. In terms of management regimes, forests can be classified into two main types: 'Coppices' and the 'High' forests, with the latter comprising 82.5% of the total national forests in 2014. As a result of mismanagement of forest resources over decades, productive forests cover only about 54.8% (11.99 million ha) of total forest area, the remaining 45.2% (9.90 million ha) being degraded or severely degraded unproductive forest.

27. A substantial amount of this degraded forest can potentially be returned to productive forest through reforestation, rehabilitation and erosion control activities. Turkey has shown strong commitment to sustainable forest management and this is evident from the fact that over the past thirty years forest rehabilitation and reforestation has taken place at an average of 50-60 thousand ha/year, with the increase in the growing stock being maintained by keeping the annual allowable cut to about 19 million cubic meters (significantly lower than the annual increment of 42 million cubic meters). Apart from the biodiversity and economic benefits generated through timber production, more than 500 NWFPs are extracted from the forests. Most importantly, Turkey's forests sequester more than 20 million tonnes of carbon in living biomass and store more than 2.7 million tonnes of carbon in dead organic matter. Carbon losses due to commercial cutting, fuel wood gathering and forest fires are around 6.4 million tonnes of carbon.

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28. About 10% of Turkey's population live in forest villages or forest-neighboring settlements where forest resources make a vital contribution to livelihood. In recent years, GDF attaches substantial importance to the enhanced income generated from forest ecosystems by way of NWFPs. Urban dwellers are also increasingly valuing forests, particularly with respect to their biodiversity, environmental and social functions.

Land degradation in Turkey

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29. Turkey is highly vulnerable to desertification and drought due to its climate and soil characteristics. Water erosion is one of the primary issues of concern as almost half of the land in Turkey has a slope inclination of 40% or higher. Despite significant efforts by the government, erosion remains a significant issue as inadequate cultivation practices in sloping agricultural land continue to be a risk for erosion and floods. Besides erosion, degradation of agricultural lands and pastures and the destruction of forests and natural ecosystems are key components of land degradation in Turkey. Land degradation leads farmer to lower productivity levels and revenue losses, pushing them in the short term towards unsustainable methods, including the need of additional inputs to compensate the losses in efficiency.

30. Agriculture in the buffer zones around Kazdaglari is dominated by fruit production, namely olives and nuts as well as vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, among others), the collection of medicinal plants and animal husbandry (approximately 500,000 and 1,000,000 heads of cattle and small ruminants in the province, respectively). Beekeeping is also an important source of income in the region. The main drivers of land degradation in the region include (i) inappropriate production practices in high slopes and marginal regions, (ii) drought risk and irregular precipitation regime, (iii) inappropriate irrigation systems, (iv) inadequate use of fertilizers and pesticides, among others.

31. Turkey developed its LDN Report to the UNCCD in 2016, covering the period 2016 to 2023.[14]¹⁴ The report provides specific commitments to (i) stop the decline in forest areas by applying corrective measures such as soil conservation, afforestation and rehabilitation of mine sites; (ii) stop the declining productivity in forest lands by decreasing forest crimes, rehabilitating forest lands and reducing the number of human-caused fires; (iii) halt the declining productivity of pastures by implementing pasture rehabilitation measures, and (iv) stop the declining productivity in agricultural lands by consolidating lands, identifying areas of great agricultural potential and registering them as agricultural lands, increasing the irrigated area, and rehabilitating agricultural lands. The proposed project will support the country's efforts to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality and meets the criteria established by the UNCCD in the "Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes". Please refer to the document uploaded in the portal indicating how the project conforms with the above mentioned checklist.

Kazdağlari Region

32. The project will target the Kazdağlari Region, globally significant for its biodiversity and providing an opportunity to strengthen the PAs system both nationally at policy and institutional level and regionally demonstrate at site level how PAs and their surrounding production lands can be managed more effectively in a multi-sector manner using the landscape approach. Details about the Kazdağlari Region and the project site can be found in **Annex A**.

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Baseline programs and projects

33. Programs implemented by GDF and GDNCNP, with its focus on planning and managing Turkey's PAs system, provide the main baseline for this project. GDNCNP has managed Kazdağı National Park since 1993 under the umbrella of its national budgeted programme that is focussed on: (i) preparation of a national strategy and action plan for PAs, including strategies, policies and management objectives for both existing and new protected areas; (ii) raising awareness on PAs and biodiversity conservation; and (iii) increasing the effectiveness of the current protected areas management system by developing effective plans and programmes and subsequently implementing them.

34. A number of projects have contributed to biodiversity conservation baseline activities as follows.

· *Strengthening the National Nature Protection System for Implementation of Natura 2000 Requirements* (USD 9,300,000, 2015-2018), undertaken in Central Anatolia, is completed. The EU Birds and Habitats Directive Annexes are now replete with respect to listing species and habitats present in Turkey. A new *Methodology for Selection of Natura 2000 Sites* has been applied in Turkey; and potential Natura 2000 sites in the pilot areas of the Central Anatolia Region and its surroundings are listed in a new database that complies with EU Natura 2000 requirements.

· *National Biodiversity Inventory and Monitoring Project* (USD 10 million, 2013-2018) is 80% underway, having begun in 2013 and then been extended to 2020 to complete biodiversity inventories and establish monitoring baselines across all 81 provinces in Turkey. Approximately USD 2 million is budgeted for the Kazdağı Region.

35. The regular program of GDF and its baseline activities, specifically in relation to the project region, amount to USD 6 million per year. The baseline activities include: i) conducting forest inventories; ii) preparing management plans; iii) forest extension activities at local level; iv) implementation management plans, including silvicultural management, timber harvesting and processing, forest rehabilitation and restoration, afforestation, etc; v) NWFP inventories and utilization plans; f) forest control and monitoring, including NWFP extraction. Baseline activities also include building capacity within GDF to increase awareness about biodiversity conservation among foresters and to increase administrative capacities at regional levels, specifically on systematic planning and management for improved forest management.

36. The project will also be cofinanced by FAO through the Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCPF). The cofinancing activities will focus mainly on development of participatory approaches for improved forest governance and evaluation of economic and social values of goods and services provided by forest ecosystems. These activities will feed directly into this project.

(iii) *The proposed alternative scenario and a brief description of expected outcomes and components*

37. Given the above historical background, with the proliferation of PAs since the late-1950s to counter ever increasing degradation and fragmentation of forest and other ecosystems, the current challenge is to strengthen the PAs system institutionally at national level while also demonstrating how individual PAs can be managed more effectively on the ground, within a more holistic and integrated regional context that is aligned with national priorities to address gaps in biodiversity representativeness and, where possible, strengthen or establish buffers beyond PA boundaries and restore ecological connectivity using a sustainable landscape management approach. This will require much enhanced multi-sector coordination and cooperation at local and regional levels, particularly with respect to agricultural and forest production landscapes to safeguard ecosystem services, maintain and enhance biodiversity, and improve connectivity.

