PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	11046
Project Name:	RESILAND: ARMENIA RESILIENT LANDSCAPES PROJECT
Countr(ies):	Armenia
Implementing Agency:	World Bank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW 3
A. Description 3
B. Ratings and Disbursements 3
C. Key Dates 3
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES 4
A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities 4
B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities 4
C. Stakeholder Engagement 4
D. Gender Equality 4
E. Knowledge Management 5
III: MINOR AMENDMENTS 5
IV: GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES 6
V. ANNEX 8

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name
RESILAND: ARMENIA RESILIENT LANDSCAPES PROJECT

Country
Armenia

GEF ID	Implementing Agency
11046	World Bank

Executing Entity
Ministry of Environment - Environmental Project Implementation Unit

Trust Fund	Project Type
GET	FSP

PIR Submission	Fiscal Year , PIR Number
9/4/2025	FY 2025 , 1st PIR

Objective
The Project Development Objective (PDO) are (i) to increase the area under sustainable landscape management in selected locations and (ii) to promote sustainable economic activities to communities in targeted landscapes in Armenia.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress	Development Objective
Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Overall risk
Substantial

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
5,967,750.00	375,000.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval	Agency Approval
1/26/2024	5/2/2024

Implementation Start 5/2/2024	First Disbursement 11/22/2024
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 12/31/2028	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

The Project was declared effective on August 8, 2024. Significant progress has been made in advancing the staffing, TOR preparation, site selection, design of interventions, environmental, social and economic feasibility assessment, and procurement processes for various project interventions. USD 250,000 has been disbursed, representing 8.9 percent of the current funding amount that's transferred to the project. The project demonstrates the Government's strong commitment and good collaboration among the key stakeholders. It is expected that implementation at scale will commence once the preparatory activities are completed. It is on track towards achieving the project objectives to increase the area under sustainable landscape management and promote sustainable economic activities to communities in targeted landscapes in Armenia.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Project implementation needs to be further accelerated to achieve the envisioned results in a timely manner.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Progress: A multi-agency Project Steering Committee is in place (MOE, Finance, MTAI, Economy), and EPIU has advanced TORs, site selection preparations, and staffing for implementation. Key hires include a Project Coordinator, procurement/FM staff, and a reappointed Gender and Community Liaison Specialist; recruitment of Environmental and Social Specialists is underway with interim coverage. The team is preparing a July 2025–July 2026 stakeholder engagement timetable, will operationalize the project FGRM and a workers' GRM, and will map SEA/SH referral pathways per the SEP. Inclusive consultations are being embedded in TORs for forest, wetland, and mine site activities, with ESMP preparation and consultations planned pre-bidding.

Challenges and mitigation: Start-up delays, E&S staffing gaps/turnover, and a delayed social baseline have slowed SEP implementation. Mitigation actions include expedited recruitment (by April–May 2025), hands-on interim support from EPIU.

Outcomes: and next steps: Disbursements have begun; TORs for wetland/forest restoration and community benefits are finalized or under review, with contracting targeted for mid-July to mid-August 2025. Immediate priorities are: finalize hiring of E&S specialists and component coordination; operationalize FGRM/workers' GRM and SEA/SH measures; complete and use the social baseline to set inclusion metrics; document site selection criteria and consultations; and convene a May 2025 biodiversity forum to broaden engagement and visibility

D. Gender Equality

Gender-responsive measures put in place include: (i) a dedicated Gender and Community Liaison Specialist

within the PIU to lead outreach, inclusion, and SEA/SH risk mitigation; (ii) integration of a Project Gender Action Plan into the Project Operational Manual; and (iii) requirements to operationalize inclusive grievance mechanisms (project FGRM and a workers' GRM) with SEA/SH-sensitive intake and referral pathways. These measures are being embedded across TORs and implementation planning so that consultations, benefit-sharing, and capacity building systematically include and report on women's participation and outcomes

E. Knowledge Management

The project is operationalizing its KM approach through a pipeline of technical studies, ESF instruments, and structured engagement, led by EPIU/PIT with M&E and Communications support. While a dedicated K&L platform is not explicitly referenced, core KM assets are being generated (ESMPs, social baseline, technical policy reports, TORs, semi-annual reporting) and paired with a July 2025–July 2026 stakeholder engagement timetable to sequence consultations and learning across ministries and communities. Deliverables underway include site-specific ESMPs for forests and wetlands, a socio-economic baseline, a technical policy report on forest/wetland management , and feasibility/design work for abandoned mine sites . Knowledge-sharing touchpoints include a Biodiversity Forum (May 2025) and showcasing wetland restoration ahead of Biodiversity COP17 (October 2026). Communications and adaptive learning are anchored by a Communications Specialist in EPIU.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
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
Kapan forestry	39.2077	46.4068	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Margahovit State Sanctuary and Caucasian Rose-bay State Sanctuary	40.7348	44.6830	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gyulagarak State Sanctuary	40.9645	44.4741	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Khor Virap Sanctuary	39.8783	44.5762	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Armash wetlands	39.7662	44.8087	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Abandoned mining site Tandzut	40.7579	44.6002	

Location Description:

N 40.7579°; E 44.6002. Abandoned mining site Tandzut with an area of 3.1 ha. Is located inside the oak and hornbeam dominated forest and is represented by the waste rock dump, which fragments the forest and creates a high risk of acidification and possible contamination with arsenic.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Abandoned mining site Bashkend	40.7579	44.6002	

Location Description:

N 40.7579°; E 44.6002. Abandoned mining site Bashkend with an area of 49 ha. Is located at the degraded forest dominated by oak and hornbeam and is represented by several waste rock dumps, which fragment the habitat and create a high risk of acidification and possible contamination with arsenic.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Vanadzor as the central point of the Gugark forestry	40.813661	44.482085	

Location Description:

ID **616530**, town Vanadzor as the central point of the Gugark forestry, involved in the project. Gugark forestry represents over 30,228 ha of forest lands. The area is presented by mountain ridges, covered by beech and oak dominated forests, which have been severely fragmented, and their current management, in terms of logging plans, still undergoes in unsustainable manner. The zone over the timberline and the flatter areas at the lower parts of the ridges are covered by meadows, intensively used for livestock grazing.

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Stepanavan, as the lower point of the Stepanavan forestry	41.0112	44.384512	

Location Description:

ID **616194**, town Stepanavan, as the lower point of the Stepanavan forestry, involved in the project, which makes over 6,665 ha of forest lands. The area is presented by a mountain ridge, covered by beech and oak dominated forests, which also have been severely fragmented, and continue suffering from an unsustainable management. The zone over the timberline and the flatter areas at the lower parts of the ridges are also covered by meadows, intensively used for livestock grazing.

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	11046-P179988- 2025-PIR-WB-Armenia