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 5
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
9/12/2026	FY 2026 , 2nd 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
Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk
Substantial

Project Financing	Cumulative Disbursement
5,967,750.00	874,809.00

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 9/30/2026	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 downgrade is driven by the failure of two critical procurements: the Request for Bids for Lori Forest Restoration Works (estimated at US$1.2 million) was unsuccessful, and the feasibility study for mining restoration also failed to complete. Both are multi-year activities, and if not resolved urgently, they risk not being completed before the December 31, 2028 closing date, directly threatening PDO achievement.

Overall IP remains Moderately Satisfactory, around 70K werre recently disbursed in July 2026. A key structural problem is that simple procurement methods (CQS) are taking five months instead of the expected two, and the EPIU still lacks a full-time Procurement Specialist — a gap that the ministerial letter specifically asked to fill by June 30, 2026.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project faces a reinforcing set of challenges: weak procurement capacity delays activities, delayed activities slow disbursements, slow disbursements increase cancellation risk, and all of this compounds the threat to PDO achievement. The next three months — through September 2026 — are critical, with multiple hard deadlines for procurement, civil works, and CBD COP17 deliverables converging simultaneously. Procurement is the most pervasive challenge across the project. Simple Consultants Qualifications-based Selection (CQS) procedures are taking an average of five months instead of the expected two, causing cascading delays across components. Two major procurements have failed outright:

Lori Forest Restoration Works (estimated at US$1.2 million) — the Request for Bids was unsuccessful and needs to be retendered, with a September 30, 2026 deadline now set.
Feasibility Study for Mining Restoration — also unsuccessful, requiring a new approach before the September 15, 2026 deadline.
The root cause identified is the absence of a full-time Procurement Specialist — currently 70% of the EPIU team consists of part-time individual consultants. The project has been asked to recruit a dedicated specialist by June 30, 2026. The ministerial letter also raised this directly with Minister Matevosyan, underlining the severity of the problem

C. Stakeholder Engagement

The FGRM is operational, and as of April 30, 2026, 3 grievances have been registered and addressed — a first concrete sign of community-level engagement. However, accessibility has been limited because the project website was under reconstruction, temporarily hindering public access to GRM information and project updates.

A substantive new development is the emergence of community concerns in Vedi and Vardenis regarding the wetland restoration activities. Residents expressed worries about the potential spread of malaria and negative impacts on poultry farming. These concerns will need to be proactively addressed through community consultations as the wetland restoration work accelerates toward the September 15, 2026 deadline (set in the ministerial letter ahead of CBD COP17 in Yerevan).

The Community Liaison specialist position appears to remain a gap, which weakens the project's capacity to manage these emerging community concerns.

D. Gender Equality

No intermediate gender results have been achieved to date, as community-level activities have not yet commenced. More concerningly, the Gender and Social specialist position has been vacant since February 2026, with a core EPIU staff member temporarily covering these responsibilities. This vacancy weakens the project's capacity to operationalize the Gender Action Plan and design activities that are genuinely gender-responsive. Filling this post is an urgent priority before the acceleration of field activities.

E. Knowledge Management

Progress on KM remains limited. The updating of ecotourism guidelines (completed April 30, 2026) is the only knowledge product delivered so far. Component 4, which houses the project's communication and KM activities, remains rated Moderately Satisfactory.

Internal KM and reporting practices need strengthening alongside external-facing communications.

Looking ahead, the preparation of a biodiversity photo book and the installation of a visitor center and bird watch tower — both targeted for September 15, 2026 — represent the most concrete upcoming KM and communication deliverables. These are tied directly to the CBD COP17 event in Yerevan in October 2026, which provides a major dissemination and visibility opportunity for the project's results. Delivering these on time will be an important test of the project's ability to generate and share knowledge products under pressure.

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-P179988-2026-PIR-WB-Armenia