

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10365
Project Name:	Implementation of Armenia's LDN commitments through sustainable land management and restoration of degraded landscapes
Countr(ies):	Armenia
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Implementation of Armenia's LDN commitments through sustainable land management and restoration of degraded landscapes

Country

Armenia

GEF ID

10365

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/5/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 3rd PIR

Objective

To support the national efforts to implement the LDN targets of Armenia through sustainable land management and restoration of degraded landscapes

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

2,390,500.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,422,409.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

9/16/2021

Agency Approval

6/24/2021

Implementation Start 9/1/2022	First Disbursement 11/30/2022
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 2/11/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) project in Armenia has made steady and impactful progress across all expected outputs during the reporting period. Key milestones have been achieved in national-level policy support, land restoration, capacity building, gender mainstreaming, and value chain development. Cross-sectoral policy and legal frameworks supporting LDN were finalized and are currently under review by the Ministry of Environment. A draft of gender-balanced horizontal and vertical intersectoral coordination mechanisms has also been developed, enhancing national and subnational collaboration.

Substantial progress was made in assessing the drivers of land degradation through gender-sensitive methodologies using global tools such as LADA and WOCAT. The resulting reports have been shared with the international WOCAT network. Soil samples were collected and analyzed, enabling the mapping of LDN indicators—including land productivity, cover, and soil organic carbon—in the Lori and Syunik regions.

On-the-ground restoration activities have been scaled up significantly. In total, 100 hectares of degraded arable land in Sisian and 120 hectares of degraded pastures and grasslands in Sisian and Tumanyan were restored using innovative drone-assisted organic fertilization techniques. Integrated Land Management (ILM) plans were finalized for target areas using participatory approaches. 12 sustainable land management plans were developed for all stakeholder villages.

Three resource mobilization plans were developed—one national and two regional (Lori and Syunik)—to ensure sustainability and scale-up of project benefits. A monitoring system under the Ministry of Environment has begun collecting land cover data, supporting national M&E efforts. Final evaluation and gender-sensitive co-benefits monitoring systems are in preparation.

Overall, the project is on track and demonstrating high-quality implementation through strong institutional partnerships, innovative techniques, and active community participation, contributing meaningfully to Armenia's LDN targets and the global goals under the UNCCD and GEF.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Although cross-sectoral policy packages were finalized, their formal adoption has been slower than anticipated, pending internal ministerial review. This has slightly delayed the mainstreaming of LDN priorities into national regulatory frameworks. Similarly, while the gender-balanced intersectoral coordination mechanism was drafted, operationalization at sub-national levels remains limited due to capacity constraints and the need for further consensus-building among stakeholders.

The development of the Decision Support System (DSS) for equitable land governance is still in process, partly due to the complexity of integrating gender and LDN indicators across data systems and ministries. Moreover, although a significant number of trainings were delivered, the full roll-out of the national capacity-building program required more time to complete a comprehensive needs assessment, particularly to ensure the effective inclusion of women and marginalized groups.

In summary, while none of the challenges significantly compromised project outcomes, they did necessitate revised timelines, enhanced stakeholder coordination, and ongoing capacity development. The project team continues to apply adaptive strategies to ensure timely delivery, with an emphasis on institutional strengthening, flexible field implementation, and inclusive participation.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Sisian Community	Community partnership	Field visits, direct communication, interviews, trainings. Identify the most important stakeholders for the project and determine the appropriate timing and methods to engage them effectively.
Government Institutions	Tumanyan Community	Community partnership	Field visits, direct communication, interviews, trainings. Identify the most important stakeholders for the project and determine the appropriate timing and methods to engage them effectively.
Government Institutions	Lori and Syunik Marzpetarans	Regional partnership	Effective decision making
Others	Target Villages: Projects' target villages: Dsegh, Chkalov Atan , Ahindzor, Lorut, Shamut, Qarinj Marts, Sarnakunt, Spandaryan, Gorayq and Tsghuk	Community Partnership	During the project component implementations like restoration of degraded lands, seedlings distribution, beehive distribution more population want to participate in our project as a stakeholder. This will help us to increase the active participants for our planned trainings.
Others	Armenian National Agrarian University	Cooperation partnership	LDN and SLM curricula developed and implemented in ANAU
NGOs	WWF	Project cooperation	Inclusivliy providing training programs for the stakeholders.
NGOs	Winnet	NGO	Cooperation during the RMP

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	During this reporting period: 1) the project conducted focus group discussions with women and men from target communities to deepen understanding of gender disparities in access to and control over natural resources. These qualitative insights, combined with data collected through the WOCAT Gender Questionnaire, enabled the identification of critical gender-specific barriers and priorities. The results have been systematically integrated into project planning and implementation, enhancing the gender-responsiveness of natural resource management interventions and ensuring that both women's and men's needs are effectively addressed. 2) the project completed and published 12 community-based pasture management plans that incorporate dedicated gender-responsive sections. These sections recognize both the traditional and evolving roles of women in pasture use, outline the challenges they encounter in accessing resources, and recommend specific actions to ensure more inclusive and equitable management structures. Each pasture management plan contains a dedicated gender section, developed in consultation with local women users and stakeholders. These sections outline specific measures to ensure women's access to seasonal pastures, water points, and fodder resources. 3) Targeted training sessions were held to strengthen women's knowledge of sustainable land use practices and their rights related to land and natural resource management. This has led to increased engagement and leadership among women in land stewardship activities.
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	During this reporting period, 750 women and youth received training on business management, marketing, processing, and certification across key value chains under the LDN Armenia project. The training also included sessions on equitable household decision-making, emphasizing the important role of women in managing profits and running businesses. Through awareness campaigns and partnerships with local youth organizations, the project has encouraged the participation of young women in environmental decision-making. During this reporting period, women were actively engaged in the development of resource mobilization plans, ensuring that gender perspectives and priorities were fully integrated. Their involvement contributed to the design of more inclusive and effective strategies for sustainable natural resource management. Following the development of these gender-responsive plans, targeted training sessions were conducted to strengthen women's capacity and encourage their meaningful participation in local resource management and mobilization activities.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Trainings were conducted across all key value chains of the project – including beekeeping, dairy production, and cultivation of medicinal herbs and herbal teas. Based on the outcomes and expressed needs of participants, it was decided to organize additional targeted trainings on marketing and sales for women who already run their own small-scale production businesses (such as herbal teas and dairy products). Furthermore, for women in the Syunik region, a business plan has been developed for processing sheep wool into carpets and handcrafted products, creating new economic opportunities while preserving cultural heritage and promoting women's economic empowerment. In addition, seedlings were distributed to women beneficiaries, and the project is preparing to distribute light hand tools for gardening and small-scale farming. These tools will support improved productivity and harvests, contributing to higher incomes and better livelihood opportunities for women and their families.
Any other good practices on gender	No	

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	The project is actively fostering knowledge sharing and learning through multiple channels. At the national level, it has supported the development of LDN-related training modules, policy dialogues, and university curriculum updates to embed long-term institutional learning. At the sub-national level, community-based trainings, demonstration plots (e.g., pasture restoration, berry orchards, beekeeping), and participatory planning processes have enabled stakeholders to apply new knowledge directly. Regular coordination meetings and joint implementation with local authorities further strengthen cross-level learning and replication.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	N/A
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	Drone-based organic fertilization – Introduced for restoring degraded pasture and arable lands, increasing precision and efficiency while reducing environmental impact. Use of LADA/WOCAT tools – Applied for land degradation assessments, ensuring standardization and integration into global knowledge platforms. Establishment of demonstration plots – Including 1.2 ha of berry orchards and 120 beehives, serving as practical, on-the-ground learning sites for communities.
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	The project successfully raised awareness on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) through community events, stakeholder workshops, and field demonstrations in Lori and Syunik. Videos were produced and disseminated to showcase restoration practices and gender-inclusive planning. Engagement with local media and social platforms helped increase public visibility and support for project activities.
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	Most of our beekeeping stakeholders have significantly increased their honey production. Thanks to the beehives provided by the project, many beneficiaries have not only maintained the initial support but expanded it. For example, one stakeholder increased their number of beehives from 12 (received in 2024) to 18 in less than a year. This is a strong example of how the project is positively impacting livelihoods — beneficiaries are not only utilizing the resources provided but actively investing in growth. It demonstrates that the project is achieving one of its key objectives: ensuring sustainability and continuation of results beyond the initial support.
Please provide links to related website, social media account	https://www.facebook.com/share/1JRtZ2HsKh/?mibextid=wwXlfr
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other	https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AokaZJPqk/?mibextid=wwXlfr https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1JccJiu6sk/?mibextid=wwXlfr https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1HzwmrFExN/?mibextid=wwXlfr

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	The project No-cost extension has been approved. An extension until 31 July 2026, will allow sufficient time to complete remaining activities, monitor results, and finalize the project outcomes without any additional budgetary impact. . The only budget related adjustment is a redistribution of funds between 2025 and 2026
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Atan	40.92972	44.84302	616,873

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ahnidzor	40.90764	44.82041	617,000

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Shamut	40.93894	44.79424	616,237

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lorut	40.93717	44.77142	616,465

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Karinj	40.97237	44.68979	616,568

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sarnakunk'	39.65008	45.88348	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Spandaryan	39.6197	45.92364	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tsghuk	39.66723	45.85513	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gorayk	39.68183	45.76149	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID10365_2025PIR_FAO_Armenia