

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	3
Project Summary	4
Indicative Project Overview	4
PROJECT COMPONENTS	5
PROJECT OUTLINE	9
A. PROJECT RATIONALE	9
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	14
Project description	14
Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project	22
Core Indicators	22
Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation	25
C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES	28
D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS	29
Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:	29
Stakeholder Engagement	29
Private Sector	33
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks	33
E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS	33
Knowledge management	33
ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES	33
GEF Financing Table	33
Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	33
Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation	34
Indicative Focal Area Elements	34
Indicative Co-financing	34
ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS	35
GEF Agency(ies) Certification	35
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):	35
ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION	35
ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING	37
ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS	37
ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET	38

General Project Information

Project Title

Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Development in Socotra Archipelago and Aden Wetlands, Yemen

Region

Yemen

GEF Project ID

11408

Country(ies)

Yemen

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

UNEP

GEF Agency ID

Executing Partner

The Ministry of Water and Environment in collaboration
The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)

Executing Partner Type

Government
CSO

GEF Focal Area (s)

Multi Focal Area

Submission Date

10/18/2023

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Species, Invasive Alien Species, Biomes, Wetlands, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Non-Governmental Organization, Civil Society, Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Communications, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Awareness Raising, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Adaptive management, Knowledge Exchange

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

60

GEF Project Grant: (a)

4,416,211.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

419,539.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

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

4,835,750.00

Total Co-financing

5,000,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

150,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

14,250.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

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

164,250.00

5,000,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Summary

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

This project addresses the urgent need for effective conservation and sustainable management of ecologically significant Aden wetlands and Socotra Archipelago, both renowned for their unique biodiversity of Yemen. A decade of civil war and political conflicts in Yemen led to weak governance, unsustainable resource use, and environmental degradation in both regions. Although Socotra Island is politically more stable, it still faces weak legislation, poverty, and governance problems in protected area management, while Aden wetlands suffer from resource depletion, pollution, and conflicts with various stakeholders. The proposed project aims to overcome these challenges by:

- 1. Strengthening Policy and Governance Frameworks:** This component focuses on enhancing regulatory, institutional and technical aspects of conservation. It aims to establish a National Wetlands Platform in Aden, review governance of protected areas in Socotra, and revise wetland policies and regulations. It also assesses and improves relevant institutions' capacity and aligns a National Wetland Management Plan with Yemen's GBF Implementation Plan.
- 2. Demonstration of Sustainable Management:** Practical action is the focus here. For Aden wetlands, it includes updating the existing database, valuing ecosystem services, and developing a spatial plan. Community involvement is emphasized, along with wetland restoration and improved agricultural practices. Socotra's active and inactive protected areas are addressed, with conservation efforts for unique trees and sea turtles.
- 3. Knowledge Management and Public Awareness:** This component involves creating an outreach strategy, gender-sensitive knowledge products, and capacity-building for stakeholders. Awareness campaigns and a Knowledge Management System are established.
- 4. Monitoring and Evaluation:** To ensure project effectiveness, a Monitoring and Evaluation plan/platform is set up.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To effectively conserve biodiversity in the Socotra Archipelago and sustainably manage the Aden wetlands in Yemen

Project Components

Component 1 Strengthening policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks and technical capacity for conservation and sustainable use of Aden wetlands landscape and Socotra Archipelago through a landscape approach

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
805,916.00	1,000,000.00

Outcome:

1.1: Improved policy, institutional and technical capability for sustainable management and conservation of internationally recognized heritages of Yemen

Output:

- 1.1.1 A National Wetlands Platform established for coordination of an integrated landscape approach
- 1.1.2 The governance system of protected areas in Socotra reviewed and wise-governance principles promoted
- 1.1.3 Wetlands policy, law, regulations and institutional framework for integrated management of wetlands is reviewed and revised.
- 1.1.4 National wetland management plan developed with a landscape approach and integrated into Yemen's national GBF Implementation Plan
- 1.1.5 Institutional capacity in sustainable landscape management will be assessed then developed through participatory approach.

Component 2 Conservation of Biodiversity in Socotra and Sustainable Management of Aden Wetlands

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,000,000.00	1,750,000.00

Outcome:

2.1 The Aden wetlands is sustainably managed

Core Indicator: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (ha): 8,800 ha

Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (ha): 4,000

2.2 Ensure the effective management of four active and three inactive protected areas considering the compatibility between IPLC needs and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Targets:

Core Indicator 2.1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (hectare): 9,673 ha

Marine protected areas created or under improved management (ha): 758 ha

Increase in METT Score: 20 percentage points.

Output:

- 2.1.1. Aden wetlands database reviewed and updated
- 2.1.2 Ecosystem services of Aden wetlands identified, assessed and valued to support decision making
- 2.1.3. Integrated land-use spatial plan of Aden wetlands developed in line with GBF and LDN principles,
- 2.1.4 Based on the results of Output 2.1.3 an inclusive and community led Aden Wetlands Landscape Management Plan developed and implemented with the participation of diverse stakeholders
- 2.1.5. Degraded wetlands restored through nature based, gender-based solution practices and cost-effective interventions
- 2.1.6 Improved agricultural, fish and livestock production practices developed and implemented considering IPLC and traditional knowledge practices
- 2.1.7 Gender sensitive, alternative livelihood options identified and promoted
- 2.2.1 Four active protected areas' management systems are improved, considering sustainability, ecotourism, and business planning
- 2.2.2 Successfully developed and implemented protected area management model replicated in at least three inactive protected areas
- 2.2.3 Based on the findings of Output 2.2.2 and 2.2.1, alternative livelihood options around the protected areas identified and enhanced ensuring that these options are equally accessible to women
- 2.2.4 Lessons learned on conservation of Dragon blood trees and Frankness trees in Frimhin and Homhil protected areas up-scaled
- 2.2.5 An island-wide sustainable sea turtle conservation program established and operated in coordination and cooperation with local authorities and communities
- 2.2.6 Lessons learned on controlling invasive alien species programme will be up-scaled.

Component 3: Knowledge Management, Public Awareness

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,000,000.00	1,500,000.00

Outcome:

3.1: Decision makers and relevant stakeholders aware and appreciate the importance of conservation of the Aden wetlands and Socotra Archipelago

Core Indicator 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments: (5000 people, 2500 F and 2500M)

Output:

3.1.1. Outreach and dissemination strategy for conservation of Aden wetlands and Socotra Archipelago developed and implemented

3.1.2. Innovative gender sensitive knowledge products developed, packaged and disseminated.

3.1.3. Relevant stakeholders and communities capacitated to comply with the management of wetland landscape and Socotra Archipelago

3.1.4. Awareness raising campaigns developed and conducted

3.1.5. Knowledge Management System developed and in operation

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
400,000.00	500,000.00

Outcome:

Output:

Monitoring and Evaluation plan / platform is established and functional

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1 Strengthening policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks and technical capacity for conservation and sustainable use of Aden wetlands landscape and Socotra Archipelago through a landscape approach	805,916.00	1,000,000.00
Component 2 Conservation of Biodiversity in Socotra and Sustainable Management of Aden Wetlands	2,000,000.00	1,750,000.00
Component 3: Knowledge Management, Public Awareness	1,000,000.00	1,500,000.00

M&E	400,000.00	500,000.00
Subtotal	4,205,916.00	4,750,000.00
Project Management Cost	210,295.00	250,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	4,416,211.00	5,000,000.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

Yemen is a distinguished part of the Arabian biodiversity due to the high rate of endemism in the main land (being southernmost of the Arabian Peninsula, and affected by the African affinities), and having Socotra Island that is known as the Callipygous of the Indian Ocean. Socotra is the second largest island in the Indian Ocean, and one of the ten islands worldwide that are important for biodiversity with high rate of endemism. In the past decade Yemen witnessed civil war that led to divide Yemen to North and south, then a political conflict in the south, where Aden and Socotra Archipelago are adhered to. Socotra Archipelago attracted the interest of international community to conserve its unique biodiversity. Since 1998, international projects started to conserve and sustain the biodiversity of Socotra. With time, a total of 40 protected areas were declared including 27 marine protected areas, and 13 terrestrial protected areas.

