



WB - Project Identification Form (PIF) entry – Full Sized Project – GEF - 8

Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape Improvement Project (AIR LIP)

General Project information

Project Title:	Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape Improvement Project (AIR LIP)		
Region:	Armenia	GEF Project ID:	11046
Country(ies):	Armenia	Type of Project:	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	World Bank	GEF Agency ID:	P179988
Executing Partner:	Ministry of Environment - Environmental Project Implementation Unit	Executing Partner Type:	Government
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi Focal Area	Submission Date :	9/15/2022
Project Sector (CCM Only):	AFOLU		

Taxonomy:	Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Climate Change, Biodiversity, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Biomes, Wetlands, Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Pasture Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Forest, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Adaptation, Livelihoods, Climate resilience, Demonstrate innovative approach, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Type of Engagement, Participation, Consultation, Communications, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Local Communities, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation		
Type of Trust Fund:	GET	Project Duration (Months):	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	5,450,000.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	517,750.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	5,967,750.00	Total Co-financing:	43,900,830.00
PPG Amount: (e)	55,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)	5,225.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	60,225.00		
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)	6,027,975.00		
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)

Armenia is a small, mountainous, landlocked country, which is situated between 375 and 4090 meters above sea level. Such an elevation range creates a variety of ecosystems, including semi-deserts, juniper woodlands, deciduous forests, grasslands, and wetlands. As a part of the Caucasus ecoregion, Armenia is included in one of 35 global biodiversity hotspots. Many biotopes of the country are unique, as they are either relict habitats or a result of local combination of the soil and climate. It is not an occasion therefore that this small country hosts 17,700 species of animals (including over 500 endemic species) and 17,700 species of vascular plants (including 144 endemic species). Among other ecosystems, wetlands and forests have been considered of highest global importance for biodiversity conservation and the mitigation of climate change worldwide and in Armenia as well, as those two ecosystems host highest level of biodiversity (including a number of highly specialized species and endemic species), play a crucial role in carbon sequestration, and contribute to a regulation of climate at the regional scale.

About 70% of Armenia’s forests are currently degraded, and forest-covered areas are gradually turning into grasslands. Pastures and meadows cover about 25% of the territory. Lands of the forest fund that are not covered by forests are often used for pastures and haymaking, which often results in soil and flora degradation, and slows down regeneration of the forests. Balancing forest and pasture management is a major challenge for the land-use sector of the country. Wetlands, especially bogs and marshes, have generally been seen to impede the development of agriculture, and they have been reduced consistently for over a century. This has resulted a strong decline in wetland biodiversity (including number of endemic species and a variety of game birds), water retention capacity, carbon storage; and drying up of springs and other wetland areas. Land degradation is a serious challenge in Armenia where 82% of the land area is, to varying extents, exposed to desertification; 27% of these lands face extremely severe desertification (UNCCD 2017). Joint or collaborative management of forests and protected areas with communities has high potential but there is a need for creation of an appropriate legal basis for community forestry in Armenia as these institutions have not yet been formed.

Landscapes restoration in mountainous countries such as Armenia is a sustainable way to improve biodiversity, which makes the ecosystems more resilient towards external stresses, including climate change. The project follows an integrated landscapes approach to restore forests, pastures and wetlands will create a formal legal basis for community engagement in the management of these landscapes. The project focuses on three key issues: (i) reduction of forest fragmentation and increase in density of tree cover by managing pastures and grazing, restoring land in protected areas degraded due to mining and forest enrichment planting; (ii) improving management of neglected wetlands – mainly bogs and marshes of Ararat Plains which are important for biodiversity and, (iii) improving biodiversity management through establishment of a model Emerald Network site (Araks Wetland) to demonstrate community management. To enhance community engagement, the project will focus on supporting capacity of state forest agency officials on joint management efforts, and piloting eco-tourism and other livelihoods opportunities for communities.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To strengthen community engagement and improve the management of forests, pastures, wetlands and protected areas in selected locations in Armenia.

