

MID-TERM REVIEW

Project ID:	5347
Project Name:	Support to the Integrated Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago
Countr(ies):	Yemen
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Support to the Integrated Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago

Country

Yemen

GEF ID

5347

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Ministry of Water and Environment (MOWE) / Environment
Protection Authority (EPA); Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH; UNDP

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

Objective

Project Objective: Strengthen governmental and non-governmental capacities sustainably to manage and protect the Socotra Archipelago WHS through BD conservation, IAS management and SLM

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

2/23/2015

Agency Approval

2/23/2015

Implementation Start

2/18/2016

First Disbursement

2/18/2016

Expected MTR

4/30/2019

MTR Submission

6/30/2019

Actual MTR

4/30/2019

Expected Completion

6/30/2024

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

The overall rating for the project is scored Moderately Unsatisfactory. As can be seen from the table below, this overall rating is comprised of ratings ranging from Highly Satisfactory to Unsatisfactory. The overall

rating, which will be disappointing to many and of concern to others, must be understood therefore in the context of this variation and with respect to the great challenges represented by the Nature of External Context, assessed as Highly Unfavourable. The admirable performance of the executing team despite great difficulties is recognised, and their delivery of activities and valuable outputs is commendable. The algorithms of the Evaluations Weightings and Ratings Table (see Appendix 2) and the numerous factors reviewed to generate the overall rating hides many strengths. It must be recognised, however, that there are also weaknesses, in both project design and delivery.

Though project reviews can seem to be exercises in finger pointing and apportioning blame, it should be recognised that weaknesses in projects result from numerous sources, many outside the control of those that develop them and those responsible for implementation and execution. The decision to slow down the inception process was a sensible response to the constraints imposed by the security, civil and political problems of Yemen. Combined with the practical difficulties of implementation, however, the project is a year behind schedule. Nonetheless, at the point of review, a commendable 70% of the budget for Years 1 and 2 has been expended.

Many key outputs indicated in the table above have been or will soon be completed, and levels of delivery are largely on track. Important outputs include:

- Building a first rate team of Socotran and Yemeni conservation and resource management professionals to undertake the project.
- Developing the Socotra Portal, a valuable hub for information on Socotra's biodiversity for improved planning.
- Establishing Farmer Field Schools to strengthen community based resource management.
- Piloting forest restoration approaches for critically endangered endemic species.
- Detailing the conservation status and management of protected areas.
- Detailing invasive alien species on or with a high risk of arrival, and eliminating two species with high potential to cause damage.

There are concerns over the delivery of some key outcomes, however, in particular:

- Establishing sustainable income-generating mechanisms, without which the sustainability of many planned outcomes and expected impacts is doubtful.
- Implementing improved management of protected areas.
- A revised Socotra Conservation Zoning Plan that responds to present reality.
- Strengthened community-based management of land and resources.

The relationship between outputs and outcomes is not always robust or practical and there are concerns about achieving tangible impacts, especially with regard to the day-to-day management of protected area and significant change to the pattern of use of land and marine resource, which is a real and present threat to the island's biodiversity and economy.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders' Participation and Cooperation is scored Moderately Unsatisfactory. Sections V F1 and V H3 describe a range of concerns raised by project partners related to their perception of weak participation, and my observations of problems related to cooperation between stakeholders.

C. Gender Equality

Responsiveness to Human Rights and Gender Equity is scored Satisfactory based on the ProDoc and my observations of project implementation in the field.

D. Knowledge Management

Communications and Public Awareness is scored Satisfactory. The work of the Communications Team has had a significant positive impact on local public awareness of the project and of environmental issues on Socotra.

III. Core Indicators

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		0	0	0
Male		0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)
Bilateral	GIZ Germany	In-kind		7,500,000.00	5,055,000.00
Recipient Country Government	EPA Yemen	In-kind		4,500,000.00	2,350,000.00
Other	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh RBGE CMEP UK	In-kind		1,015,000.00	703,750.00
Recipient Country Government	Governorate of Hadramaut Yemen	In-kind		500,000.00	705,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Local District Councils Socotra Yemen	In-kind		500,000.00	376,500.00
GEF Agency	UNEP DEPI TEU	In-kind		300,000.00	225,000.00

Foundation	Senckenberg Society for Nature Research Germany	In-kind		200,000.00	
Other	Institute of Evolutionary Biology CSIC UPF Spain	In-kind		181,151.00	147,151.00
Other	CABI	In-kind		150,000.00	115,000.00
Other	La Sapienza University Rome Italy	In-kind		116,370.00	121,936.00
Other	Mendel University Brno Czech Republic	In-kind		80,000.00	125,000.00
Civil Society Organization	The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature				
Civil Society Organization	OSME-Birdlife International				10,159.00
Civil Society Organization	SRI/BIK				170,000.00
Total Co-financing				15,042,521.00	180,159.00

Comments

Find attached document

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
		Low	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

The environmental footprint of the project and its activities appears limited, yet should be considered i.e. with regard to larger interventions and travel. Basic EIA procedures should be implemented as safeguards to large-scale interventions, and social aspects be considered when engaging communities. The CO2 footprint of duty travel shall be mitigated using compensation vouchers.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Prefix	Title
M and E Document	Mid-term Review (MTR)	5347_2019_MTE_UNEP_YEMEN_BD_ FSP_Socotra