38. Maintenance of eco-system diversity is often carried out by establishing protected areas such as national parks, wildlife reserves and others. While the protected areas focused on strict conservation of the values, buffer zone may give opportunity for optimizing the political, economic, social, cultural, ecological and intrinsic value of resources. The buffer zone is usually adaptive management and participative, with fairness to all groups, allowing for changing values over time.

39. In the project, the landscape approach will be a tool for buffer zone design because of its strategic approach to avoid the loss of habitats and preserve large areas for the establishment of the buffer zone in the project area. Since buffer zones are generally private property and have multiple land use purposes, collaborative management and a landscape management approach will be essential to stimulate land uses compatible with biodiversity conservation. Participants at the stakeholder meetings carried out during project identification defined elements of a “Common Vision” for Kazdaglari (please refer to the Stakeholder section below). On the one hand, the project will provide a collaborative management structure and a governance model for the management of the buffer zone in close cooperation with key stakeholders. On the other hand, it will increase the livelihood opportunity and alternative income generation opportunities together with capacity building and awareness activities. To achieve this, the project will create guidance documents and tools for management of the buffer zone as well.

40. **Theory of change.** The project’s Theory of Change is included as an Annex to the PIF (i.e. stand-alone graph in the GEF Portal). In order to reverse biodiversity loss and its associated problems (reduced delivery of ecosystem function, decline in productive capacity, increased vulnerability), the project will use a three-pronged approach: First, it will strengthen Turkey’s national PA system by improving its governance and monitoring framework, and by developing a financing strategy for the system. In the long run, this will result in a consolidated PA system that is planned from a landscape perspective and integrates the different sectors. Second, the project will take a hands-on approach to test the principles developed in Component 1 in the Kazdaglari region in order to prepare the ground for future upscaling to the whole system. Local stakeholders will work with FAO and government technical staff to carry out integrated planning, revise PA coverage, and support livelihood activities on the ground. The experience acquired in Kazdaglari will be the basis to upscale holistic, integrated landscape planning to the full PA system (with co-financing and future work). Third, knowledge management, knowledge sharing and

awareness raising will go hand-in-hand with project activities in order to ensure that relevant information is available to support behavior change with regards to integrated landscape management to deliver global benefits.

41. To achieve the **project objective**, *to improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management in the Kaz Daglari region for environmental and socio-economic benefits*, it is necessary to be able to consolidate the existing PAs system at national level with respect to: its representativeness of biodiversity; policy provisions and strategic frameworks for governance, buffer zone and ecological corridor management, monitoring, information management and sustainable financing; and storage, management and access to spatial and other information on PAs.

Component 1. Strengthening Turkey's PAs system within a sustainable landscape management context

42. Under component 1, the project seeks to consolidate the protected area system that is representative of Turkey's biodiversity (**Outcome 1.1**). The PA system will be supported by sustainably managed landscapes. The proposed approach is expected to be replicated across other regions post-project. In order to achieve this outcome, the project will develop the following outputs:

§ *Output 1.1.1:* Develop governance models for the different categories of protected areas and aligned with IUCN Protected Areas Categories system.

§ *Output 1.1.2:* Undertake a comprehensive gap analysis for Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and WWF ecotypes,

§ *Output 1.1.3:* Develop a national policy for the managing Buffer Zones and Ecological Corridors, with guidelines for its application to protected areas.

§ *Output 1.1.4:* Establish (or strengthen, depending on assessment during the preparation phase) an information system to provide comprehensive statistical and spatial data on location, biodiversity and status of protected areas and their surrounding buffers (landscapes).

§ *Output 1.1.5:* Systematic Monitoring Framework developed for protected areas system. (Note that this will be applied to Kazdağlari Region under Output 2.2.1).

§ *Output 1.1.6:* Capacity Building Framework developed for protected areas and sustainable management of landscapes. Training modules developed and applied at three levels: (i) central government, (ii) local government, sector field extension officers and individual protected areas, and (iii) local stakeholders. (Note: Framework will be applied to the Kazdağlari Region under Outputs 2.2.3 and 2.3.3; and delivered in the form of a modular training programme at central government level for relevant sectors.)

§ *Output 1.1.7*: Finally, a National Financing Strategy developed for protected areas, including guidance on its application at individual protected area management planning levels.

Component 2. Integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of productive forests and agricultural areas across Kazdağlari's landscapes

43. Consolidation of the institutional framework for the PAs system nationally under Component 1 will underpin parallel efforts to improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in the Kazdağlari Region under **Component 2**, each component feeding off the other to ensure that the capacity and experience gained and lessons learned will inform replication of the approach to other regions. Component 2 concerns the integration of biodiversity conservation in PAs with sustainable management of production forests outside PAs. **Outcome 2.1** is the realization of a strategic vision for the target region, whereby Kazdağlari's important biodiversity (e.g. KBAs) is conserved, ecosystems are sustainably managed to deliver goods and services and degraded lands are restored over the long-term (25 years). The vision, strategy for its delivery and coordinating mechanism among stakeholders for its implementation will need to be in place within the first 18-24 months to provide at least three years of implementation experience upon which to draw lessons.

44. **Outcome 2.2** is focused on strengthening the planning and management of a suite of different types of PAs within the target region, as well as establishing new PAs in accordance with priorities that emerge from a KBA/PA gap analysis (Output 1.1.2) to increase the biodiversity representativeness of PAs within Kazdağlari Region. Existing PAs to be targeted in the Region include the Kazdağlari National Park, Daridere and Sarimsakli Natural Parks, and Kazdagi Goknari Nature Reserve. A variety of PA governance models will be piloted for these different PA categories (national park, natural park, nature reserve), ensuring close coordination with all related/relevant government departments and co-management arrangements with local stakeholders where appropriate to strengthen ownership. The corresponding National Park Directorate/Provincial Division Directorate will lead the improved governance process as appropriate.

In order to achieve this outcome, the project will implement the following output:

§ *Output 2.2.1.* Protected area management plans for Kazdağları National Park, Darıdere and Ayazmapınarı Natural Parks , Kazdağı Göknaı Natural Reserve will be developed, and at least one example of each category of other protected area (Seed Stand, Gene Conservation Forest, Forest Reserve, Protection Forest), strengthened with respect to the following:

- governance provisions, including community engagement, for subsequent upscaling to the national PA system (refer to Output 1.1.1);
- application of National Policy for the Management of Buffer Zones and Ecological Corridors (refer to Output 1.1.3).
- financial measures to implement management plan (refer to Output 1.1.7);
- M&E plan to monitor implementation of management plan (see Output 1.1.5).