Project Components	Component Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
Institutional, policy and capacity development	Technical Assistance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved understanding of overlaps, duplications and contradictions between the major institutions 2. Improved clarity on procedures and technical requirements for community-based forest management, and private forest plantations 3. Improved capacity of operational and technical staff on integrated landscape management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review reports of existing policy, legal, frameworks for forests, pastures, and protected areas to help align these with national and international obligations 2. Regulatory and operational guidelines required for community-based forest management, and private forest plantations 3. Number of trainings, workshops, seminars organized and number of tools, software and equipment purchased 	GET	277,000.00	7,800,000.00

Landscape restoration, conservation and management	Investment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restoration of degraded forests and improved management of existing forests 2. Restoration of degraded pasture and enhanced productivity 3. Restoration of degraded wetlands and improved wetland biodiversity 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hectare of afforestation and reforestation, and silvicultural treatments on the existing forest 2. Hectare of pasture managed, restored, and rehabilitated 3. Number of wetlands restored 	GET	4,300,000.00	24,730,000.00
Community Forestry management, Livelihood and Ecotourism development	Investment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased sources of income for local communities supported under the project 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of forest based enterprises supported by the project 	GET	514,000.00	8,249,500.00
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)						
M&E	Technical Assistance	Tool for the M&E process	System of monitoring of bioindicators of forests, grasslands, and wetlands	GET	100,000.00	1,131,830.00
Sub Total (\$)					5,191,000.00	41,911,330.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	259,000.00	1,989,500.00
Sub Total(\$)					259,000.00	1,989,500.00
Total Project Cost(\$)					5,450,000.00	43,900,830.00

Please provide justification

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project? No

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

The GEF Agency does not expect to play an execution role in this project.

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)
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6,995.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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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)
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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)
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6,995.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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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)
argahovit Sanctuary, Caucasian Rose-bay Sanctuary, Gyulagarak Sanctuary		Habitat/Species Management Area	6,944.00						
Khor Virap Sanctuary		Habitat/Species Management Area	51.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
18000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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12,000.00			
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Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Woodlands	5,000.00			
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Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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1,000.00

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)
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17051.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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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)
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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)
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17,051.00			
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	1560000	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	1,560,000			
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2024			
Duration of accounting	20			

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
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Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)
Anticipated start year of accounting
Duration of accounting

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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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)
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Female	64,200				
Male	63,200				
Total	127400	0	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)

A. 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.(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project is clearly aligned with the programming directions of the Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation Focal Areas. With regard to Biodiversity the project specifically aligns with the objective of improving conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems by focusing on community involvement and an integrated landscapes approach to managing forests, pastures and wetlands. The project will achieve this by also a focus on eco-tourism and other sustainable economic activities for communities and by supporting management of Emerald Network sites, as per the Bern Convention, to which Armenia is a signatory. The activities related to Land Degradation will focus on strengthening the resilience of landscapes and creating future options to adjust and further optimize ecosystem goods and services for communities. The focus will be on sustainable land management and restoration of forests and wetlands and pastures. The activities under these two Focal Areas and the increase in forest cover will address Climate Change - through increased sequestration, and increased resilience of natural systems due to better soil and water management. The project fully aligns with Armenia's National Program and priorities as well as its international commitments. In 2020, Armenia launched a pan-Armenian large-scale tree planting program to plant 10 million trees. However, the program met with many technical problems that were further exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Draft National Forest Development Policy, Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2030 (NFP 2021-2030) identifies priority tasks, including (i) restoration of degraded forest landscapes, (ii) Increase of the forest cover; (iii) maintenance and development of environmental, social and economic functions of forests; and (iv) continuous and effective use of forest resources. Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) of 2015 included the 20.1% forest cover target as one of its 2050 goals (raising the forest cover from c. 330,000 at present to 595,000 ha by 2050). The updated NDC for 2021-2030 seeks to reduce the country's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40% from 1990 emission levels, and the implementation plan includes increasing the forest cover to 12.9% by 2030, corresponding to an increase of 60,000 ha of forests. Both sustainable use of land and better forestry management will be necessary to achieve these targets.

As part of its pledge under the Bonn Challenge, Armenia committed in 2018 to restore 50 000 ha of land by 2030. Also, in 2018, Armenia signed the Astana Resolution in which ministers and country representatives from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan reaffirmed their commitments to the Bonn Challenge. Furthermore, forest restoration can help Armenia meet its UN SDGs (specifically, SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13 and 15), AICHI biodiversity targets, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, and UNCCD commitments.