While the Socotra Archipelago enjoys relatively greater political stability compared to the main land of Aden, several significant challenges undermine the ecological well-being of this unique island. Weak legislative structures, a rise in poverty, and the inadequacies within the island's governance system for managing protected areas collectively contribute to the preservation concerns in Socotra. Furthermore, limited technical capacity among local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) engaged in protected area management, as well as the local environmental protection agency, coupled with unsustainable resource utilization practices and conflict of interests among authorities, have collectively exerted a profound impact on Socotra's exceptional biodiversity. This complex set of issues has recently resulted in the ineffective management of protected areas across the island.

The ineffective management leads to several environmental problems mainly the uncontrolled grazing that is rolling over the island and leaving no single seedling of the endemic Dragoon Blood tree or the frankincense trees. Land encroachment and claiming land tenure for trade became an issue, followed by pollution especially with plastic all around the island. In addition, the seasonal monsoon removes considerable amount of the endemic trees especially the weak and heavily harvested trees. Consequentially, these factors enhanced the loss of the island's unique biodiversity. The recent GEF/UNEP project (Support to the Integrated Programme for the Conservation and sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago, Yemen # 5347) started with the management effectiveness assessment of the Protected Areas of Socotra. Out of 40 declared protected areas four were found moderately effective. These will be referred here to "effective protected areas" (Two marine (DiHamri, and Rosh) and Two terrestrial (Homhil, and Firmhin)) which offered workable environment of the #5347 GEF/UNEP project and allow improvement toward high effective management during the project implementation, and leaving space for upscaling and development. While another three protected areas, were all ineffectively managed (will be referred here as "ineffective protected areas", although they still have potential of improvement and effective management if considered and integrated in this current proposed project. These are one coastal wetland (Dytwah, the only Ramsar site in Yemen), one terrestrial protected area (Skund), and one coastal national park (Abilhin) that is important for Sea Turtle nesting,

The enhancement made in the previous project in the effective protected areas includes the reforestation and the reforestation and rehabilitation of the endangered and endemic trees of the island. Nurseries were established to support the reforestation, and more than 2000 seedlings of the three main endangered trees, the Dragoon Blood, the Frankness, and the Mangroves.

However, this momentum of success is still threatened if not upscaled. Several challenges were faced: weak governance, conflict of authorities, and the urgent need of continuity in term of protection, maintenance, and upscaling of the reforested and rehabilitated areas. This continuity can be achieved only if the new project serves to maintain the current reforestation efforts and upscale it. Because each implanted seedlings in the reforested areas needs at least 35 years to become resistant for grazing, which put more effort to maintain its protection until becoming resistant to grazing.

The situation is more complicated in Aden wetlands, as more stakeholders are involved in the impact on these wetlands including industrial sectors, sewage treatment, mining, infrastructure and urbanization. These wetlands are aggregated at the western part of Aden, and were managed to protect their values and maintain their conditions to host the migratory birds that use to use the wetland as a stop over along the migration pathway. At the time the conflict in Yemen/ Aden started, these wetlands became threatened by depletion of its natural resources, pollution, conflict, and the domestic impact from the surrounding livelihood. The project will aim to rebuild the wetland management in participatory approach with all stakeholders, and will work to put the wetlands status on a higher level such as Ramsar sites by enhancing integrated management and wetland restoration.

This project will address the continuous challenges on natural resources in Socotra and Aden, and will upscale the success in Socotra project by enlarging the number of effectively managed protected areas, and induce more financial sustainability mechanism such as ecotourism, and socioeconomic activities that are inline with the natural and cultural heritage of the island. While in Aden, the project will promote the integrated management of wetland in the context with stakeholders' involvement supported by the enlargement of the ecosystem services in the wetland in the global context.

In the phase of preparation, several stakeholders were involved in project design consultations and they will be consulted further at the PPG phase. The Yemeni Ministry of Water and Environment is represented by the environmental protection agency of Aden (the head quarter), and Environmental protection agency directorate in Socotra Island during this PIF consultation phase.

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the Environmental Protection Agency will be the lead executing agency providing the overall guidance and supervision of the project and chair the Steering Committee. The MWE will also be in charge of supporting the design and implementation of policies and regulations that facilitate compliance with the project's goals. Furthermore, the MWE will be in charge of the national technical oversight of the project, to ensure proper activities' coordination and will liaise with key stakeholders, especially other ministries and governmental institutions. The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) will provide support to manage and administer the day-to-day activities of a project. RSCN will be in charge of the management and administration of project activities, and will be accountable for intended and appropriate use of funds, for procurement and contracting of goods and services, and for timely delivery of inputs and outputs. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established for the overall supervision of the project at a strategic level. PSC members will include government bodies, environmental organizations, and local communities, and the implementing agency.

Local authorities in the island, and the local CBOs that are engaged in the protected areas management are also considered as a stakeholder in the preparation phase and later phases. Private sectors from Yemen, Jordan, and / or abroad will be included to support technical assessment in the phase of proposal writing.

This project will build on the success of conservation work that been established in Socotra Island making use of the experiences built in the previous projects that will enabling the upscaling of success in the island. It will also link the other initiatives like the cultural heritage in the conservation of natural resources by enhancing the traditional grazing regime and the traditional use of natural resources. In the previous GEF project (Support to the Integrated Programme for the Conservation and sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago, Yemen # 5347) that was executed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Jordan), in cooperation with the Environmental Protection agency (Aden), four components were addressed namely:

- 1- Biodiversity and protected areas: where the protected areas were evaluated of management effectiveness, and four out of forty were found potentially active (in term of effective management, staff, activities, context, and operation). These four protected areas (DiHamri and Rosh marine protected areas, and Firmhin and Homhil terrestrial protected areas) were enhanced toward the effective management considering the holistic approach, and best practices in protected areas management. These four protected areas will act as a model to be followed with other existing inactive projected areas. The term 'inactive' means that these protected areas are either paper protected areas^[1], or have no activities on ground. These inactive protected areas also varies in terms of management structure. A few of them are managed by CBOs but they are inactive due to unavailable resources or tribal conflict. The rest are fully inactive with no management regime. The proposed project will work to improve the management of these four effective protected areas by increasing their capacity, creating more income generation initiatives, and most importantly, developing a financial plan and ensuring the sustainability of their nature-friendly services such as eco-tourism.
- 2- Controlling invasive alien species: In the previous project list of invasive species and their invasion pathways were identified, guideline of the invasive species was produced in both Arabic and English, then a quarantine was established. Several eradication events took place island wide. The working with IAS is a continuous process, and since the quarantine was finished by the end of the project work is still needed to train the staff of agriculture, and borders both airport and harbor to deal with IAS in term of identification, sterilization, and the proper way of disposal.
- 3- Sustainable land management: in this component land use plan was prepared (in progress), and forest restoration took place in the most important sites in Firmhin (for dragon blood trees), and in Homhil PA (for Frankincense trees) and in different sites on the northern coast line for Mangrove restoration. The nurseries where the seedlings of the endemic plants are propagated then transferred to the restoration sites needs continuous support, as same as the restoration sites, knowing that the time needed for single seedling of Dragoon Blood tree to be grazing resistant is at minimum of 35 years, which justify the continuous conservation effort. On the other hand, under this component, local grants were granted to local CBOs for local enterprises and to enhance the management of the protected that the local CBOs are in charge in its management.
- 4- and empowering environment: where more than 30 capacity building programmes were achieved in different field, and targeting side range of EPA staff, Local CBOs' Staff, Project's staff, and local people. Educational materials were prepared and disseminated, and school curricula were developed and implemented all over one academic year. However, there is still a need to upscale this capacity development on wider range, and including more stakeholders who will facilitate the implantation of the new project, create a pool of expertise and local and national scale, and

empower the local and national government in the technical aspects of protected areas management.