§ *Output 2.2.2.* New protected areas will be established within the project target area, based on KBAs gap analysis (Output 1.1.2); and borders of Kazdağları National Park revised and re-notified in line with newly created demarcation criteria.

§ *Output 2.2.3.* Capacity building framework for protected areas (Output 1.1.6) developed into a modular training programme delivered across sector agencies, municipalities, protected areas and community stakeholders within Kazdağları Region.

Output 2.2.3 will involve training an estimated 250 government staff at National Park Directorate and Provincial Division Directorate levels and 500 local stakeholders in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management best practices^[15]. Thus, development and delivery of relevant training modules under the national Capacity Building Framework (Output 1.1.6) will contribute significantly to building regional/local capacity in effective management of PAs and restoration/sustainable management of landscapes, respectively, for Outcomes 2.2 and 2.3.

§ *Output 2.2.4.* Kazdağları National Park and surrounding buffer area assessed by relevant expertise for nomination as a mixed natural/cultural World Heritage site or designation under such international initiatives as the Europarc Federation; and subsequently nominated in line with assessment recommendations..

45. Management plans will be improved during project implementation, based on an assessment of their weaknesses and gaps during the PPG phase. The national Monitoring Framework (Output 1.1.5) will be applied to individual PAs, as part of strengthening management plans, piloted and the monitoring data will be held in the GIS/database system developed under Output 1.1.4. During the PPG, it will be important to consider appropriate linkages and synergies with Noah's Ark, which monitors Turkey's biodiversity[16]⁶.

46. As discussed in the background section, the National Parks Law (Law No. 2873) sets the rules for the designation of national parks with national and international value to ensure their conservation, sustainable development and management without compromising from their ecological quality. The National Parks By-Law established the technical details for the implementation of the law, which include field research and observation and required detailed baseline surveys. Unfortunately, baseline surveys were not developed when the Kazdaglari NP was defined.

47. In this context, (see Output 2.2.2) the project will revise the borders of the protected area in full accordance with the National Park Law and By-Law. The borders will be updated according to representative habitats and associated ecosystems, and will consider the adequate size to ensure their long-term viability and to maintain biological and genetic diversity. The expectation is that the area of the PA will increase. Project activities include the collection of detailed baseline surveys and additional information such as location of settlements and villages and current land uses. The project expects that local stakeholders will participate in the data collection and in the delineation of the revised borders for Kazdağlari.

48. The park is expected to be positively effected as the new demarcation will:

§ include the most critical needs,

§ build partnerships with local stakeholders in the demarcation process,

§ assess the relationship between governance and management entities and cultivate positive working relationships early on.

§ utilise existing legislation first, but also ensure that other options are clearly understood by those working to develop new legislation or regulations,

§ characterise the biophysical and social science aspects of the site,

§ support a systematic demarcation and adaptive management practices.

§ pay attention to the participation of key stakeholders and listen carefully to those whose livelihoods, cultural practices and heritage are associated with the protected area, and

§ will be supportive in developing relationship and collaborative management for the protected area, as the messages initially offered to the public will likely be permanent

49. **Outcome 2.3** addresses the improved integration and sustainable landscape-scale management of productive forest, agriculture and other systems to buffer PAs, restore landscapes and enhance their productivity and the delivery of ecosystem goods and services. In order to achieve this outcome, the project will (i) develop a regional strategy (Output 2.3.1) for the management of at least 25,000 ha of buffer zones and ecological corridors around Kazdagi National Park; (ii) deliver a modular training program within the Kazdağlari Region; and (iii) support national efforts to improve livelihoods in the region. These are discussed below.

§ *Output 2.3.1* will support the development of a strategy for restoration and sustainable use of forest and agricultural landscapes in Kazdağlari Region to support national LDN targets developed and implemented in line with accompanying policy guidance on best management practices and environmental safeguards.

Areas to be established as buffer zones will be identified during the PPG phase through stakeholder consultations, field surveys and expertise from related government institutions. This will involve assessment and valuation of forest ecosystem services in the forests outside protected areas and is important to ensure the ecosystem services become integral to sustainable management of the forests. Integrated management plans covering a total area of at least 25,000 ha will be prepared and implemented for two forest districts. Interventions will include:

- Incorporation of biodiversity monitoring and protection measures into all forest management and operations;
- Enhancement of local livelihoods through NWFP value chain development;^[17]¹⁷
- Improvement of silvicultural techniques, such as extending rotation periods and maintenance intervals. to increase carbon stocks (sequestration) in production forests; and
- Restoration to increase forest cover by 5%.

§ *Output 2.3.2*. The capacity building framework for sustainable management of landscapes (under Output 1.1.6) will be developed into a modular training programme delivered across sector agencies, municipalities, protected areas and community stakeholders within Kazdağlari Region. Training will be delivered to some 500 government staff and 1,000 other local stakeholders¹⁸ under Output 2.3.2 to build capacities in carbon measuring and monitoring, improved harvesting and processing techniques, improved silvicultural practices and approaches, etc. Specific training will be identified after undertaking a capacity needs assessment during the PPG phase.

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§ *Output 2.3.3.* Based on the participatory strategy developed Kazdağlari (Ouput 2.3.1) and the capacity building program to implement such strategy (Ouput 2.3.1), the project will devote significant effort to improve livelihood opportunities for households in the project site based on some or all of the following activities:

- Sustainable production/organic labelling of wood and NWFPs
- Markets for handcrafts, and niche products and services
- Organic farming
- Added-value and premium prices for certified products
- Plantations for medicinal and aromatic plants
- Ecotourism, with local guides

50. Also, it is anticipated that a system for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of forest-based mitigation and sequestration will be developed in Turkey under a UNDP/GEF project, *Integrated approach to management of forests in Turkey, with demonstration in high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean region*. This system will be adapted and used by this project to collect relevant information for integrating carbon sequestration into forest management planning.

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51. **Component 3** concerns with awareness raising, monitoring and evaluation, and provision of new knowledge. Improved awareness and understanding (knowledge) about protected areas and sustainable landscape management across multiple sectors, including the capability to disseminate knowledge, is a critical outcome (Outcome 3.1) that underpins the success of the project and long-term support towards the strategic vision for Kazdağlari Region (Output 2.1.1). Thus, the development of a Communications Strategy *Output 3.1.1*) at the outset of project implementation is a high priority, particularly given the multiplicity of different sectors and other stakeholder groups involved in what is a regionally significant project. The Strategy will enable key messaging, events and information/knowledge to be targeted according to priority needs among stakeholders, using the most appropriate/effective media.

52. This component will also ensure, under *Output 3.1.2*, that the project's progress is tracked and periodically evaluated for adaptive management, as necessary. Finally, under *Output 3.1.3*, awareness about biodiversity values, ecosystem goods and services, sustainable land management, food and resource security etc. will be benchmarked by means of KAP (knowledge, attitude, practice) surveys either during the PPG, depending on time and resources, or onset of project implementation to inform the Communications

Strategy and, thereafter, monitored at mid and end of project. Achievements and key lessons learnt will be documented and disseminated for replication and scaling up, using the knowledge platform created under Output 1.1.4.

(iv) Incremental reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and cofinancing

53. This GEF investment is timely with respect to Turkey's present state of development within the natural resources sector. Government has been actively investing protected areas and forestry management for decades with limited success but more recently has embarked on adopting new approaches and tools to counter the huge loss and degradation of forest ecosystems, along with their diminishing goods and services that benefit local communities and society at large. Such approaches include an increasing awareness of the need to manage natural resources at landscape and catchment scales in more sustainable ways that maintain the ecological connectivity and functioning of ecosystems and safeguard them from pollutants that contaminate water resources. Such awareness leads to a greater understanding of the need to move away from a silo mentality, characteristic of many sectors and their respective institutions, and collaborate with others. Thus, multi-sector coordinatin mechanisms and co-management approaches with communities are much higher on government's agenda.

54. The GEF investment will maximize this opportunity by strengthening some policies, tools and practices at national level in order to provide a more robust foundation for applying a regional approach to effectively managing and expanding the protected areas estate that can subsequently be replicated and upscaled to other regions. The key ingredients of this strategy at national level include: streamlining the governance of PAs, having first classified the diffent types of PA according to the globally accepted IUCN categories system; identifying gaps in the representativeness of biodiversity within the existing PAs system, as informed by the distribution of KBAs within Turkey; establish policies for management of buffer zones, ecological corridors and landscape, including those under production; establish a monitoring framework for PAs; create a PAs information systemized that hosts monitoring data, while also providing a readily accessible information platform; develop a modular capacity building framework for PAs and sustainable management of landscapes; and develop a Strategic Framework for financing PAs. All of these initiatives will be applied and piloted within the target Kazdağlari Region under a common vision generated by its stakeholders. This is particularly apt and timely given the interest in nominating Kazdağlari National Park for inclusion on the World Heritage List on account of its globally significant biodiversity. The majority (80%) of the GEF funds will be invested in the target region: building capacity, improving PA and landscape management, buffering the national park, restoring degraded lands and addressing soil erosion, and improving local livelihoods.

55. **Without the GEF investment**, there will be no catalyst to champion, facilitate and coordinate this paradigm shift towards a more holistic and integrate approach to conserving biodiversity alongside managing production landscapes in a more sustainable and equitable manner that takes into account the livelihoods and health of rural populations. Furthermore, opportunities for synergies will also be constrained by the absence of coordinating mechanisms at the landscape level, which also has implications in terms of potential economic and social benefits foregone, as well as local support towards this regional vision. In the case of this particular project, the GEF is leveraging five times its investment in cofinancing, which could be hugely jeopardized and even lost from the regional economy n the absence of the project.

Summary GEF Incremental Reasoning

Baseline	Incremental reasoning
<p>Component 1</p> <p>Under the baseline scenario, protected area management will continue to be developed and managed without a vision of integration to the broader landscape and without meaningful participation of key stakeholders in the planning and monitoring process</p>	<p>The project will invest GEF resources to carry out a strategic assessment of the status of Turkey's KBA, including the development of a national policy to manage buffer zones in order to take a landscape approach to managing PA.</p> <p>This will be complemented by development a Monitoring Framework aligned with existing efforts related to LDN implementation, and by developing a financial strategy for protected areas.</p>

<p>Component 2</p> <p>Under the baseline scenario, no meaningful land use planning is happening on the ground. Each Directorate within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (and between ministries) continues to implement their activities without a holistic vision that takes into consideration sustainable management and use of natural resources. For instance, the General Directorate of Forestry continues to implement their forest inventories, invest in forest extraction and implement management plans without consideration of the needs and without involvement of the local communities. Similarly, agriculture development plans are developed without a holistic approach that would considers local stakeholders and their link to the protected areas.</p> <p>Finally, local stakeholders continue to implement their day to day activities, carrying out productive practices that are not fully efficient or take into account conservation principles and which continue to drive degradation in the Kazdaglari area.</p>	<p>Under component 2, GEF resources will be invested to develop and implement the stakeholder strategic vision for Kazdaglari and implement SLM/SSM strategies. This includes capacity building initiatives and investing resources to ensure meaningful stakeholder participation in the development of the vision.</p> <p>In addition, GEF resources will be used to update management plans for the protected areas in the target site, and by increasing the area protected (i.e. establishing new seed stands, gene conservation forest, etc).</p> <p>Finally, project resources will be used to develop and implement plans to sustainably manage forests at the landscape level. This includes establishing buffer zones (25,000 ha), restoring 5,000 ha of forests (including applying soil erosion prevention techniques), and developing livelihood opportunities for the people in the region.</p>
<p>Under Component 3, there is limited awareness raising and sharing of experiences.</p>	<p>Under this component, GEF resources will be used to develop a communication strategy, improve awareness, and disseminate knowledge products to ensure that production systems are sustainable and take into account conservation considerations, and that livelihood-improvement opportunities are shared among participating stakeholders.</p>

(v) Global Environment Benefits (GEBs)

56. The project will contribute to safeguarding globally significant biodiversity, some of which is potentially of World Heritage value, and its ecosystem goods and services, including the productivity of timber, NWFPs and food production systems. First and foremost is the fundamental value of piloting a regional landscape-based management approach because, once mainstreamed, it could transform Turkey's PAs system and surrounding landscapes in terms of safeguarding native biodiversity and sustainably managing production systems.

57. Specific GEBs include the following:

§ 25,000 ha of terrestrial PAs (Kaz mountains, Core indicator 1.2) under improved management

§ 7,500 ha of degraded forests restored (Core indicator 3.2), including 2,000 ha subjected to soil erosion prevention techniques.

§ 50,000 ha of landscapes under improved management practices, comprising 25,000 ha of new buffer zones established around Kazdağlari National Park (Core indicator 4.3) and 25,000 ha of forest under integrated management (Core indicator 4.1).

§ 909,454 tCO₂eq sequestered (Core indicator 6.1)

§ Strengthened protection measures for endemic and threatened species within target PAs (details to be confirmed during PPG).

§ At least 1,500 direct beneficiaries of project activities (Core indicator 11, with a target of 50% women beneficiaries)

58. Carbon calculations: Carbon calculations have been done using EX-ACT and consider 25,000 ha of forest under improved management (5% increase in carbon stocks), 7,500 hectares of degraded forests restored (10% increase in carbon), and 25,000 ha of agroforestry systems with improved practices. It is estimated the project will reduce 909,454 tonnes of CO₂ over a 20-year timeframe. Please see EX-ACT simulations that have been uploaded to the GEF Portal. These number will be thoroughly revised during the PPG phase in order to account for additional information that will be collected on land extension by use type, and proposed practices and alternatives.

(vi) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

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59. Innovativeness: In the context of Turkey, the project is innovative as it is implementing approaches that are new to the country. Forest management and biodiversity conservation will become more integrated. In the future, ecosystem services (including biodiversity) would be an integral part of forest management.

60. Sustainability and potential for scaling up: The project includes components to guarantee sustainability in the institutional, environmental, economic and social dimensions. First, the capacity-building component on sustainable landscape management that considers the involvement of different stakeholders allows all the actors to work coordinated to achieve and maintain the project outcomes. Moreover, the active participation of the government, the alignment of the project with national goals and the creation of a new governance model, favors a political and institutional environment for the project implementation. In terms of environmental sustainability, the project works across different objectives for the management of protected areas, including restoration of ecosystems and improvement of governance. In addition, the work in the buffer zones reduces the risks of negative actions occurring in protected areas by providing alternatives of activities that allow local communities to meet and improve their livelihoods. As livelihoods improve, households will experience first-hand the benefits from carrying out activities sustainably both in and outside the protected area, therefore ensuring its sustainability. The project also contemplates a platform for the monitoring and evaluation of the ecological status of the landscapes that allows to assess progress in the accomplishment of objectives. Together, all these actions constitute a set of interventions that enable the sustainable management of landscapes in the project region.

61. The new national level strategy on buffer zone management and piloting of formalized buffer zone management under this project, would together provide the policy directive and on the ground experience facilitating the scaling up of improved buffer zone management throughout the country. The activities in the context of forest carbon management and MRV would be in synergy with other similar projects (e.g. UNDP/GEF project and the adoption of the MRV system developed under that project); this would enable the easy scaling up of piloting activities undertaken. Also, at the national level, there is a clear articulation of need to conduct valuation of ecosystem services in productive forests (specifically biodiversity), and to develop integrated management systems (including improved NWFP value chain development for enhanced livelihoods); piloting activities under this project would provide a blueprint for GDF to scale up the piloted activities throughout the country under their regular programmatic efforts in productive forests.

[1] <https://www.conservation.org/priorities/biodiversity-hotspots>

[2] 2014. Turkey - Fifth National Report to the CBD.

[3] 2011. Sekercioglu et al. "Turkey's globally important biodiversity in crisis". *Biological Conservation* 144, pgs 2752-2769.

[4] 2019. CBD Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2028

[5] 2019. FAO. Biodiversity of Turkey. Contribution of Genetic Resources to Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca1517en/ca1517en.pdf>

[6] Please refer to section 2) baseline scenario for a detailed analysis of the PA system in Turkey.

[7] Assessments of biodiversity degradation have been carried out by Sekecioglu et al. (2011), national reports to the conventions (5th National Report to CBD, 2018-2028 NBSAP, LDN report to UNCCD), and CEPF (<https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots/caucasus/threats>).

[8] BirdLife International, IUCN and NEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 2019. *IBAT Country Profile for Turkey*. Version 2019/1. Available at <http://conservation.ibat-alliance.org>.

[9] Land degradation means the reduction / loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of land ecosystems resulting from land uses or from a combination of processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns. [UNCCD, 2015].

[10] LDN is a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems. [UNCCD IWG on LDN, 2015]

[11] For example, the total area of 16 Special Environment Conservation Areas is cited as 2.459,749 ha, 14 Ramsar sites as 184.487 ha and one biosphere reserve as 25.258 ha. Corrections have been incorporated in Table 1.

[12] “A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”

[13] KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the persistence of biodiversity on land, in freshwater or on the seas. They comprise two subsets: Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) identified by the BirdLife International Partnership and Alliance for Zero Extinction sites (AZEs) identified by the Alliance for Extinction.

[14] <https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/inline-files/turkey-ldn-country-report.pdf.pdf>

[15] These estimates of government personnel and local stakeholders to be trained will be reviewed during the PPG.

[16] Noah's Ark is a national database created by the Biological Diversity Monitoring Unit, under MAF's Directorate of Information Technology, to monitor the current status of Turkey's biodiversity. [<http://www.nuhungemisi.gov.tr/>]

[17] Some of the indicative NWFPs are mushroom, thyme, daphne leaves, umbrella pine corn, sage, chestnut, ornamental plants such as primula, and wild flowers. Specific value chains will be identified during the PPG, and functional, process and product upgrading will be delivered by working closely with market players and service providers. This will ensure local communities increase their competitiveness and obtain sustainable economic benefits.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

1. Key stakeholders are listed below. A stakeholder engagement plan will be developed during the PPG.

Stakeholder	Type of engagement in project preparation
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) - General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) and General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDNCNP)	Project proponents. Will lead the project preparation process along with FAO.
Other Directorates under MAF and other relevant govt. Ministries and respective Directorates	Project design is expected to address multisectoral coordination issues, and to effectively design the relevant project outputs all relevant govt. partners will be consulted and engaged effectively for inputs.
Regional and sub-regional Directorates of GDNCNP and GDF	Local level executing partners, and will play a key role in building on- the- ground project baseline information and designing the project components
Academic and research institutes (e.g. Forestry Research Centre)	Expected to play a key role in capacity building and information management activities, will provide inputs in developing the relevant project activities
CSOs and local cooperatives (e.g. OR- KOOP)	Will play a vital role in organizing local level consultations and providing feedback and inputs into the project design
Private sector	Consultations will be held with private sector parties relevant to the value chain improvement activities, to enable design the corresponding project outputs
Local communities (Forest villages)	Will be involved in all relevant consultations, specifically in understanding their perspectives in the contexts of threats to the forests and involvement in the project implementation
Cofinancing partners	Key role in designing the project components

2. The proposal is complex and multi-dimensional. Thus, the issue of stakeholder analysis and inclusion was critical to the project identification phase and will be critical to the project preparation and implementation phases as well. A core project team has been established by the ministry partners (General Directorate of Forestry, GDF and General Directorate of Nature Conservation and Nature Protection, GDNCNP) during the PIF proposal, with all relevant departments assigning representatives to this project team, and with the inclusion of an FAO member.

3. Several meetings of this core project team were held during the project identification process, as well as one-to-one meetings and field visits. This project team will continue to support the development of the project during the PPG phase.

4. Following the stakeholder assessment carried out during project identification, the key stakeholders were listed and grouped according to their interests and their potential contribution to the proposed project (see table above). Engagement with stakeholders to date has included the following:

- Official letters were delivered to government stakeholders to solicit their inputs on the proposal. A detailed needs assessment was drafted based on information provided by local stakeholders.

- The project design team, which includes government staff and FAO representatives, participated in a regional meeting and workshop, during which locally based stakeholders, especially NGOs and academicians, were informed about the project.

- In addition, a second workshop was organized with local stakeholders (including potential beneficiaries, local and national NGOs and representatives from government institutions). During the workshop, participants discussed the benefits obtained from the national park and analyzed the current threats and drivers of degradation. Potential options to address these drivers were discussed and included in the project design. This workshop was followed by a field visit carried out with local stakeholders to the selected project site. Additionally, face to face meetings and round table meetings were held to solicit further feedback from local stakeholders on project design and to query about their interest in participating and their potential role in the proposed project.

- Regional, provincial, and district directorates of the relevant ministries (i.e. potential executing partners) participated in the design of this PIF.

5. The "common vision" for the Kazdaglari region, as proposed by participants during the stakeholder meetings is outlined below (and have been included in project design and reflected in the log-frame). Stakeholders feel the project should:

- Identify important and priority areas (hot spots) in terms of biological diversity and natural resource values; carry out in-depth and detailed inventory studies in areas determined to be important in terms of biodiversity and genetic resources,

- revise the management and visitor management plan of Kazdağı National Park and provide recommendations for (i) genetic resources conservation, (ii) support alternative income generating activities, (iii) define cooperation mechanisms with different stakeholders and (iv) interventions of species protection action plans and programs,
- Strengthen the participation of non-governmental organizations in field management and decision-making processes
- Study plant sociology in the project area, revealing the relationship between ecosystem and species,
- Revise management plans with an innovative and holistic approach under the supervision of 2 and/or 4 establishments whose management plan has expired. During the planning process, there is a need to integrate production systems and biodiversity, as well as to identify the potential of non-wood forest products, including proposals for their production and processing. In addition to the traditional use of these products, potential utilization areas and utilization opportunities should be investigated, as well as raising awareness of both local people, managers and the parties involved in awareness raising activities,
- Develop production and marketing opportunities for NWFPs (Non-Wood Forest products) in the rural areas
- Demonstrate sustainable rural tourism strategies in the project area and undertake a rural tourism / ecotourism plan for the area in this context, and implementing minimum visitor services and facilities such as trails, guidance and information
- Identify and plan alternative income-generating activities such as beekeeping, and support their pilot implementation
- Strengthen cooperation with relevant stakeholders,
- Identify traditional use of medicinal and aromatic plants in the project area and development of cultivation opportunities in villages in project areas,
- Conduct feasibility studies for building thematic museums at different points reflecting the source values of the area within the national park and the pilot project area

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

52. The issue of gender equality in Turkey, both in terms of societal awareness and legal changes, goes back to the early days of the Turkish Republic. In 1925, a women's political movement was organized. In 1930, Turkish women were granted to vote in the municipal elections and, in 1934, to

vote in national elections and to be elected to office. This also meant that Turkish women were able to exercise political rights to vote and to be elected for public office many years before. In 1985, Turkey signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and, in 2000, it signed the Additional Protocol to CEDAW. In 2002, Turkey signed the Optional Protocol (of CEDAW) that allows the right of individual petition to the Convention's Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In addition, in 1995, the Turkish government signed the Beijing Declaration of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and committed itself to its Action Plan.

53. In Turkey, the Constitution is the fundamental document regulating and guiding all issues relating to gender equality. In addition to the Constitution, the main legal documents regulating gender policy are: the Turkish Civil Code, Labour Law and the Penal Code. In the last ten years, the Turkish Civil Code and the Penal Code were completely changed and a number of amendments were made to other legal documents. Article 10 of the Turkish Constitution envisages 'equality before law'; this Article was amended by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on May 7, 2004 as "Men and women have equal rights and the State is responsible for the measures to implement those rights". The Turkish Grand National Assembly adopted amendments to the Constitution on October 3, 2001 in Articles 41 and 66 for gender equality within the family, such changes becoming operational on October 17, 2001.

54. In 1987, an Advisory Board for policies with regards to Women was created within the State Planning Organization to increase gender awareness in public policies. Its membership includes representatives from public agencies, non-governmental organizations and universities. This is the first time that a separate unit for gender equality was created in the public sector. Subsequently, a Directorate for women's rights and gender equality was established in 1990: the General Directorate of Women's Status, (Kadının Statüsü Genel Müdürlüğü, KSGM), which coordinates the Women's Status Units established in the provinces. Its main mission is to promote gender equality in Turkey by developing programs and policies to reduce all forms of gender-based discrimination. A Ministry of State position for Women and Family Affairs was originally established to deal with gender policy but, when this was transformed into a separate Ministry in 2011, the Ministry for Family and Social Policies under Decree No. 663, its remit was broadened to include all matters under social policy. On 8 June 2011, the KSGM was restructured as one of the main units under the Ministry for Family and Social Policies. In addition to the KSGM and the Ministry for Family and Social Policies, there are a number of other platforms comprising governmental units, civil society actors and stakeholders that are working in the field of gender equality policy. In 2005, an Advisory Board on the Status of Women, headed by the Minister of Women and Family Affairs (later becoming Family and Social Policies), was established with representatives from the ministries, academic institutions and NGOs. In addition, women's associations are very active.

55. In 2007, the KSGM prepared a National Action Plan for Societal Gender Equality for 2008–2013, which focuses on the elimination of gender-based inequality in education, health, poverty, and access to decision-making processes. The Turkish government's 9th Development Plan for the period of 2007-2013 also aims to improve Turkey's gender-based inequality by increasing women's participation labour force.

56. Male and female roles and social conditions in the Kazdaglari Region are more gender balanced compared to other regions of Turkey. In addition, the knowledge and experience of both the local population and non-governmental organizations on environment and nature conservation issues is higher than in other region. There are many local conservation NGOs, most of which are represented by women. The education level of these NGO members is also very high and the majority of them are retired.

57. The main way gender issues will be incorporated into project preparation is through the adoption and use of participatory approaches in all important decisions and activities during this phase. The project design will also ensure that adequate representation of both genders is achieved in all project activities. Reporting on project activities, outputs and outcomes will also be disaggregated by gender (where applicable), so that performance in this respect can be monitored.

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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

1. The project will collaborate with small farmers and cooperatives working in the target area. There are 40 forest cooperatives and almost 100 agricultural cooperatives involved in forestry and agricultural activities in the region. These cooperatives, as well as the Chamber of Forestry, Chamber of Agriculture and other locally-based business such as olive producers and sellers, NWFP businesses, agricultural cooperatives and unions, were consulted during the project identification mission and they confirmed their interest in participating. Further, more detailed consultations will be held with the private sector during the PPG to identify more specific areas and mechanism for collaboration. Currently, the private sector will be directly involved in the design of the development of the strategic vision for Kasdaglari (Outcome 2.1) and will be responsible for carrying out restoration activities under Outcome 2.3. In addition, the project will benefit from the private sector under Output 2.3.3, which seeks to improve livelihood opportunities for local communities in the target area.

5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

1. The following potential risks and mitigation measures have been identified. These will be reviewed and updated during the project preparatory (PPG) phase.

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Mitigation Measure</i>
Limited or decrease in project support from the government	Low	The government authorities have fully backed the development of this concept and all concerned government stakeholders will be fully involved in project preparation and implementation to ensure continued support. Moreover, the project fits into national development and environmental priorities. High level of cofinancing is positive indicator of commitment.
Low institutional capacity at national and local level hampering project progress	Medium	To mitigate this risk, the project design incorporates institutional capacity building measures taking into account specific needs of stakeholders, based on modular training programme that will be institutionalized post-project.

<p>Project activities are implemented in a compartmentalized fashion with little integration and coordination with all relevant government departments (for example: unsustainable tourism development activities implemented in project areas affecting the sustainable resource management impacts generated by the project)</p>	<p>Low to Medium</p>	<p>Under component 1, a multisectoral coordination and governance mechanism will be established, within and beyond the project context, to ensure coordination between all relevant government actors.</p> <p>Stakeholder Forum will be established at regional level, contributing to delivery of a regional vision.</p> <p>Consultations have been held with all relevant government departments and this process will continue throughout the project preparation and subsequent implementation to ensure that the project progress and impacts generated do not happen in isolation.</p>
<p>Natural changes in ecosystems and associated non- wood species due to gradual changes in climate and extreme weather events.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The monitoring system developed in the project will identify changes in ecosystems, specifically in relation to non-wood forest products that are likely to be linked to climate change, so that remedial actions can be taken. Risk is considered to be low in terms of any significant changes over project's duration but monitoring any changes or trends will contribute to building resilience to climate changes into project interventions.</p> <p>During PIF preparation, the project was screened for climate risks, and it was confirmed the risk is low. Nonetheless, the screening recommends that that further assessment of climate risks specific for Kazdaglari are carried out during the PPG phase.</p>

Current gold mining activities taking place in Kazdağlari region	Medium	<p>Mining risk is considered medium, given the presence of small mines in the project site. While there are mining activities going on the project area these are either abandoned or already under operation, and produce mainly (i) lead-zinc, (ii) Kaolin, (iii) limestone, (iv) Feldspar, and (v) Marble. Mining Activities in the project site cover approximately 116 ha.</p> <p>The proposed project will provide the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and local partners with tools to strengthen their conservation efforts. In addition, the project will work with local communities to allow them to sustainably use the services provided by this area. The project will not support the development of new mining activities. Instead, it will provide the government with tools to avoid the establishment of new mines in the area.</p> <p>During the preparation phase, the project team will analyze in further detail the issue of mining and the potential risks it will bring to the proposed project. It will also analyze the viability (and eligibility) of restoring abandoned mines within the project site from an ecosystem function point of view.</p> <p>Note: There are larger mining sites in the administrative regions where the project is located (i.e. outside of the project site). Recent demonstrations regarding gold mining activities by the Canadian firm Alamo Gold Inc are far from the project site (approximately 20 km "as the crows flies" – see map in uploaded to the portal)</p>
Reluctance of local population to involve and participate effectively in the project activities	Low to Medium	<p>Local communities (through community and civil society representatives) will be involved during the project preparation processes. The project activities, especially livelihood improvement activities under Component 2 and the sustainable impacts generated, will ensure continued interest and participation of local communities.</p> <p>Note also that the Regional Forum will include community representatives.</p>

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

1. During the PPG process, an operational capacity assessment will be conducted for the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) with the intention of GDF being the main executing partner for the project. The General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (GDFNP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is another likely national co-executing partner. Their potential role as co-execution partners will be reviewed during the PPG phase.

2. The proposed project will coordinate with the ongoing FAO/GEF project on “Sustainable Land Management and Climate Friendly Agriculture” in Konya (Turkey) which aims to rehabilitate degraded dry lands and mainstream biodiversity conservation into production landscapes, and the FAO/GEF project (under preparation) on “Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey’s Steppe Ecosystems” which aims at introducing the landscape approach to strengthens the PA system and mainstreams biodiversity conservation into production landscapes. The proposed project will also benefit from MRV system developed and the methods for integration of biodiversity conservation into forest landscape management established under the ongoing UNDP/GEF project on Integrated Approach to Management of Forests in Turkey, with demonstration sites in high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean region.

3. Finally, the project will be tightly aligned with the decision support system for LDN being developed under the “Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level” project (GEFID 9586). The project will take advantage of the methodologies and approaches to carry out land use planning, as well as with the monitoring systems being developed to report on LDN achievement.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

The project is aligned with the following national priorities:

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1. National Development Plan: With respect to GoT national development plans, the project will directly contribute to the Eleventh Development Plan of Turkey (2019-2023), and specifically the objective “To protect the environment and natural resources, improve its quality, ensure effective, integrated and sustainable management, implement environmental and climate-friendly practices in all areas, and increase environmental awareness and sensitivity of all segments of the society.” The project’s promotion of integrated management of productive forest landscapes and improved biodiversity conservation in PAs, will significantly support this priority of the Development Plan.

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2. The 5th National Communication to the UNFCCC: The communication lists under Forestry measures ‘‘Maximizing sink capacity in the forestry sector’’ with objectives of a) increasing carbon sequestered in forested areas by 15% until 2020 b) decreasing deforestation and forest degradation by 20% by 2020. The project’s activities, specifically under Component 2, directly contributes to these objectives.

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3. The National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP 2018-2028). This updated document establishes 7 National Objectives. The selection of the project implementation area will be aligned to these five objectives and their corresponding activities as follows:

National Objective 1: *Pressures and threats on biodiversity and ecosystems will be determined, reduced to the possible lowest level or removed totally.*

Action 1.1 : *Struggle strategies will be continued to be improved against direct or indirect pressures on biological diversity such as habitat loss and degradation, global warming, increase of population, over consumption of natural resources, genetic erosion and pollution.*

This proposal aims at improving the management of Protected Areas in the target Region. Pressures to biological diversity will be tackled through the revision of demarcation criteria for the Kazdagi National Park, a strategy for managing buffer zones, new protected area governance models, training of Government staff in best practices concerning landscape restoration and forest landscape management.

National Objective 2: *Biological diversity components (ecosystem, species and genetic variability) will be determined, monitored, and species specific and ecosystem-based conservation approaches*

(traditional and modern) will be developed by determining current condition of biodiversity.

Action 2.3: *Studies to determine and monitor endemic and endangered species; develop and implement species specific conservation methods will increasingly be continued.*

This proposal will establish and pilot a monitoring system for protected areas in the target Region. Moreover, it will establish and pilot a monitoring system for rehabilitated forests. As a part of the Integrated forest management plans to be implemented, the proposal will establish biodiversity monitoring and protection measures.

National Objective 3: *Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity of areas exposed to agriculture, forestry and fishing activities in the country will be ensured.*

Action 3.1. *Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity creating sources for industries of agriculture, forest, food and medicine will be ensured.*

This proposal will implement measures to improve sustainable financing of degraded forests such as investing in the sustainable management of restored forests. Furthermore, income generating activities, such as ecotourism, will be implemented.

National Objective 4: *Awareness of the public and administrators on ecosystem services will be raised, benefits from ecosystem services will be increased and sustainable biodiversity management will be ensured.*

Objective 4.1. *Awareness on ecosystem services will be raised among public and private sectors, and training of specialists will be ensured.*

This proposal will include training Government staff (at least 250 govt. staff and 500 local stakeholders) at the National Park Directorate and Provincial Division Directorate level, and other local stakeholders in best practices in biodiversity conservation and management. These practices include biodiversity monitoring, carbon measuring and monitoring as well as improved harvesting and processing techniques.

National Objective 5. *Rehabilitation and restoration of ecosystems damaged due to different reasons will be ensured, measures to prevent damage to healthy ecosystems will be developed and legislative gaps thereon will be fulfilled.*

Action 5.1. *Through improving ecosystem-based models, rehabilitation and restoration degraded ecosystems (marine, forest, wetland etc.) will be provided, monitoring and inspection thereof will be performed.*

This proposal will implement sustainable financing measures that aims to restore 5,000 hectares of degraded forest landscape in the Kazdagi region.

4. Finally, the project is contribute to Turkey LDN strategy as follows:

LDN Targets in agriculture (Pg 16 of LDN report):

- Promotion and supporting soil conservation farming (including building farmer capacity)

- Enforcing all relevant articles of Soil Law No. 5403, which sets the rules and principles for determining land and soil resources and their classification, preparing land utilization plans, preventing non-purpose utilization, and defining the tasks and obligations to ensure land and soil preservation.
- Expand irrigated area from 6.3m ha to 8.5m ha. Mainstream pressurised irrigation systems
- Support and upscale soil and fertilizer analysis, and ensure controlled applications

LDN Targets in Forestry

- Reduce the decline in forest areas, in particular support national targets of afforestation and rehabilitation of mine sites
- Reduce the declining productivity in forest lands by rehabilitating forest lands, decreasing the number of Forest Crimes, and reducing the area affected by fires.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

1. The project will strengthen existing institutional capacities within Turkey in PA management and LDN with strong emphasis on sustainable managed landscapes. At the local level, the Project is designed to enhance the capacity of local authorities and communities to access new knowledge and implement best management practices in PA management and SLM in order to reduce the pressures on their key ecosystems. These capacities will be sustained through a strengthened national coordination platform and continued outreach and dissemination of good practices and management advice (Component 1 and 3). The experiences are expected to be upscaled to the national protected area system. Opportunities for scaling up best practices will also be explored in the context of south-south cooperation, particularly on sharing of experiences with other countries and the UNCCD, especially in Central Asia. The outputs of this project can be disseminated through the Ankara Initiative as well as through other established channels.

2. During project preparation, A communications specialist will be hired to understand the needs and knowledge gaps in the target audience in light of the project objectives. The consultant will prepare a comprehensive communications strategy based on the understanding of the target audience, objectives of the project and the barriers to

achieving the objectives. This strategy will outline the key messages, which communication tools will be used and why, how many people will it reach and the periodicity of the communication. It will also outline a methodology to gather target audience response to the communication which will give way to further evolving the communication strategy in light of what works and what doesn't.

3. Based on the project baseline, current behavior of the target audience will be identified. The barriers will allow the project preparation team identify the incentive or knowledge required to change the current behavior to the desired behavior. The project will address these needs through project activities like developing knowledge products in regional languages (Component 3), working with the local government to provide better access to knowledge resources (Component 1 and 3) and by developing products to support the capacity building plan, among others.

4. In order to achieve its goals, the project will build on recent FAO experience on the integration of different land-use planning tools to support LDN implementation and biodiversity conservation. These efforts are aligned with STAP guidelines for the application of the "Scientific Framework for LDN", and include the collection of biophysical (eg. LADA, WOCAT) and socio-economic (eg. SHARP, PRAGA) baseline data, supported by strong GIS tools (Collect Earth Online or SEPAL). The latter tools have been highlighted in STAP's publication on Earth Observation and the GEF (<https://www.stapgef.org/earth-observation-and-gef>). The experience on integrating these tools has been successfully applied in GEF-funded projects in Turkey, Georgia, and the Drylands Impact Program, among others. The project will incentivize knowledge exchange between local stakeholders in the context of the above-mentioned strategy. In addition, the project will share experiences on community-based conservation and monitoring of protected areas, such as the GEF funded work in Azerbaijan. Finally, the project will take advantage of FAO's extensive work in productive landscapes across the world (eg. climate smart agriculture, landscape restoration, sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, Farmer Field Schools, Integrated Pest Management, agroforestry, market assessments, drought management and climate resilience and early warning systems) and will bring this knowledge to local stakeholders in order to build their capacity and ensure that the project produces global environmental benefits.

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Akif Ozkaldi	Deputy Minister		10/10/2019

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