The proposed project is fully aligned with Armenia Country Partnership Framework 2019-2023, in particular with. FOCUS AREA 3: Sustainable Management of Environmental and Natural Resources, CPF Objective 8: Improved management of natural resources, and CPF Objective 9: Enhanced climate-change resilience, water security, and disaster risk management capacity. In the CPF, the third focus area responds to Armenia's stated goal of protecting the environment, improving the management and governance of natural resources, and managing environmental and climatic risks. Forward-looking management of environmental and natural resources—including forests, pasture lands, watersheds, and mineral resources—provides the foundation for sustained inclusive growth through improved performance and citizen engagement in sectors such as agriculture, mining, tourism, and forestry, as well as providing a buffer against climate change and extreme weather events.

The proposed project contributes towards the country's sustainable development aspirations as detailed in the Programme of the Government of RA (2021-2026) adopted by the government in 2021. Some of the relevant policy actions included in the government program include: a) sustainable management of forests - protection, preservation, use and expanding forested areas, and continuous development of capacities; b) Conservation of biodiversity and increasing the effectiveness of management regimes of specially protected areas; c) approximation of the national legislation to the EU environmental legislation in accordance to the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Cooperation Agreement. While pastures and wetlands are not explicitly mentioned in the program, they are inherently interlinked to sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. The program objectives and other national international commitments Armenia made remain unachievable without due consideration of proper restoration, conservation and management of forests, pastures, wetlands, and protected areas.

B. 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:

Civil Society Organizations:

Private Sector:

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

There has been extensive consultation with Ministry of Environment and other related government agencies such as Hayantar SNCO (State Non-Commercial Organization - SNCO), the Forest Committee, Gugark and Stepanavan forestry enterprises and so on. Local communities and civil society organizations have not been consulted yet as, though plans to undertake stakeholder engagement are being prepared. The Project Preparation Grant which will be used to undertake extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders, as required under World Bank Environmental and Social Framework.

Citizen Engagement. The project will carry out meaningful stakeholder consultations through focus groups and surveys, and employ monitoring mechanisms such as satisfaction surveys, grievance redress mechanism (GRM) and multi-stakeholder forums and deploy tools for remote consultations and where appropriate, organize socially-distanced gatherings, following local regulations. A citizen engagement strategy that highlights mechanisms and actions for enhancing multi-stakeholder dialogue and inclusion throughout the project cycle will be designed.

Specifically, the consultations were made with the following stakeholders: on the forest restoration issue – with Forest Policy Department of MoE, Hayantar SNCO, Vanadzor forestry, Stepanavan forestry. The improvement of the regime of protected areas was discussed with the Specially Protected Areas of Nature and Biodiversity Policy Department of MoE, Khosrov Forest State Reserve, and Shikahogh State Reserve. The restoration of wetlands was discussed with Khosrov Forest State Reserve and Armash Carp-farm LLC. The mining reclamation was discussed with Land and Underground Resources Policy Department of MoE.

While Government agencies involved in the project were consulted. The communities were not consulted yet as this would raise expectations. So far, among the private sector, only Armash carp-farm LLC is identified. The project was discussed in detail with SIDA team from Stockholm and Yerevan.

(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

The WB was able to provide a preliminary ESRS rating for the project, however a detailed ESRS will follow in the coming weeks.

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF CEO Endorsement/Approval MTR TE

Medium/Moderate

C. 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(\$)
World Bank	GET	Armenia	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-4	Grant	1,050,000	99,750	1,149,750.00
World Bank	GET	Armenia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	2,400,000	228,000	2,628,000.00
World Bank	GET	Armenia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,000,000	190,000	2,190,000.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)						5,450,000.00	517,750.00	5,967,750.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount (\$)