One of the critical achievements that needs to be upscaled is the controlling of invasive alien species, as this issue is critically and directly impact the biodiversity of Socotra Island. The new project will enhance the implantation of the IAS strategic plan, and will apply its activity on the whole island, as the process of invasion by alien species and the control of their spreading is continuous. The project will build up and make use of the quarantine facilities that was established in the previous project in parallel with the knowledge products such as the guide of IAS of Socotra, the invasive pathways, and the IAS strategy. The upscaling will be going to target the whole island and keep an eye of any new invasion event to be controlled from the beginning.

The long-term solution sought by the project is effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable management practices in Aden wetlands and Socotra Archipelago in Yemen. However, the following barriers are preventing this solution.

Barrier 1: Weak Governance and Institutional Capacity: The political context in Yemen is complicated, leading to weak environmental management and governance. This includes poor institutional capacity for conservation and sustainable management, which hinders effective protection of Aden wetlands and Socotra archipelago. The conflict situation in Yemen exacerbates governance issues, making it difficult to coordinate efforts and implement integrated landscape approaches. This barrier is addressed through Output 1.1.1, which establishes a National Wetlands Platform for coordinated Aden wetlands management, and Output 1.1.2, which promotes wise-governance principles and reviews the governance system of protected areas in Socotra. These actions aim to enhance institutional and technical capabilities for sustainable management and conservation.

Barrier 2: Unsustainable Resource Use and Degraded Wetlands: Aden wetlands face resource depletion and degradation due to various stakeholders' unsustainable practices, including agriculture, fishing and livestock production. This threatens the ecological health of the wetlands and the well-being of surrounding communities. Output 2.1.5 aims to restore degraded wetlands through nature-based solution practices and cost-effective interventions. Additionally, Output 2.1.6 focuses on improving agricultural, fish and livestock production practices, considering traditional knowledge. These actions directly address the barrier of unsustainable resource use and the degradation of wetlands, leading to improved management and conservation.

Barrier 3: Limited Awareness and Knowledge: Decision-makers and stakeholders in Yemen may not fully appreciate the importance of conservation in Aden wetlands and Socotra Archipelago, partly due to the complex political situation. Limited awareness and knowledge hinder the support and effective implementation of conservation efforts. This barrier is addressed through Output 3.1.1, which develops an outreach and dissemination strategy, and Output 3.1.4, which involves awareness-raising campaigns. Output 3.1.2 also focuses on gender-sensitive knowledge products. These actions aim to enhance awareness and knowledge among stakeholders and communities, leading to increased support for conservation efforts and improved understanding of the importance of nature conservation despite the challenging political context.

The project involves various stakeholders, private sector, and local actors who have different roles and interests in the project. The following table summarizes some of the main actors and their roles in the

project. The stakeholders will be involved in the project development phase through various mechanisms such as consultations, workshops, meetings, and feedback mechanisms.

National Ministries and Government Agencies	Provide policy guidance, regulatory framework, technical support, and oversight for the project.
EPA	The EPA, responsible for managing the core and buffer zones, implementing conservation and restoration activities, and coordinating with other stakeholders.
Local Government	Provide local governance, planning, service delivery, and coordination for the project.
People residing in project areas	The main project affected parties (PAPs), who depend on the natural resources and ecosystem services for their livelihoods, culture, and well-being. They also have potential impacts on the environment through their land use and agricultural practices. They are expected to participate in the project activities, adopt sustainable practices, and benefit from improved livelihoods and environmental conditions. There is a local CBOs that are responsible for PAs management in Socotra, but there is a special women CBOs that are running handicrafts from the PA products and help in enlarging their family income. They are also experienced and trained in home gardening that will relief the shortage of basic supplements at the time of Monsoon.
NGOs	Provide technical expertise, advocacy, awareness raising, capacity building, and monitoring for the project. Some NGOs may also implement specific project activities or components.
Academic institutions	Conduct research, provide scientific data and knowledge, support innovation and learning, and contribute to monitoring and evaluation for the project.
Other project developers and their financiers	Have an interest in the project as potential partners for funding or resources. They may also influence the project through their investments or activities.

Below is a brief gender analysis of Aden wetlands and Socotra archipelago

- A- Livelihoods: Men and women are involved in different livelihoods. Men often engage in activities such as agriculture, fishing, trade, and construction, while women usually are participating in activities like domestic work, small-scale agriculture, and traditional crafts.
- B- Differentiated Roles: In general, men take more physically demanding work with leadership position, while women's roles are often associated with caregiving, household chores, and tending to family needs. They are also holding leadership roles in some parts of this kind of livelihoods mainly securing the basic needs of their families and management of the family income.

- C- **Conflict Effects:** The conflicts in Yemen impact both men and women differently. Men are often directly affected as combatants, with a higher risk of injury or death as they are directly involved. While women, on the other hand, are indirectly involved and bear increased responsibilities due to the loss of male family members and disruptions in daily life.
- D- **Conservation and Sustainable Development:** In the context of Socotra Archipelago and Aden Wetlands, women and men may not be equally involved in conservation and sustainable development efforts due to various factors, including the traditional gender role that restrict women's participation in formal conservation initiatives, especially those that involve travel or fieldwork. However, this was minimised in previous project (GEF/UNEP # 5347) when dealing with the restriction and secure the safety of women employees.
- Access to education and training may hinder women's qualifications for conservation-related jobs and roles if not consider the traditions and cultural aspect in Yemen and Socotra. Men may have more opportunities for education and training due to societal expectations, while women may face economic constraints that limit their engagement.
- E- **Impact of Environmental Deterioration:** The deterioration of the Socotra Archipelago and Aden Wetlands can have specific impacts on men and women, including health Effects: environmental degradation can affect the health of both men and women. However, women may face additional health risks, such as collecting water from distant sources due to water scarcity. Both men and women may lose their livelihoods due to environmental degradation, but women may have fewer alternative income-generating opportunities, which exacerbates their economic vulnerability. Finally, women's access to natural resources for subsistence, like firewood and water, may be limited due to environmental degradation, impacting their ability to care for their families.

[1] https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?2118/Protected-Areas-or-Paper-Parks

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

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

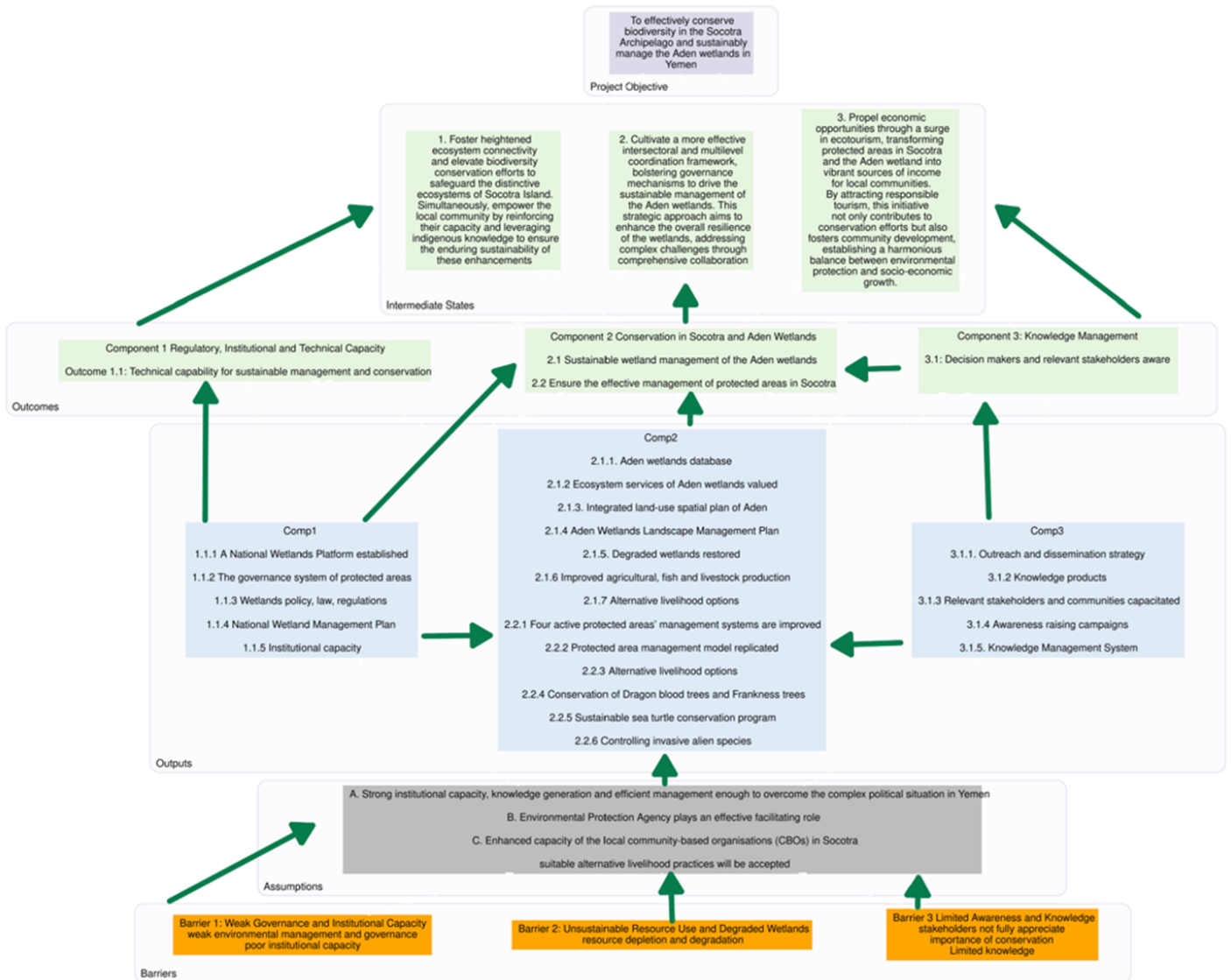
The Situation: At present, the political context in Yemen is complicated, which results in weak environmental management, which negatively affects Aden wetlands and Socotra archipelago – a global biodiversity hotspot. Weak governance, poor technical capacity, unsustainable use of natural resources, and conflict between authorities are the driving factors of weak and ineffective management of protected areas of Socotra. The conflict situation in Yemen also impacts the distinguished wetlands of Aden and impaired its values through pollution, depletion of natural resources, and decline of the quality of surrounding livelihoods.

The Project Intervention Logic

The project's theory of change describes the project's logic for addressing the problems described in the project rationale and achieving the intended global environmental benefits. The goal of this project is to implement an effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable management practices in Aden wetlands and Socotra Archipelago in Yemen. The Project consolidates results in the Aden Wetlands and Socotra projects into one project is based on practical considerations due to limited capacity within the Government of Yemen. The limited human resource capacity, and institutional capabilities make managing two separate projects challenging. By merging the interventions in two sites, the Project aims to pool resources for knowledge management, training, lessons learned, and best practices, benefiting both sites. This approach also combines efforts to mainstream biodiversity conservation into policy and decision-making processes. The integration leverages the strengths of the Socotra team in biodiversity conservation, enabling knowledge transfer and training for the Aden Wetlands. Additionally, the current challenges and limited staff availability, particularly in Aden, make managing a single, combined project more practical and efficient.

The project will take into consideration the gender equity and will ensure that both men and women will play an important role in conservation and sustainable development. Both genders will be targeted in capacity building, enhancing of local livelihoods, and knowledge management and disseminations. The project will make use of gender experts to consider the Yemeni gender context and try to overcome all the barriers at the time of project implantation. A diagram of theory of change is presented in the next page.

The livelihood improvement approach has proven to be successful as a tool for conserving natural resources in Yemen, Socotra, and the surrounding areas. This is evident in the terminal evaluation report by Infield and Al Deen (2003) for the project title "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of Socotra Archipelago"[\[1\]](#). The report emphasizes the positive impact on Socotrans' livelihoods, attributing it to the collective efforts of the government, donors, and private investments. Furthermore, it elucidates that, in the long term, the populace stands to benefit from the development of sustainable livelihoods based on the islands' natural resources, particularly in fisheries and tourism. The proposed project will consider integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions in sustainable development, aligning with the UN's common approach to biodiversity. This entails ensuring a clean and healthy environment through proper and effective management of protected areas and their surroundings. Additionally, the project aims to empower local/indigenous people through capacity building, and enable them to effectively manage natural resources in protected areas and beyond. Poverty reduction is anticipated through the wise use and effective management of resources, leading to a fair distribution of benefits. Land encroachments, especially in vital biodiversity areas, will be minimized. Ecosystem restoration, especially for endemic and endangered species, will be prioritized by building upon current efforts and replicating them in other sites.



The overarching logic of the project intervention is that by **strengthening the institutional regulatory and technical capacity for sustainable management and conservation (Project Component 1)** and **implementing efficient knowledge generation and management (Project Component 3)**, we will ensure **sustainable site-level management of the Aden wetlands and Socotra Archipelago (Project Component 2)**, which will lead to the reduction of the main threats to the biodiversity and enhancement of the status of the environment resulting in maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services leading to positive effects on human wellbeing. All this is supported by practicing **adaptive management via implementing effective monitoring and evaluation system (Project Component 4)**.

Improving the institutional and technical capacity for sustainable management and conservation of the local authorities (Project Component 1) will be achieved via 3 pathways (1.1) *developing an Inter-institutional National Platform for Coordinated Aden Wetlands management*, (1.2) *improving Wetland's policy, law and regulations* and (1.3) *raising the capacity to manage PA effectively*. These pathways together will lead to good coordination among institutions via enabling multi-stakeholder engagement and implementation of an integrated landscape approach formalized in national and site-level management plans, which are based on wise government principles. All this should create enabling conditions for effective site-level management.

Efficient knowledge management and awareness (Project Component 3) is aimed at (3.1) *developing a knowledge management system (i.e. e-library)* to host all existing information together with the new knowledge generated within this Project, which will support the creation of better qualified local experts, the lack of which is one the hurdles for effective conservation at both project sites. The knowledge management system will serve as a pool of information that will support all phases and components of the project implementation and provide a long-term sustainable source of reliable environmental information as it will be maintained after the project end. The compilation of all relevant information will also create solid base for the development of attractive and efficient awareness materials which is the purpose of pathway (3.2) *developing an overarching outreach strategy for the project*. This strategy will guide communication and awareness efforts and include smart and gender-sensitive communication products resulting in stakeholders' increased appreciation of nature, understanding the importance of conservation work and thus supporting the project implementation which is vital given the complex political situation in Yemen. All the above-described activities and outcomes will create enabling conditions for the core project intervention.

Implementing and demonstrating sustainable site-level management of the Aden wetlands and Socotra Island. This component is divided into two sub-components. The first one is focused on the Aden region and is aiming at **sustainable management of wetlands (Outcome 2.1)**. This will be achieved by *improving the network of protected wetlands via new designations and a community-led Aden Wetlands site-level Management plan*. The Plan will be elaborated and guided by the two national-level plans from Pathway 1.1. The Plan will contribute to better stakeholder engagement and among other site actions it will lead to the restoration of degraded wetlands. Additionally, to ensure sustained preservation, the project team will work to improve the network of protected wetlands through identifying and designating new Ramsar sites.

The intervention at Socotra Archipelago is aiming at **ensuring the effective management of four active and three inactive protected areas considering the compatibility between the needs of indigenous and local communities and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity**. This will be achieved by a few interlinked pathways.

Enhancing Sea Turtle conservation works for the establishing an island-wide sustainable sea turtle conservation program which will consist of two main elements: an advocating campaign for authorities to prioritise turtle conservation and a public awareness campaign so that, in the end, the local institutions and

CBOs collaboratively control sea turtle nesting beaches and the public accepts and are willing to support the establishment of nesting site protected area.

Enhanced and upscaled management of protected areas (PAs) includes activities which leverage the existing protected area management model via identifying and building capacity for CBOs focusing efforts on developing sustainable business models for CBOs. The Project assumes that the CBOs will be able to manage the protected areas effectively if they have the capacity and financial sustainability. The project's strategy for enhancing the management of four active protected areas involves a multifaceted approach to ensure sustainability, promote ecotourism, and implement robust business planning. Drawing on the successful management model established in four active protected areas, the project will extend these practices in Abelhin, Skent, and Detwah Lagoon protected areas tailoring interventions to the unique challenges and opportunities of each location. One key aspect of this expansion is the emphasis on fostering alternative livelihood options, particularly those accessible to women, to enhance economic opportunities and empower local communities. For instance, initiatives will include supporting community-based enterprises, such as eco-friendly handicraft production by local women or guided nature tours. Additionally, the project aims to integrate lessons learned from past conservation efforts, especially those related to the protection of specific species and the control of invasive alien species. This knowledge transfer will be instrumental in formulating island-wide conservation strategies, contributing to the preservation of biodiversity on a broader scale. The overarching goal is to intertwine effective protected area management with financial sustainability, leveraging ecotourism and community-based socioeconomic activities that align with the natural and cultural heritage of the Socotra Archipelago. Through this approach, the project seeks to create a holistic model that not only safeguards the unique biodiversity of Socotra but also enhances the well-being of local communities by providing sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities. All this will also ensure the sustainability of CBOs after the end of the project and, thus, long-lasting co-benefits for the environment and human society.

Another important part of the work in protected areas and the surrounding territories is on invasive species starting with updating the knowledge base, going through awareness and capacity building for the CBOs responsible for PA management and supporting them by demonstration and collaborative removal of invasive species. This will lead to decreasing the negative effect on the valuable, high-endemism ecosystems of the Archipelago. This pathway is one of the core project interventions as it builds capacity, enhances collaboration and ensures resources which are vital for the implementation of all the other conservation work in the Archipelago. The successful implementation of the collaborative management of the protected areas has the potential to lead to transformative change in the conservation management in Socotra - a global biodiversity hotspot.

Upscaling the sustainable use of Dragon blood & frankincense trees is aiming at improving the status of these two endemic tree species, which are one of the symbols of the island but are threatened by unsustainable use and overgrazing of seedlings. The popularisation of traditional sustainable practices and communication with local community leaders who set the harvesting rules will lead to sustainable yield, and pairing these actions with leveraging on the existing experience for regeneration support through expanding the effective model of fencing seedlings to new areas is expected to lead to a substantial reduction of the negative anthropogenic impact on the two tree species.

All these 3 components are supported by **Implementing efficient monitoring and evaluation (Project Component 4)**. This will be performed via implementing regular evaluations and practicing adaptive management. All this will be done on using the present ToC, so it will be directly linked to the project implementation and will enable the project team to understand even better the system, to learn from its work

and, if necessary, improve it in the process of the project implementation. All the information acquired via the evaluation will be fed into the knowledge management system and thus allow for robust sustainable future change based on the best available information. All the lessons learnt will be fed back directly in the site-level work allowing to practice adaptive management while implementing.

The implementation of all the project components in integrity will lead to the reduction of the main threats, enhancement of the status of the main ecosystems and species at the sites, ensure functional ecosystem services and associated with them human wellbeing. The project is planning to address many intervention points as it is urgent in the face of climate change, political conflict, poorly functioning institutions and unsustainable resource use. We believe that only like this – through an integrated wide-ranging approach paired with active engagement of stakeholders and local communities **an effective biodiversity conservation and management can be implemented** and lead to **a sustainable system change in the long term. We believe that designed this way the present project is likely to be necessary and sufficient to make a difference.**

Assumptions

- A. Strong institutional capacity, knowledge generation and efficient management are enough to overcome the complex political situation in Yemen, and provide preconditions for sustainable site management in **Aden wetlands and Socotra archipelago**.
- B. Environmental Protection Agency, supported by the project team, will be playing an effective facilitating role with relevant stakeholders, which will lead to reduced conflict between authorities and functional cooperation.
- C. Enhanced capacity of the local community-based organisations (CBOs) in Socotra will enable them to operate self-sustainably after the project lifespan, which will lead to long-term sustainable protected areas (PAs) management.
- D. When suitable alternative livelihood practices are selected and promoted in the appropriate way that will lead to acceptance and their sustainable long-term practicing.

Risks

- The poor technological infrastructure in Yemen may interfere with the efficient knowledge management
- Lifestyle habits/patterns may not support the development of advanced capacities connected with alternative livelihood
- The local authorities and communities do not see the preservation of sea turtles as an important priority which can lead to population decline
- Financial risk: money exchange and money transfer are challenging.
- The weak legislation and state priorities may not facilitate the effective wetland management
- It is very challenging to ensure financial sustainability of the CBOs throughout the year as their main income is connected to tourism which is seasonal
- The rapid expansion of invasive species may be beyond the capacity to control it
- Authorities are not prioritising waste management when it comes to budgeting
- The responsible institutions lack capacity to properly manage financial resources

- # of visitors may drop because of the political situation
- Uncorralled grazing can impact the reforestation effort

The project will generate global environmental benefits that would not have accrued without the GEF project by:

- Supporting the effective management of 7 protected areas and 1 wetland in total of approximately 19,000 ha in Socotra and Aden, which will contribute to support approximately 5000 individuals of both women and men.
- Restoring 4,000 ha of wetland ecosystems in Aden and Socotra, which will enhance the resilience and connectivity of wetland ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as increase the provision and valuation of ecosystem services, such as clean water, food, raw materials for natural products, etc.
- Benefiting about 5,000 people (of which 50% women) in Socotra and Aden, who will improve their livelihoods and well-being through alternative income sources, such as ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, fisheries, etc., as well as through increased access to education, training, health, and social services.

The relevant stakeholders that were elaborated in Section A. Project Rationale will contribute to developing and implementing the project. The respective roles of stakeholders, and how they will benefit from the project are summarized below:

Local authorities in Yemeni mainland and Socotra Island are the main partner in the preparation and development of of this project, especially the Environmental Protection Agency in Aden and Socotra. Both Agencies will benefit from the project by strengthening the management of their protected areas, and upscale the success in the previous project ((Support to the Integrated Programme for the Conservation and sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago, Yemen # 5347 GEF/UNEP). In addition, it will lead to sustainable natural resources management by creating a pool of experiences in different fields of integrated management of protected areas.

The local community representatives (CBOs) are involved in the preparation phase of the project, as they participated in identification of the areas of interventions and upscaling to their current / existing protected areas. Larger spectrum of local communities (where new PAs will be established in the Yemeni Island of Socotra, or in the Yemeni mainland) have been consulted and involved in the scope of the project in enhancing the management of new protected areas and upscaling the current effectively managed protected areas.

Other stakeholders will benefit from the project at the time of implantation including tourism related stakeholders, the education directorates, private sectors who will be partners in some activities in the project, and finally international partners can help in some specific, defined and time limited tasks.

The project demonstrates a comprehensive approach to ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers impacting Aden Wetlands and Socotra Island. Several key features in the project design contribute to this

resilience. Integrated Landscape Approach, Ecosystem Based Approaches, Adaptive Management Framework, Diversity of Interventions, Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening, Alternative Livelihoods, Knowledge Management, Community Engagement and Gender Sensitivity are the diversified approaches that address a range of interconnected issues. The project aims to build a foundation that can withstand and adapt to the dynamic challenges that may arise in the future.

Contribution to the GBF

The Project will focus on (but will not be limited to) the following global targets at national level:

Target 1 (areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive effective management processes addressing land use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity while respecting the rights of).

Target 2 (Ensure that areas of degraded terrestrial ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity).

Target 4 (Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence).

Target 11 (Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services).

Target 13 (Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes etc.)

The project aims to conserve and restore wetlands and protected areas in Yemen, especially in Aden and Socotra Archipelago, which are important for biodiversity and ecosystem services. By establishing a national wetlands platform, reviewing and revising the policy and legal framework, developing and implementing integrated landscape and protected area management plans, and enhancing alternative livelihood options, the project supports the achievement of targets 1, 2, 4, 11, and 13 of the global biodiversity framework.

[1] <https://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/documents/projects/tes/223-terminal-evaluation.pdf>

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

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

UNEP will not take any execution role on this project.

Following are the two primary GEF projects that this project will closely coordinate and align:

UNEP/GEF “Support to the Integrated Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago” has four components: (1) Improved Biodiversity Conservation/Protected Area Management (BD/PAM), (2) Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Management, (3) Sustainable Land Management/Land Degradation (SLM/LD), and (4) Enabling Environment (related to the institutional framework, capacity development and sustainable financing). This project creates a strong baseline for this project. In addition, the non-expandable equipment and the expertise network of this ongoing Project will be transferred to this GEF8 Project.

FAO/GEF Project “Resilient and sustainable livelihoods for rural Yemen” aims to facilitate the development of sustainable and resilient livelihoods for rural Yemenis by mainstreaming climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and SLM across productive agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors. This new GEF8 Project will benefit the baseline assessment stocktaking analysis of the FAO/GEF Project. In addition, the Project will utilize the FAO project’s best practices related to fisheries, livestock production, and agriculture. Best practices of the FAO project on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into productive sectors of fisheries, tourism, and agriculture/livestock will be replicated in targeted pilot areas where relevant.

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
9673	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5500	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Abelhin	903138	Others	3,300.00			
Skent	903138	Others	2,200.00			

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)
4173	0	0	0

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)
Detwah Lagoon	555542725	Others	580.00						
Firmhin	903138	Others	1,570.00						
Homhil	903138	Others	2,023.00						

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
758	0	0	0

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
----------------------------	---------	---------------	----------------------------	--	----------------------------	---------------------------

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
758	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
DiHamri	903138	Others	288.00						
Rosh	903138	Others	470.00						

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
8800	0	0	0

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
8,800.00			

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

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

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

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

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

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

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
2,000			

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

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

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

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

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	2,500			
Male	2,500			
Total	5,000	0	0	0

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

The methodological approach and underlying logic started by identifying the core indicators and sub indicators based on the objectives that were developed based on the previous knowledge of the Yemeni context including Socotra Island, and in cooperation and partnership with the relevant stakeholders. Baselines were identified, and targets then were created to be “SMART”. When targets were created the political and legal framework was considered, and the conflict situation in Yemen was not excluded. Key stakeholders were involved in the planning cycle and the development of the theory of change. Key indicators were then prioritized according to their weight and criticalness of project success, then evidence and means of verification were developed taking the historical knowledge and trends into account.

The indicators then were reviewed as a consolidated output, communicated, and documented with stakeholders, then planned to be integrated in the monitoring and evaluation of the project leaving a space for future adaptation when during implementation.

In summary, the methodological approach to set target levels for core and sub-indicators involved systematic process that considers baseline data, stakeholder input, existing benchmarks, and a balance between ambition and feasibility. Regular monitoring and evaluation, and space for management adaptation will help to ensure that targets remain relevant and achievable throughout the project's life span.

Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the project preparation process will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project preparation such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the “Project description” section above). The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	Substantial	As the island and Aden are in an arid area with harsh climate, it is effected by the monsoon, that is part of the

		climatic cycle which enhance the marine life, and remove the weak trees from Socotra.
Environment and Social	Moderate	In Socotra, the tribal custom is contributing in minimizing the environmental and social risk, as the harvesting of natural resources mainly the harvesting of dragoon blood trees, frankincense trees, and fishing.
Political and Governance	Substantial	Due to the conflict situation in Yemen, and the weak governance of the biodiversity management, but situation is more stable in Socotra Island as it is isolated, with local government, in addition to the tribal custom that can help in relieving this conflict.
Macro-economic	Moderate	As there is a conflict area, the price of Riyal against US keeps changing, and Socotra Island had 5 months of monsoon that close the sea and harbor, which puts the economy under stress every year.
Strategies and Policies	Moderate	The project is in alignment with several key strategies and policies in Yemen, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These strategies and policies include: Yemen's climate change strategy is promoting sustainable use through optimal allocation of water resources and use of improved quality control techniques and working towards the protection of agricultural diversity, maintaining agricultural resources, and developing sustainable agricultural programs. The Yemeni sustainable development strategy aimed to achieve economic growth,

		<p>improve living standards, and address development challenges. The goals of this strategy include poverty reduction, education and healthcare improvement, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, and good governance. However, the ongoing conflict and political instability in Yemen have likely affected the implementation and focus of these development efforts. For the latest information on Yemen's sustainable development strategy, it's advisable to refer to official government publications and international organizations.</p>
Technical design of project or program	Low	<p>There is a low risk to the governmental stakeholder (Ministry of Environment / Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)) to modify the objectives and goals away of the project design as the project was jointly designed the stakeholders according to the Yemeni context needs. UNEP Environment Programme will be part of the project's Project Steering Committee in order to ensure that the GEF conditions of the project are met.</p>
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Moderate	<p>Although several projects were executed in the mainland and Socotra Island, including a lot of capacity building programme, the expert are leaving due to the conflict situation in Yemen, and poverty, in addition to having better choices outside the country. The current project will make sure to use the existing capacities and to continue with capacity building in all project-related activities targeting new generations to expand the knowledge and skills that enable local communities to manage future projects.</p>

Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Moderate	Although the financial systems and procedures are well established in the executing agency (RSCN), but the issue of money transfer from Jordan to Yemen and Socotra Island, and the continuous demand on the project resources is a moderate challenge in the project.
Stakeholder Engagement	Low	The project proved in the preparation phase a satisfy engagement of stakeholders from the beginning, and at all level. The previous project executed by RSCN on the island proved to the stakeholders the effective management of the project that gain support for future project making the conflict with stakeholders unlikely to happened.
Other	Moderate	Political conflict in Yemeni mainland can challenge the activities of the project in case of unstable situation, and will prevent the project team to travel from Jordan to Aden to Socotra and vise versa.
Financial Risks for NGI projects		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	

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

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

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

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

Biodiversity Focal Area: The project will target restoration of degraded wetlands, effective management of protected areas and mainstreaming biodiversity. Hence the project is fully aligned with GEF8 Biodiversity Objective 1: Improving conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems. The Project will target implementation of (i) effective management of protected area systems; (ii) sustainable use of biodiversity; and (iii) ecosystem restoration.

Land Degradation Focal Area: The Project seeks to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation through landscape restoration. Specially, the project will support investments in restoration of degraded lands through

nature based solutions aiming to support livelihoods and strengthen community based natural resources management. Restoration activities will help improve ecosystem connectivity.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

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

A meeting took place in Amman – Jordan in December 2022 back-to-back with steering committee meeting with the H.E the minister of Environment, the Chief of EPA in Yemen, UNEP representatives (task managers), and Socotra’s general managers for the directorates of fisheries, agriculture, Environment in addition to RSCN team including the international project manager, the socioeconomic expert, and the director general. Successive online meeting including the executing agency (RSCN), the EPA and the UNEP took place to agree on the concept and general framework.

Four meeting took place in Socotra (March 2023) with two marine reserve CBOs and two terrestrial reserve CBOs to explore the option of upscaling of their work, in addition to the meeting with the governor to discuss the future of environmental needs in Socotra.

In May 2023 physical meeting took place in Istanbul including the executing agency, UNEP, and EPA (Virtual due to visa limitation) where the project log-frame was prepared and the Project Information Format were explored. Since then, continuous meeting took place with UNEP and EPA to discuss the ToC contents like risks, indicators, and then the final ToC was shared for comments before approved and inserted in the PIF.

Consultations:

December, 2022

- Ersin Esen: UNEP -Task Manager
- ABdeklader Bin Sadah: UNEP – Task Manager
- H.E. Tawfeeq Al-Sharbaji: Minister of Environment – Yemen
- Faisal Al Tha’labi : Chairman of Environmental Protection Agency , Aden.
- Rafat Al Thaqali: Governor of Socotra Island.
- Salem Hawash: Head of EPA directorate in Socotra Island.
- Yehya Saleh: Head of Agriculture directorate in Socotra.
- Ahmad Othman: head of fisheries directorate in Socotra.
- Abdel Wahab Sa’ad: national UNEP project manager in Socotra / RSCN
- Nashat Hamidan: International Project manager in Socotra / RSCN
- Fadi Al Naser: Director General / RSCN
- Ziad Awada Allah/ Socioeconomic expert/ Socotra project
- Ahmad Birwai / Socotra project admin and financial support.

March, 2023

Meeting in Socotra

With Mr Rafat al Thaqali the Governor of Socotra to discuss the future of environmental projects and needs in Socotra

- Nashat Hamidan / RSCN/ Socotra International project manager
- Osama Hassan/ RSCN/ Ecotourism specialist
- Abdulwahab Sa’ad/ RSCN/ National Project Manager
- Salem Hawash / EPA/ Socotra directorate

March, 2023

Meeting in Socotra

With Dihamri local CBOs that is responsible to the management of DiHamri marine reserve meeting to explore the option of upscaling

- Nashat Hamidan / RSCN/ Socotra International project manager
- Osama Hassan/ RSCN/ Ecotourism specialist

-
- Abdulwahab Sa'ad/ RSCN/ National Project Manager
 - Radwan Dahiq/ Dighamri CBO president/ Socotra
 - Naseem Ali/ Dighamri reserve manager/ Socotra
 - Salem Hawash/ head of EPA directorate / Socotra

March, 2023

Meeting in Socotra

With Rosh local CBOs that is responsible to the management of Rosh marine reserve meeting to explore the option of upscaling

- -Nashat Hamidan / RSCN/ Socotra International project manager
- Osama Hassan/ RSCN/ Ecotourism specialist
- Abdulwahab Sa'ad/ RSCN/ National Project Manager
- Wajdi Omar / Rosh CBO president/ Socotra
- Omar Wajdi / Rosh reserve ranger / Socotra
- Salem Hawash/ head of EPA directorate / Socotra

March, 2023

Meeting in Socotra

With Homhil local CBOs that is responsible to the management of Homhil reserve meeting to explore the option of upscaling

- -Nashat Hamidan / RSCN/ Socotra International project manager
- Osama Hassan/ RSCN/ Ecotourism specialist
- Abdulwahab Sa'ad/ RSCN/ National Project Manager
- Abdulah Hammoud / Homhil CBO president/ Socotra
- Sa'ad Abdullah / Homhil reserve ranger / Socotra
- Salem Hawash/ head of EPA directorate / Socotra

March, 2023

Meeting in Socotra

With Firmhin local CBOs that is responsible to the management of Firmhin reserve meeting to explore the option of upscaling

- -Nashat Hamidan / RSCN/ Socotra International project manager
- Osama Hassan/ RSCN/ Ecotourism specialist
- Abdulwahab Sa'ad/ RSCN/ National Project Manager
- Ahmad Eisa / Firmhin CBO president/ Socotra
- Ali Sa'ad / Firmhin CBO memeber / Socotra
- Salem Hawash/ head of EPA directorate / Socotra

In this meeting the general idea of the project was discussed, and the meeting ends up with the development of the general concept note of the project.

Meeting in Istanbul , May 2023

Ersin Esen / UNEP/ Task Manager

AbdelKader Bin Sa'dah / UNEP / Task Manager

Nashat Hamidan/ RSCN/ International Project Manager

Faisal Al Tha'alabi / EPA-Aden/ Chairman (on-line).

Consultation with FoS Europe B.V to develop the ToC concept for the project June 2023

Meeting:

Vladimir Milushev from FoS

Nashat Hamidan / RSCN

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

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

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

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNEP	GET	Yemen	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,301,605.00	218,652.00	2,520,257.00
UNEP	GET	Yemen	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	2,114,606.00	200,887.00	2,315,493.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						4,416,211.00	419,539.00	4,835,750.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

150000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
UNEP	GET	Yemen	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	78,176.00	7,427.00	85,603.00
UNEP	GET	Yemen	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	71,824.00	6,823.00	78,647.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Yemen	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,605,860.00
UNEP	GET	Yemen	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,394,140.00
Total GEF Resources					5,000,000.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	2,301,605.00	2500000
LD-2	GET	2,114,606.00	2500000
Total Project Cost		4,416,211.00	5,000,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Water and Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Civil Society Organization	RSCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1900000
Total Co-financing				5,000,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Not Applicable

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

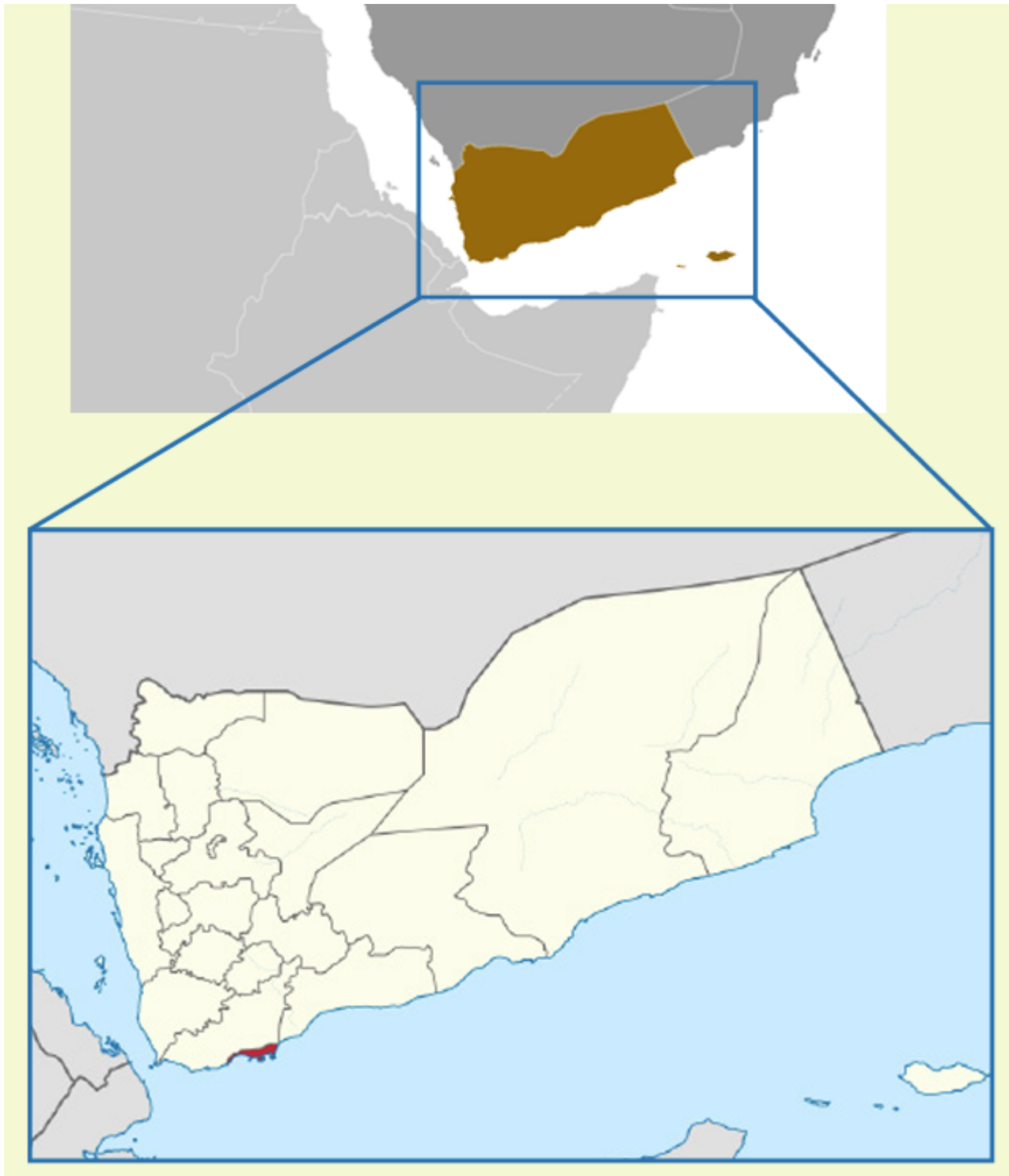
GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Victoria Luque	10/17/2023	Ersin Esen	+41 22 917 8196	Ersin.Esen@un.org

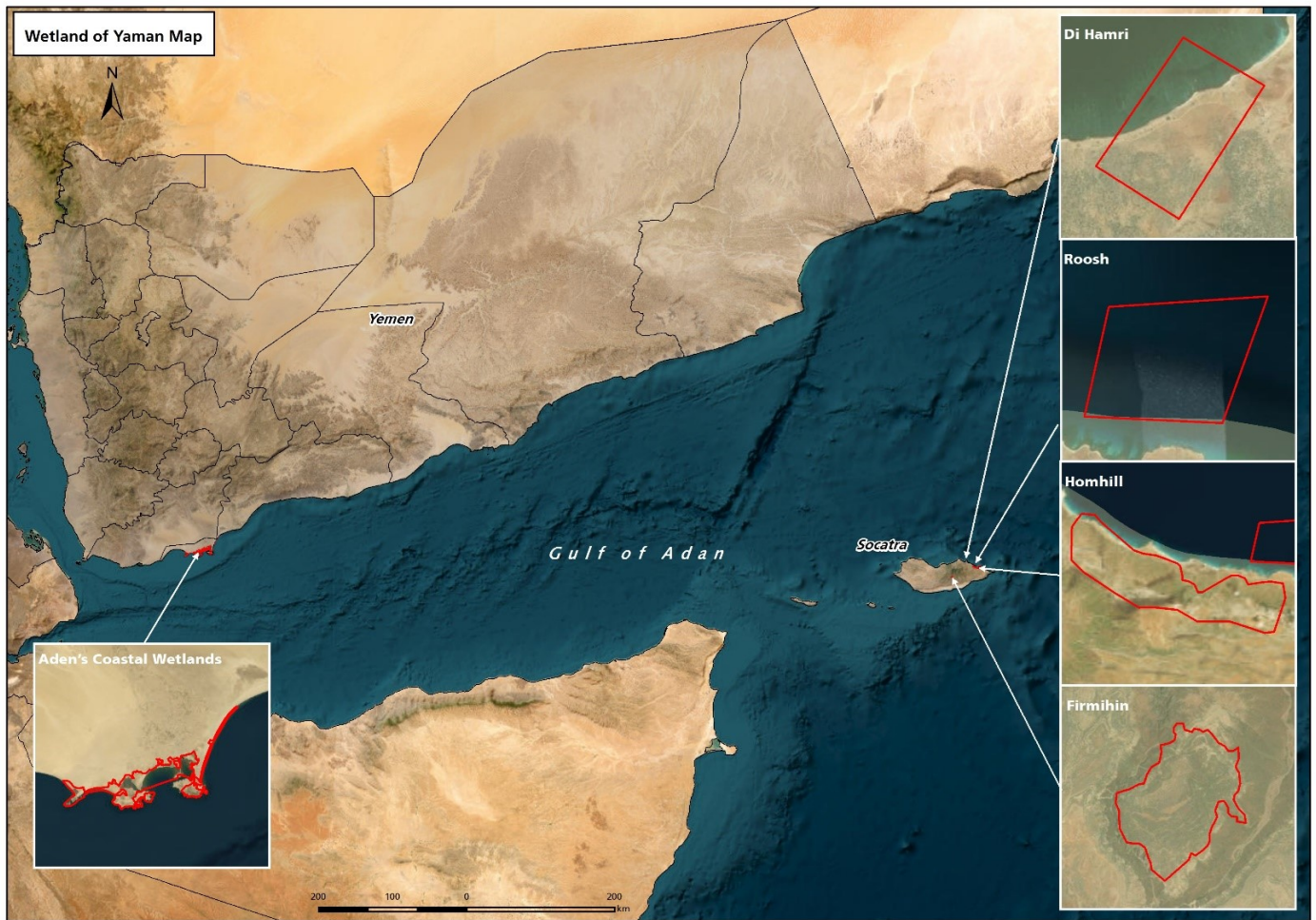
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Faisal S. Al Thalabi	Acting Chairman of Environment Protection Authority Aden, Republic of Yemen	Ministry of Water and Environment	12/31/2022

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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





ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

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

Title

Safeguard Risk Identification Form_20231015

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

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

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Influencing models			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transform policy and regulatory environments		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholders			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Sector		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beneficiaries		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Society		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Governmental Organization	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Type of Engagement		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Dissemination	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnership	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity, Knowledge and Research			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learning		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adaptive Management	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Equality			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Mainstreaming		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex-disaggregated indicators	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender results areas		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness raising	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Focal Areas/Theme			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Protected Areas
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Species	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biomes	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Degradation		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Degradation Neutrality	
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Productivity
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Cover and Land cover change