55,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

5,225

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
World Bank	GET	Armenia	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-4	Grant	10,000	950	10,950.00
World Bank	GET	Armenia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	30,000	2,850	32,850.00
World Bank	GET	Armenia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	15,000	1,425	16,425.00
Total PPG Amount						55,000.00	5,225.00	60,225.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CCM-1-4	GET	1,050,000.00	8,780,166.00
LD-2	GET	2,400,000.00	20,000,000.00
BD-1-3	GET	1,500,000.00	10,000,000.00
BD-1-1	GET	500,000.00	5,120,664.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		5,450,000.00	43,900,830.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Donor Agency	Swedish International Development Agency	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,500,000.00
GEF Agency	World Bank	Loans	Investment mobilized	935,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,195,830.00
GEF Agency	World Bank	Loans	Investment mobilized	28,270,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	4,000,000.00
Total Co-financing(\$)				43,900,830.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Indicative co-financing from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in the form of a grant is being discussed and will be confirmed soon. The project will additionally coordinate activities with the Second Community Agricultural Resource Management and Competitiveness Project (P133705)– \$28.27million, and the EU4Environment: Eastern Partnership - Forest Program (EAP-F) (P170428) - \$935,000 By preliminary estimation, the in-kind contribution of the Ministry of Environment and the organizations under the Ministry (namely, Committee of Forest, Hayantar SNCO, Hydrometeorology and Monitoring Center SNCO, Environmental Project Implementation Unit SNCO, "Khosrov Forest" State Reserve SNCO, "Zangezur" Biosphere Complex SNCO) will make non-less than 6.195 million USD. Final numbers of in-kind contribution might vary depending on currency fluctuation. Currency fluctuations in Armenia since the start of the war in Ukraine have been quite dramatic (Armenian dram has appreciated in value due to massive inflow of foreign currency into the country by close to 20%). The government of Armenia is additionally contributing \$4million in the form of public investments through a government forestry program.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS**GEF Agency(ies) Certification**

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Angela Armstrong	9/15/2022			aarmstrong@worldbank.org


Project Coordinator

Madhavi M. Pillai

9/15/2022

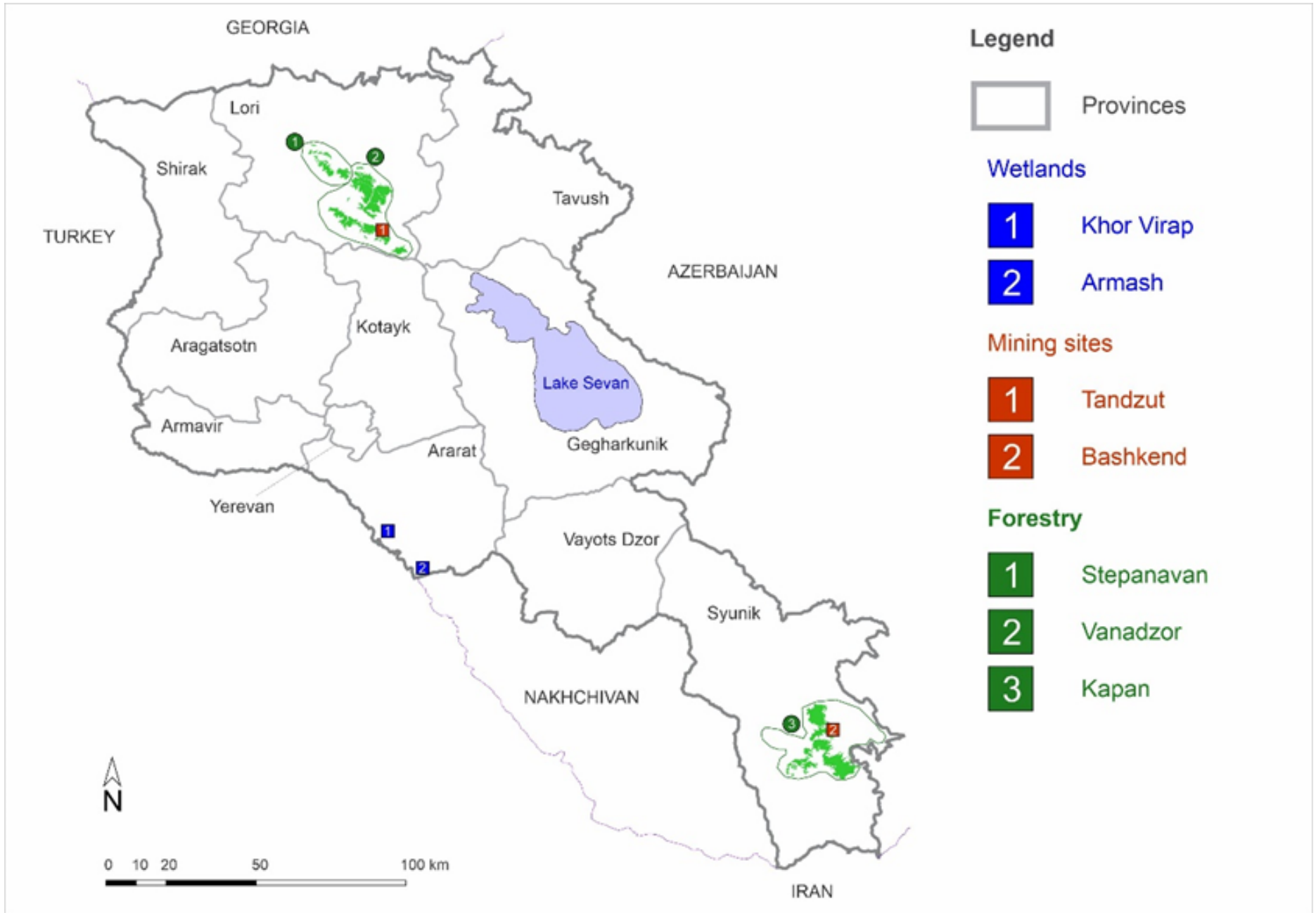
mpillai3@worldbank.org

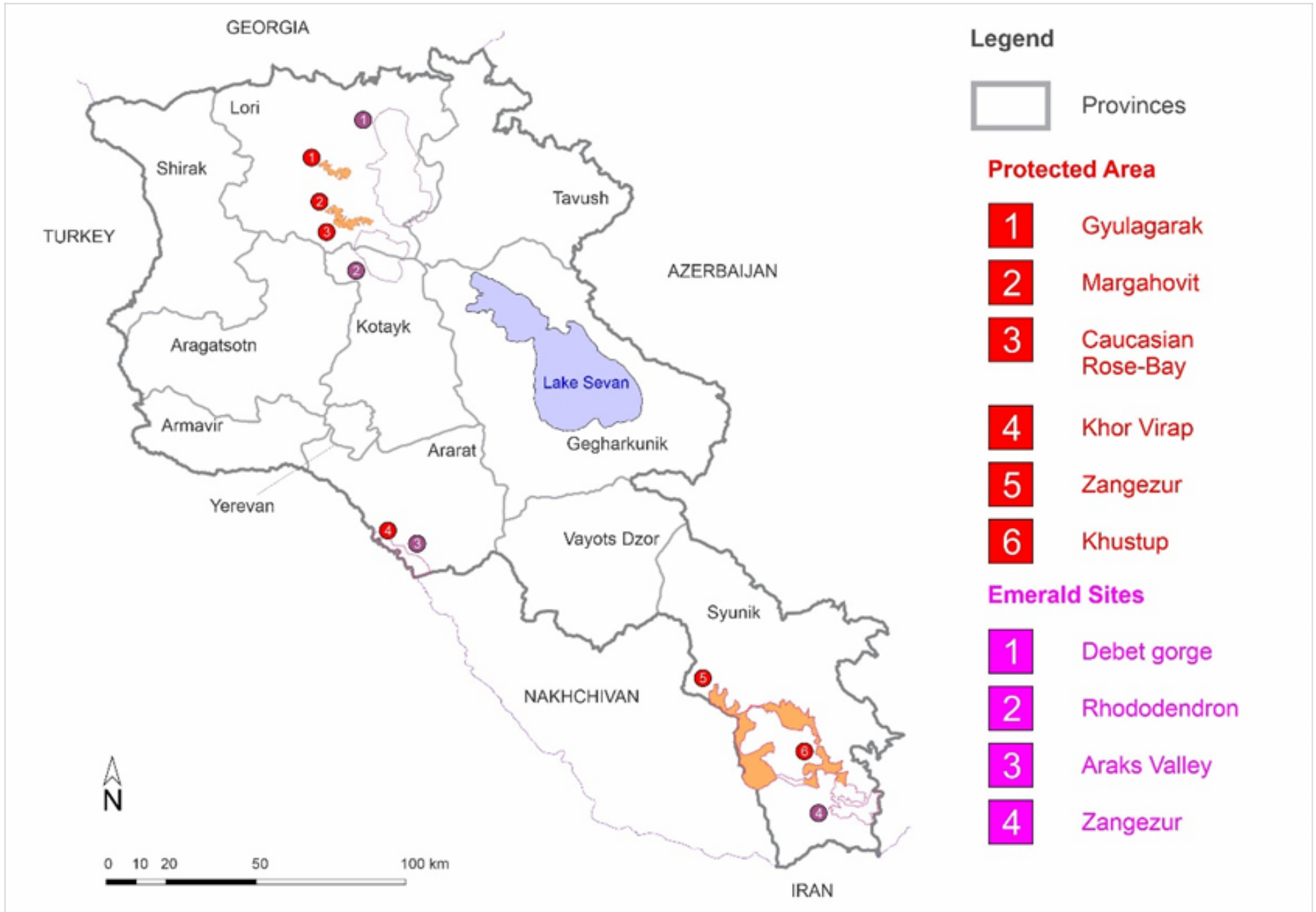
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date	
Hakob Simidyan	Minister - GEF Political & Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment	9/15/2022	

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place**

Updated project area maps:





Map 1:

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.

Map 2:

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.

Map 3:

ID **174875**, town Kapan as the central point of the Kapan forestry, involved in the project. Kapan forestry represents over 42,683 ha of forest lands. The area is presented by several mountain ridges and canyons, covered by beech and oak dominated forests, which have been severely fragmented. As in previous cases, the current management still undergoes in unsustainable manner, while the forest regeneration is exacerbated by the intensive grazing of livestock.

Map 4:

ID **616445**, village Margahovit, as the lower point of Margahovit State Sanctuary (3,368 ha) and Caucasian Rose-bay State Sanctuary (1,000 ha). Margahovit Sanctuary is represented by a relict for Armenia forest, where the dominating species include birch and pine (beside the common oak and hornbeam). These forests were also fragmented and currently doesn't have neither administration nor management plan, which provokes illegal logging and unsustainable wood collection in the forest, as well as unauthorized grazing. The Caucasian Rose-bay Sanctuary is located above the Margahovit forest and is represented by the subalpine meadows alternated by rocks and screes and in terms of absence of administration and management plan, suffers from the intensive grazing and human disturbance, just like the regular pasturelands do.

Map 5:

ID **616639**, village Gyulagarak, as the lower point of Gyulagarak State Sanctuary (2,576 ha). Gyulagarak Sanctuary is represented by the beech and oak dominated forest, which also was fragmented in past and currently doesn't have administration and management plan, and as in previous case suffers from illegal logging, unsustainable wood collection, and unauthorized grazing.

Map 6:

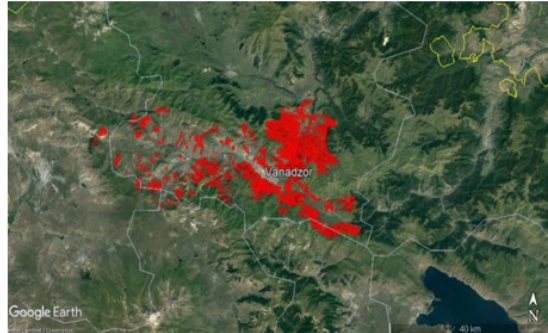
ID **7649120**, Khor Virap Monastery as the area located next to the Khor Virap Sanctuary (51 ha), which is involved in the project. It is a degraded wetland and is currently represented by a reed-field, which is just seasonally hosts some patches of water. Adjacent 212 ha of the same conditions are located at community lands, where the reed harvest and arsons take place regularly. In the meantime, on the Sanctuary's lands a pilot wetland restoration was implemented (1.61 ha), demonstrating the great success of this activity.

ID **174983**, village Armash as the nearby point of Armash wetlands, involved in the project. While the part of the land is leased from local communities for carp-farming, the other lands (which belong to community) are represented by degraded brackish marshes, surrounded by semideserts. The area is a critically important home for a number of species and the richest stopover point for migratory birds.

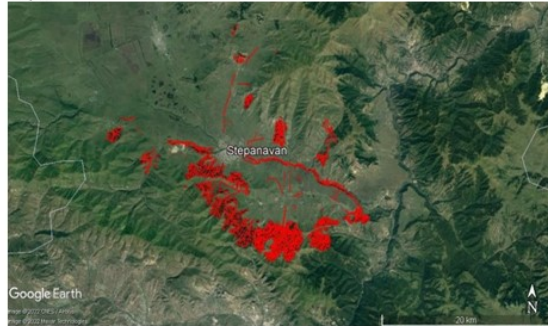
N 40.7579°; E 44.6002. Abandoned mining site Tandzut with an area of 3.1 ha. Is located inside the oak and hornbeam dominated forest and is represented by the waste rock dump, which fragments the forest and creates a high risk of acidification and possible contamination with arsenic.

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.

Map 1



Map 2



Map 3



Map 4



Map 5



Map 6



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[Climate and Disaster Risk Screening Tools](#)**ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS**

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET