GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Project Information

Project Title

Conserving terrestrial and marine biodiversity and restoring ecosystem services in globally relevant and vulnerable sites in Somalia

Region Africa	GEF Project ID 11414
Country(ies) Somalia	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies): UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID 6330
Project Executing Entity(s) UNDP	Project Executing Type GEF Agency
GEF Focal Area (s) Multi Focal Area	Submission Date 6/16/2025
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 12,448,395.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 1,120,356.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 13,568,751.00	Total Co-financing 6,500,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 300,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 27,000.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 13,895,751.00	

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Consultation, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Local Communities, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community

Based Organization, Academia, Information Dissemination, Type of Engagement, Participation, Communications, Public Campaigns, Strategic Communications, Behavior change, Education, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Awareness Raising, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Focal Areas, Integrated Programs, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Species, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Biomes, Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Tropical Dry Forests, Grasslands, Forest, Drylands, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Pasture Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Least Developed Countries, Climate resilience, Livelihoods, Community-based adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2

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. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Somalia's rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity forms a vital part of the Horn of Africa and East African Coastal Forests biodiversity hotspots. These ecosystems support food security, livelihoods, and climate resilience but are increasingly threatened by both exogenous and anthropogenic drivers of degradation including unregulated charcoal production, overgrazing, IUU fishing, agricultural encroachment, recurrent droughts, and conflict. Since the state collapse in 1991, formal protection and management of biodiversity and natural resources has been minimal, and most "protected areas" exist only as point records without mapped boundaries or active management and law enforcement.

The absence of a formal protected area system leaves critical habitats, ecosystems and species unprotected. This project will support official establishment of Somalia's first post-war network of 11 legally recognized PAs (5 terrestrial, 4 marine, 2 combined). The 11 sites include both historical and new proposals for PAs. Five sites were historically declared under the 1969 Wildlife Law but are now defunct. Six sites are new proposals. None are officially declared as PAs under the current Environmental Protection and Management Act, 2024, so all need to undergo a new, official process of designation as formal PAs.

The project will support an inclusive government-led legal process for PA establishment, including assessments, consultations, and gazettement. The process will prioritize community-led approaches that integrate statutory, customary (Xeer), and religious governance systems to build a robust institutional foundation. Restoration and improved management of rangelands, forests, and coastal areas will strengthen ecosystem resilience and local livelihoods.

Somalia's 2020 Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program identified key degradation hotspots and drivers, guiding spatial priorities and interventions. Its conceptual framework—Drivers–Pressure–State–Impact–Response (DPSIR) and the avoid–reduce–reverse hierarchy—informs the project design. Component 1 supports legal and institutional reform to avoid degradation. Component 2 reduces degradation through strengthened PA and coastal governance. Component 3 reverses degradation via ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions.

These integrated, community-anchored interventions are expected to deliver durable ecological gains and long-term sustainability. The project contributes to GEF Indicators: CI1 (193,000 ha terrestrial PAs), CI2 (194,000 ha marine PAs), CI3 (6,000 ha restored), CI4 (3,500 ha improved practices), CI6 (888,869) tCO_2e avoided), and CI11 (200,000 beneficiaries, 50% women), and supports Kunming-Montreal Targets 2, 3, 9, and 11.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

Conserve Somalia's terrestrial and marine biodiversity by establishing sustainably managed protected areas through community-led approaches, addressing biodiversity loss and enhancing ecosystem resilience.

Project Components

1. Strengthen Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS) policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks for Protected Areas (PAs).

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	**Co-financing ($)**
2,755,505.00	650,000.00

Outcome:

1.1 Improved enabling environment in place for effective community-led PA management of both terrestrial and marine PAs, emphasizing gender-responsive strategies.

Indicator 7(a): Number of gender-responsive land use policies and strategies developed, adopted and implemented directly supporting biodiversity conservation and PAs

Target: 8 (FGS and FMS levels)

Indicator 7(b): Number of gender-responsive land use laws including customary laws formulated and adopted Target: 8 (FGS and FMS level)

1.2 Strengthened institutional and technical capacities for PA management and integrated land use planning

Indicator 8: Number of MoECC staff and partners at national (FGS) and subnational levels (FMS) trained on practical PA management skills.

Target: 150 staff members from MoECC at FGS & FMS

200 staff members form partners organizations including police

Indicator 9: Number of biodiversity information management platforms (including GIS) established and operational and regularly utilized by FGS & FMS decision-makers

Target is 1 unified centralized system for all PAs.

Output:

1.1.1: Conduct a bottom-up comprehensive review of existing legal, policy, institutional, and land tenure frameworks to assess gaps in current natural resource governance, including biodiversity conservation.

1.1.2: Revise, update, upgrade, and provide technical support to design new gender-sensitive bills, policy, and institutional frameworks as identified by the gap assessment, relevant to FGS, FMS, customary and religious systems to guide PA establishment and management.

1.1.3 Formulate and adopt a cohesive strategy for FGS and FMS terrestrial and marine PAs, integrating gender mainstreaming principles (Strategy will encompass potential expansion plans, ensuring all sites are well-documented with adequate maps and data.).

1.1.4. Develop and execute strategy for the effective financing and financial management of Somalia’s consolidated system of terrestrial and marine PAs.

1.2.1 Facilitate specialized training for MoECC personnel on terrestrial and marine PA system planning to undertake.

(a) Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessments of all future PAs with national and sub-national partners.

(b) National Biodiversity Spatial Assessment and Land Use Plan with national and sub-national partners, including relevant clan and religious group leaders.

1.2.2. A knowledge management platform, including GIS system, to manage, exchange, and present information about terrestrial and marine areas

2.Established and improved management of selected terrestrial and marine areas.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
5,489,456.00	3,250,000.00

Outcome:

2.1. Establishment of legally recognized terrestrial and marine PAs with clearly defined boundaries and management plans.

Target: Eleven (11) Terrestrial protected areas created (5 Terrestrial, 4 Marine, 2 combined).

Indicator 2: Terrestrial protected areas established or under improved management.

(GEF CI 1.1.: Terrestrial protected areas newly created 193,000 ha)

Indicator 3: Marine protected areas created or under improved management (GEF CI 2.1. Marine protected areas newly created 194,000 ha)

2.2. Improved management effectiveness in the 11 newly established PAs through targeted management interventions.

Indicator 2.2 and 3.2: Terrestrial and marine protected areas with improved management effectiveness.

Target: Increase in METT scores for PAs by 20% from baseline by end of project

Output:

2.1.1 Participatory analysis conducted to identify gaps in the current system (i.e., ecological gap analysis) and inform future management objectives for PAs (in line with the IUCN PA categories I-VI).

2.1.2 Detailed multistakeholder consultations to inform PA boundary delineation, re-definition and infrastructure development for the 11 proposed PAs.

2.1.3 Gender-sensitive PA management plans, including with monitoring system prepared and under implementation with participation of local communities for effective and equitable terrestrial and marine biodiversity conservation.

2.2.1 Development and implementation of training and capacity building programs for community management teams, park wardens, with women and youth involvement in implementation of PA management plans.

2.2.2 Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in coastal regions and implementation of community-led sustainable management practices in line with customary law and sustainable fisheries and coastal management practices.

2.2.3: Implementation of key PA management interventions (i.e., species monitoring, control of invasive species, habitat restoration, assisted natural regeneration and wildlife migration corridors) in the Protected Area estate

3. Integrated Landscape Management in multi-use landscapes around targeted PAs promoted to increase the flow of ecosystem goods and services for improved livelihoods and conservation outcomes.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
3,546,950.00	2,280,000.00

Outcome:

3.1. Sustainable land management practices of landscapes and natural ecosystems supported around targeted PAs

Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (ha)

(GEF CI 4.3: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

3,000 Agro Pastoral Systems

500 Irrigated Cropland

Indicator 5: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (GEF CI 3.2: Area of forest and forest land under restoration 5,000 ha of Tropical Dry Forest; GEF CI 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) under restoration 1,000 ha Mangrove Forest)

Indicator 6: Metric tonnes of Greenhouse gas emission mitigated from forest restoration activities included within the project.

Target: 888,869 tonnes of CO2eq avoided over 20 years due to restoration activity.

3.2 Enhancement of livelihoods through the adoption of sustainable practices

Indicator 15: Number of people directly benefiting from the IGAs within and outside of the PAs disaggregated by sex.

Target 15: 1,500 (50% female)

Indicator 16: Number of cooperatives and interest groups supported with grants

Target 16: 11

Output:

3.1.1 Degradation assessments conducted across a range of landscapes and ecosystems, including spatial mapping to determine the level and type of degradation, identify priority areas and inform restoration and management interventions (ILUPs)

3.1.2 Development and implementation of a national capacity building program and M&E system for tracking impacts of ILM and restoration interventions, ensuring equitable participation and leadership opportunities for women and men.

3.1.3 Establishment of community-managed pasture and woodland/mangrove nurseries in strategically selected locations in communal landscapes, with a focus on gender equity in management roles and decision-making processes.

3.1.4 Restoration of degraded mangroves and woodlands through community-led interventions, with targeted technical advisory support, ensuring increased access to advice, knowledge and benefits for women.

3.2.1 Development and promotion of community-based Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and local markets for sustainable products, with a gender-inclusive approach that recognizes and enhances the roles of women in pastoralism, community-based tourism, sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, apiculture and NTFPs.

3.2.2 Training and technical advisory support for local communities, with a gender-responsive curriculum that ensures women have equal access to training opportunities and the necessary resources to apply their skills in value addition, processing and marketing (e.g., seed and mangrove nursery management, agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and NTFPs)

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
65,000.00	20,000.00

Outcome:

4.1: Project-generated knowledge and lessons shared, and results and impact communicated and disseminated for wider learning

4.2 Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and SES policies.

Output:

Output 4.1.1 Mid-Term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE) conducted, and reports shared with UNDP and GEF IEO (Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office Output).

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1. Strengthen Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS) policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks for Protected Areas (PAs).	2,755,505.00	650,000.00
2.Established and improved management of selected terrestrial and marine areas.	5,489,456.00	3,250,000.00
3. Integrated Landscape Management in multi-use landscapes around targeted PAs promoted to increase the flow of ecosystem goods and services for improved livelihoods and conservation outcomes.	3,546,950.00	2,280,000.00
M&E	65,000.00	20,000.00
Subtotal	**11,856,911.00**	**6,200,000.00**
Project Management Cost	591,484.00	300,000.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**12,448,395.00**	**6,500,000.00**

Please provide Justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Country Overview

Somalia is situated in the Horn of Africa, bordered by Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the Indian Ocean. The country's geographic position at the crossroads of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula gives it a long and ecologically rich coastline stretching over 3,300 kilometers—the second longest in mainland Africa. This coastline is part of the Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem and supports an array of marine biodiversity and critical coastal livelihoods. Inland, Somalia comprises vast arid and semi-arid landscapes, including savannas, rangelands, dry forests, and riverine floodplains, which have historically sustained a predominantly pastoralist and agro-pastoralist population.

Somalia's economy is heavily dependent on climate-sensitive sectors. Livestock production contributes nearly 50% of GDP and remains the largest source of employment and foreign exchange earnings. Fisheries, though underdeveloped, offer high potential for sustainable blue economy initiatives. Coastal communities depend on marine resources for food security and livelihoods, yet these resources are under increasing pressure from illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and environmental degradation. Crop agriculture, mainly

subsistence-based and concentrated in the Shabelle and Juba River basins, is highly vulnerable to erratic rainfall, poor irrigation infrastructure, and land degradation.

Somalia has endured decades of political instability, protracted armed conflict, and recurring natural disasters, all of which have taken a heavy toll on its people, economy, and institutions. Governance structures remain fragile, and the country continues to face one of the most complex humanitarian crises globally, with over 3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Recurrent droughts and floods, driven by climate variability and compounded by environmental degradation, further erode livelihoods and have undermined food security in both rural and coastal areas.

Since 1991, conflict dismantled Somalia's environmental institutions, leaving areas once declared under the 1969 Wildlife Conservation Law as non-operational 'paper parks.' These sites had no mapped boundaries, management plans, staffing, or budget allocations, and thus provided no effective protection. From this legacy of weak and symbolic designations, Somalia has now established a modern legal framework for conservation through the adoption of the National Environmental Policy (2023) and the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA 2024). The EPMA empowers the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), in coordination with Federal Member States, to designate protected areas through a structured process that includes FPIC, ESIA, boundary mapping, and re-gazettement. Together with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015–2020), these instruments mark a significant policy shift toward integrated environmental management, ensuring that critical terrestrial and marine ecosystems can be conserved, restored, and sustainably managed in line with international biodiversity targets.

The 2023 National Environmental Policy (NEP) sets strategic directions for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development, emphasizing principles such as precautionary action and polluter-pays. The 2024 Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA) provides legal authority for environmental protection, including ESIA requirements, pollution control, and biodiversity conservation, and establishes an Environmental Trust Fund and a National Environmental Council. It also sets the foundation for protected area establishment, explicitly empowering the Minister of Environment, through the MoECC and in coordination with Federal Member State ministries, to designate new PAs. This process requires scientific assessments, FPIC, ESIA, and participatory boundary mapping as prerequisites for gazettement.

However, while the EPMA provides clear authority, secondary regulations and operational guidelines specific to PA designation and management have not yet been developed due to limited drafting capacity, overlapping mandates, and constrained financing. The project directly fills this gap by supporting the issuance of PA-specific regulations, institutional arrangements, and financing mechanisms, thereby operationalizing the intent of the EPMA. It will also support the government-led legal process for PA establishment, including: (1) MoECC issuing intent, (2) FPIC consultations and ESIA, (3) boundary mapping and surveys, (4) legal gazettement, and (5) WDPA registration.

The project rationale explicitly considers how future conflict and climate uncertainty could affect the sustainability of outcomes. Three plausible scenarios were used to guide design—ranging from improved state-led governance to localized insecurity and climate crisis. The project embeds resilience through decentralized implementation, community-led governance, restoration in climate-sensitive zones, and co-management structures that persist under volatility. The project has taken into account the following scenarios that could impact the sustainability of results.

Scenario A – Improved governance and climate resilience: Under this future, the government consolidates institutions and climate impacts are moderate. The project's focus on legal reform and state capacity-building is maximized in this scenario.

Scenario B – Localized conflict and prolonged droughts: This scenario assumes stalled federalism, rising displacement, and climate extremes. To ensure robustness, the project emphasizes decentralized delivery, NGO and CBO engagement, customary governance, and mobile restoration teams that can operate flexibly.

Scenario C – Acute climate crisis and national fragmentation: In this most adverse scenario, government capacity is minimal and climate events (e.g., severe droughts, sea-level rise) disrupt livelihoods. Project outputs such as Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), rangeland reserves, and seed/nursery systems offer adaptive and community-driven buffers to sustain ecosystem services even in crisis.

These narratives guided the design of adaptive mechanisms across components (e.g., flexible restoration plans, nature-based livelihoods, conflict-sensitive PA zoning, and community-led monitoring), ensuring resilience across governance and climate futures.

Biodiversity and Land Degradation Context

Somalia harbors a remarkable diversity of ecosystems and species, spanning arid rangelands, dry forests, coastal mangroves, coral reefs, estuaries, and offshore islands. Located within two globally significant biodiversity hotspots—the Somali Current Marine Ecosystem and the East African Coastal Forests—Somalia supports over 3,028 plant species (518 endemic), 1,331 animal species, and 604 marine fish species, of which 420 are commercially harvested. The country's birdlife includes 645 species inhabiting 24 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), several of which are migratory or threatened.[1]1

Somalia's biodiversity underpins vital ecosystem services, including pasture provisioning, coastal protection, carbon sequestration, pollination, and climate regulation. The vast rangelands, covering nearly 80% of the landmass, support the livelihoods of most of the population through livestock grazing. Mangrove forests and coral reefs serve as nursery grounds for fish species crucial to food security in coastal areas. In contrast, non-timber forest products—such as frankincense, myrrh, and honey—are key sources of income for rural households, especially women.

Yet, despite its ecological richness, Somalia is facing accelerated biodiversity loss and land degradation, driven by a combination of unsustainable natural resource use, demographic pressure, and climate change. Somalia remains one of the few countries globally without a formal, legally recognized system of protected areas (PAs). In the absence of designated protected areas (PAs), ecosystems across the country are increasingly exposed to unregulated exploitation, habitat fragmentation, and degradation.

Somalia has experienced a 23% decline in forest cover since 2000, with an estimated 2.5 million trees cut down annually, largely for charcoal production. Acacia species are particularly targeted in southern Somalia, driven by local energy needs and illicit exports to Gulf States. This deforestation has significant consequences: carbon loss, soil erosion, habitat destruction, and diminished watershed regulation.

Overgrazing is widespread and severe. With over 55% of the population dependent on livestock, overgrazing, exacerbated by insecurity, drought, and the absence of land use planning, has led to widespread rangeland degradation. This has triggered a downward spiral of desertification and loss of vegetative cover. Soil erosion and topsoil depletion, particularly in the Shebelle and Juba River basins, have further reduced the productivity of Somalia's most important agricultural lands. [2]2

The spread of invasive species, notably *Prosopis juliflora*, *Chromolaena odorata*, and *Parthenium hysterophorus*, has altered native plant communities and disrupted rangeland dynamics. These species outcompete indigenous flora, reduce pasture quality, and block access to water points, further straining rural livelihoods.

Somalia's marine and coastal ecosystems are among the richest in the Western Indian Ocean yet remain poorly managed, largely unprotected and increasingly threatened. Mangroves are disappearing at approximately 1% annually, undermining coastal resilience and fish nursery habitats. Illegal fishing,

especially by foreign fleets, and unsustainable practices such as fishing and trawling have resulted in declining fish stocks and habitat degradation. Coral reefs, which had already suffered extensive bleaching during the 1997–1998 El Niño event, with up to 95% mortality in some areas, remain highly vulnerable. Continued ocean warming, sedimentation, and pollution further compromise their recovery events.[2]

Land degradation affects over 27% of Somalia's land area, with biological degradation (38%) and water-induced soil erosion (34%) being the most prevalent forms. This is compounded by poor land use practices, such as slash-and-burn agriculture, down-slope tillage, and over-extraction of groundwater. The collapse of irrigation infrastructure and flood control systems has worsened drought and flood vulnerability, particularly in the country's key river basins. Population growth, urban sprawl, and displacement have driven the expansion of settlements into ecologically sensitive areas, including wetlands, coastal zones, and rangelands. Displaced communities often resort to unsustainable fuelwood extraction and land clearing for survival. Urban areas suffer from poor waste management, contributing to environmental pollution and land degradation.

To ensure interventions effectively address Somalia's unique environmental challenges, the project rationale adopts an adaptive and future-oriented perspective. It recognizes that biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation result from a complex interplay of unsustainable resource use, weak governance, and increasing climate risks. The project rationale therefore emphasizes scenario-based planning that anticipates climate-induced shocks, political decentralization, and demographic changes. By integrating these considerations, project design is tailored to remain responsive to emerging risks and opportunities, supporting sustainable natural resource management and ecosystem resilience under dynamic conditions.

Drivers of degradation that need to be addressed

The environmental degradation facing Somalia results from deeply interlinked direct and indirect drivers, operating across terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems. These drivers not only accelerate biodiversity loss and land degradation but also undermine the resilience of the Somali population to climate shocks and economic instability. The following drivers require urgent and systemic attention:

Unsustainable Natural Resource Extraction

Somalia's heavy dependence on wood-based fuels, particularly charcoal, is a leading cause of deforestation and forest degradation. An estimated 2.5 million trees, primarily Acacia species in southern Somalia, are cut down annually to meet local energy needs and supply export markets. The charcoal trade—Somalia's "black gold"—is largely unregulated and continues despite international bans, driven by its profitability and role as a livelihood fallback in areas with limited alternatives. [3][3]

Overharvesting non-timber forest products (NTFPs), including frankincense, myrrh, and medicinal plants, has intensified with limited controls or regeneration plans. Meanwhile, illegal and unregulated fishing in Somalia's marine waters—often by foreign fleets—depletes fish stocks, damages seabed habitats, and deprives local communities of critical income sources.

Overgrazing and Rangeland Mismanagement

Somalia's rangelands, covering 80% of the country, are severely overgrazed due to the unregulated movement of large livestock herds and prolonged droughts that limit pasture rotation. Pastoralism sustains over half of the population and has become increasingly sedentary and constrained by insecurity and environmental decline. As a result, degraded pastures, erosion, and desertification are widespread, particularly in southern and central regions. Invasive species such as *Prosopis juliflora* have colonized vast rangelands, reducing pasture quality and biodiversity.

Climate Change and Environmental Shocks

Climate change acts as a multiplier of degradation across ecosystems. Somalia is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries globally, ranked 172nd out of 182 by the ND-GAIN index. The country is experiencing more frequent and intense droughts, floods, and temperature extremes, which contribute to the loss of vegetation cover, drying of wetlands, and disruption of traditional livelihood systems.

Rising sea levels (projected at 50–95 cm by 2100) threaten coastal zones, while ocean warming, and acidification increase the risk of coral bleaching. These environmental shocks exacerbate land and marine degradation, particularly in the absence of adaptive governance and disaster preparedness.

Weak Governance and Legal Fragmentation

Somalia's environmental governance is characterized by a fragmented legal system comprising statutory, customary (Xeer), and religious (Sharia) laws. But national environmental policies have improved in recent years and a modern legal and policy architecture is now in place, through the 2023 National Environmental Policy and the Environmental Protection and Management Act of 2024. The EPMA of 2024 establishes the legal basis for conservation and clarifies mandates for the Federal Ministry of Environment & Climate Change (MoECC) and State Environment Ministries, including structures such as the National Environmental Council and an Environmental Trust Fund.

The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) currently lists 21 sites in Somalia (12 National Parks and 9 Wildlife Reserves), reflecting declarations made under the 1969 Wildlife Conservation Law prior to the state collapse in 1991. While these entries persist in the WDPA, they do not correspond to legally recognized or operational protected areas today.

These sites were never fully established: they lack gazetted boundaries, legal decrees under the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA, 2024), management plans, staff, and budgets. As such, they are best understood as 'paper parks'—existing in name only, without enforceable protection status or functioning management systems.

The Government of Somalia, through the MoECC, has confirmed that the EPMA (2024) is now the sole operative legal framework. Under this framework, none of the 21 WDPA-listed sites are legally gazetted. Five of the project's 11 priority sites overlap with these historic listings and will require full re-gazettement; the remaining six are new proposals. The project supports the government-led process of legal establishment—including FPIC consultations, ESIA, participatory boundary mapping, and gazettement—and will provide updated polygons and metadata to WDPA once sites are formally recognized. This will ensure the WDPA accurately reflects Somalia's protected area estate under current law.

Despite these positive developments, there are still overlapping mandates, institutional capacity gaps, and a lack of coordination between federal and state governments that complicate implementation and limit enforcement. Community land rights are often poorly defined, further undermining conservation and land management efforts. Finally, weak governance and legal fragmentation remain persistent barriers. The coexistence of statutory, customary (Xeer), and religious (Sharia) legal systems creates confusion and overlapping mandates. At the same time, outdated laws, lack of enforcement capacity, and the absence of legally designated protected areas leave critical biodiversity assets unprotected, and ecosystems exposed to unregulated exploitation.

The absence of a legal framework for protected areas in Somalia significantly undermines conservation efforts. While the country adopted the 2023 National Environmental Policy and 2024 Environmental Protection and Management Act, these remain broad frameworks. Without targeted project support, key elements, such as PA-specific regulations, gazettement procedures, enforcement mandates, and institutional capacity, are unlikely to materialize soon. Without project support, Somalia's protected area system will remain stalled. Although the EPMA (2024) establishes a legal mandate, the secondary regulations, institutional capacities, and financing mechanisms required to operationalize it are not yet in place. The

MoECC and Federal Member States currently lack the legal drafting capacity, technical expertise, and biodiversity data systems needed to complete the required FPIC consultations, ESIA, and boundary mapping. In addition, no recurrent budgets exist to support site-level management, staffing, or monitoring.

In this context, the project is essential to bridge the gap between policy intent and implementation. By supporting the preparation of PA-specific regulations, building institutional and technical capacity, and supporting the legal gazettement process, the project will enable the Government of Somalia to move from symbolic designations to functioning, legally recognized protected areas. This will not occur without external support, given existing capacity, financial, and coordination constraints

Informal conservation practices are found in regions such as Puntland and Galmudug, where Xeer councils and village committees regulate seasonal closures and local rules governing rangelands, mangroves, and reefs. These community-led systems derive their authority from customary law and are respected by local users, helping to sustain resources and resolve disputes. However, they remain 'informal' because they lack legal recognition under national law and cannot be enforced against outsiders or mobile groups. The project will build on these locally legitimate practices by incorporating them into formal co-management arrangements under the EPMA (2024), ensuring that community stewardship is recognized, strengthened, and aligned with national conservation law.

No Federal Member State has yet codified these practices. This leads to overgrazing, uncontrolled deforestation, and land-use conflicts. The high national demand for biomass energy, particularly charcoal and firewood, further accelerates forest degradation, especially in unprotected dryland ecosystems. The project will close this gap by supporting legal provisions for co-management, recognizing seasonal closures and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs), and piloting co-management committees to align community practices with the EPMA (2024).

Coastal and marine areas face parallel challenges. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by foreign vessels severely depletes fish stocks, undermining local livelihoods and marine biodiversity. In the absence of legally defined marine protected areas, regulations, law enforcement capacities are nonexistent due to no budgets, equipment etc., these areas will continue to be exposed to these challenges and threats. Enforcement capacity for protected areas in Somalia is virtually non-existent because legally defined sites, regulations, budgets, and institutional mandates have yet to be established under the EPMA (2024). The project will close this gap by supporting minimum viable enforcement measures—such as community rangers, patrol plans, and signage—while also helping MoECC and Federal Member States establish recurrent budget lines and a PA financing strategy to sustain operations over the long term.

Progress toward establishing a functioning protected area system has been limited not only by lack of funds, but also by institutional and governance constraints. The MoECC and Federal Member State ministries face overlapping mandates, limited specialist staff, and significant data gaps, which together hinder effective planning and implementation. In addition, PA-specific regulations under the EPMA (2024) have yet to be drafted, leaving no legal framework for site designation or management. Without clear rules, technical expertise, and financing, Somalia has been unable to move from policy commitments to operational conservation. Legal PA designation would establish enforceable boundaries, trigger national budget allocations towards PA management, facilitate government investment in staffing and monitoring, and enable access to sustainable financing. It would also provide the authority needed to deter illegal activities and give formal weight to community conservation efforts.

Without the project, Somalia will not be able to operationalize its new legal framework for conservation. The Environmental Protection and Management Act (2024) establishes a mandate for protected area designation, but the secondary regulations and implementing guidelines remain unissued. Neither the MoECC nor Federal Member State ministries currently have the technical expertise or financial resources to conduct the required FPIC consultations, environmental and social impact assessments, or participatory boundary mapping. No recurrent budget lines exist to support site-level management, staffing, or enforcement, and Somalia lacks a unified biodiversity data platform to guide decision-making.

In this context, EPMA will remain largely unimplemented, and the country's protected area system will remain nominal rather than functional. The project directly fills these gaps—drafting PA regulations, building institutional capacity, generating data systems, and supporting site gazettement and management—thereby ensuring that Somalia's policy commitments translate into measurable conservation outcomes.

Systemic Barriers to Conservation

Despite the richness of its ecosystems, Somalia faces a set of deeply entrenched and interrelated barriers that hinder effective biodiversity conservation:

Policy Misalignment and Legal Fragmentation: Somalia operates under three overlapping legal systems—statutory law, customary law (Xeer), and religious law (Sharia). The absence of a harmonized legal framework leads to contradictions in land tenure, conservation mandates, and resource management approaches. Federal and state-level regulations are inconsistently applied, and outdated legislation such as Law No. 15 (1969) remains in force. Somalia's earlier Wildlife Conservation Law (Law No. 15 of 1969) established a small number of national parks and wildlife reserves. However, this law is now outdated, partial in scope, and not aligned with modern environmental management standards. It does not provide clear procedures for gazettement, participatory planning, or enforcement, and it is not compliant with the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA, 2024), which is now the operative legal framework for protected areas.

The project prioritizes the development of PA-specific regulations under the EPMA to provide a modern and enforceable legal basis for protected area designation and management. Over time, it may also support legal harmonization to resolve inconsistencies between legacy laws, including Law No. 15 (1969), and the new EPMA framework. This ensures policy coherence and avoids fragmentation of authority. This fragmented policy and regulatory landscape undermines efforts to enforce conservation laws, coordinate land-use planning, and engage communities in protected area governance.

Somalia has taken important steps toward environmental governance by adopting the 2023 National Environmental Policy (NEP) and the 2024 Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA). The NEP sets strategic directions for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable development, emphasizing principles such as precautionary action and the polluter-pays approach. Complementing this, the EPMA grants legal authority for environmental protection—including requirements for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), pollution control, and biodiversity conservation—and establishes mechanisms like the Environmental Trust Fund and the National Environmental Council.

> However, while these frameworks lay a strong legal and policy foundation, they remain broad in scope and lack the necessary secondary regulations and operational guidelines for the formal designation and management of protected areas. Without targeted project support, specific measures such as PA-specific regulations, gazettement procedures, enforcement mandates, and institutional capacity are unlikely to be realized in the near future. The Government of Somalia has articulated its intent to expand and operationalize a national system of protected areas. The National Environmental Policy (2023) commits to this goal, and the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA, 2024) provides the legal authority for the MoECC, in coordination with Federal Member States, to designate new sites. However, while the policy direction and legal mandate are clear, the enabling conditions to implement them are not yet in place.
>
> The responsible ministries currently lack specialist technical staff, financing, and operational systems to carry out the necessary FPIC consultations, ESIA, participatory boundary mapping, and site-level management. PA-specific regulations under EPMA have not been developed, biodiversity data systems are incomplete, and there are no recurrent budget lines to sustain operations once sites are designated. The project directly fills these gaps by drafting regulations, building institutional and technical capacity, supporting legal gazettement, and introducing financing mechanisms. Without this support, government policy commitments would remain unimplemented, and Somalia's protected

areas would continue to exist only as nominal or historical listings rather than as functioning, enforceable conservation units.

As a result, informal conservation efforts may persist but will remain fragmented and under-resourced, preventing the emergence of a nationally recognized network of protected areas and sustainable financing. In this context, the project aims to bridge these gaps by supporting MOECC to develop operational regulations, clarify institutional arrangements and strengthen technical and operational capacities, and financing mechanisms—transforming policy intent into practical and effective conservation action.

Institutional and Technical Capacity Gaps: The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) and its counterparts in Federal Member States face critical shortages in staffing, technical expertise, operational infrastructure, and inter-agency coordination. Government agencies lack capacity for ecological monitoring, biodiversity planning, law enforcement, and protected area management. Conservation policies remain aspirational rather than actionable without targeted training and long-term institutional support.

Undefined Boundaries and Tenure Insecurity: At present, Somalia's proposed protected areas have only indicative boundaries derived from desktop analysis and ecological surveys. These estimates serve as planning proxies for site prioritization and Core Indicator reporting, but they carry no legal standing because gazettement under the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA, 2024) has not yet occurred. The project will formalize these sites through participatory boundary mapping, ecological surveys, and FPIC consultations, culminating in legally recognized boundaries that are incorporated into gazettement decrees and registered in the WDPA.

Limited Community Engagement and Exclusion of Marginalized Groups: Communities depend heavily on biodiversity but have limited voice in conservation decision-making. Women and youth—key resource users—are especially marginalized due to systemic barriers such as illiteracy, lack of land rights, and cultural norms and procedures that exclude them from governance and decision-making forums. Conservation efforts have often overlooked these groups, resulting in weak local ownership and limited uptake of sustainable practices. Without inclusive co-management, conservation initiatives cannot achieve long-term success.

Severe Data Deficiencies: Somalia lacks recent biodiversity assessments, ecological inventories, or spatial mapping of critical habitats. Monitoring systems are almost nonexistent. This absence of data prevents informed policy planning, decision-making and formulation, hinders prioritization of conservation actions, and impact evaluation. The lack of a centralized biodiversity knowledge platform hampers coordination among institutions and limits opportunities for scientific collaboration or adaptive management.

External Threats: Somalia's biodiversity is further jeopardized by a range of external pressures. Armed conflict and political instability disrupt conservation activities and enable illegal resource extraction. Climate change—manifesting as prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, sea-level rise, and coral bleaching—amplifies ecosystem stress. Invasive species such as *Prosopis juliflora* displace native flora, reduce productivity, and alter ecosystem structure. Resource-based conflicts and population displacement intensify pressures on already fragile environments.

Addressing these barriers requires a coordinated, multi-dimensional approach that builds policy and legal coherence, institutional resilience, ecological knowledge, and inclusive governance.

Project Enablers

Despite significant challenges, Somalia is positioned at a pivotal moment where key institutional, policy, and social developments can serve as critical enablers for transformative biodiversity conservation and sustainable land and marine management. These enablers provide the foundation for the project's interventions to be effectively implemented, scaled, and sustained.

Strengthening Environmental Policy and Legal Foundations: Recent progress in environmental law and policy reform has created an emerging legal framework supportive of biodiversity protection and natural resource governance. Adopting the National Environmental Policy (2023) and the Environmental Protection and Management Act (2024) has laid the groundwork for harmonizing Somalia's fragmented legal landscape. These instruments explicitly promote ecosystem-based management, protected area establishment, and participatory governance, aligning with international environmental standards. In addition, Somalia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) provides a roadmap for conservation priorities and establishes targets for protecting and restoring terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

Institutional Momentum and Sectoral Leadership: Establishing the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) in 2022 has elevated environmental governance as a national priority. The MoECC has begun coordinating environmental policy across federal and state institutions and engages in multilateral environmental agreements and national planning processes. At the Federal Member State (FMS) level, relevant ministries have demonstrated increasing capacity and willingness to participate in environmental programs, particularly in Puntland, Galmudug, and Somaliland. This institutional momentum provides a critical opportunity to build durable governance systems for protected areas and biodiversity management.

Global and Regional Commitments to Biodiversity and Climate: Somalia is party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and has reaffirmed its commitment through its NBSAP and recent participation in post-2020 global biodiversity agenda processes. The project is fully aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Targets 2 (ecosystem restoration), 3 (protected areas), 9 (sustainable use), and 11 (equitable benefit-sharing). It also supports Somalia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement by delivering ecosystem-based adaptation, carbon sequestration, and nature-based livelihood strategies. These international commitments position Somalia to attract sustained technical and financial support from multilateral and bilateral sources. The project is also aligned with Somalia's Land Degradation Neutrality targets.[4][4]

Established Stakeholder Partnerships and Community Interest: The project builds upon strong stakeholder engagement during its design phase, including consultations with federal and state authorities, NGOs, traditional leaders, women's associations, and community-based organizations. These actors have clearly demanded biodiversity protection, sustainable land use, and alternative livelihoods. In several regions, local communities have initiated informal conservation efforts, including forest protection, reforestation, and sustainable marine practices, which the project will formalize and scale. The project's design also benefits from lessons learned in the past and ongoing GEF, UNDP, and donor-financed initiatives in rangeland restoration, integrated water management, and natural resource governance.

Social Capital and Traditional Resource Stewardship: Somalia has a long-standing tradition of community-based natural resource management rooted in customary law (Xeer). In many rural and pastoralist areas, elders and traditional authorities are central in land use decisions and conflict resolution. The project will integrate these customary governance systems into formal conservation frameworks, providing culturally appropriate and locally legitimate pathways for co-management protected areas. This approach enhances the potential for long-term community ownership and sustainability.

Opportunities for Nature-Based Livelihoods and Green Value Chains: Somalia's economy is heavily reliant on natural resources, and there is strong potential to diversify income streams through nature-based enterprises such as apiculture, sustainable fisheries, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and eco-tourism. The project is designed to support these value chains through training, cooperative formation, and market linkages, with a strong focus on women and youth. These livelihood investments reduce pressure on biodiversity and align national priorities on job creation, food security, and economic recovery.

Critical Stakeholders to Delivery: The successful implementation of this project hinges on the coordinated engagement of multiple stakeholders, including national and sub-national government entities, private sector actors, local communities, civil society organizations, and academic institutions. These groups play distinct yet interdependent roles in advancing conservation, sustainable land management, and climate resilience, ensuring that Somalia's biodiversity and ecosystem services are effectively protected and restored.

Government Stakeholders

Federal Government of Somalia (FGS): The FGS, through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), serves as the lead agency for environmental policy, biodiversity governance, and multilateral environmental agreements. The MoECC working with UNDP Somalia under a DIM arrangement, will oversee project implementation and play a central role in policy harmonization, protected area (PA) designation, and capacity development. It also coordinates with the Ministries of Planning, Finance, Livestock, and Fisheries to ensure integration of biodiversity goals into national development planning.

Federal Member States (FMS): Environmental ministries in Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest State, Jubaland, and Somaliland are responsible for sub-national implementation of environmental policies. These actors will lead the localized designation and co-management of protected areas, implementation of restoration activities, and coordination with district authorities and community structures. Their participation ensures geographic balance, local ownership, and policy coherence.

Local Governments / District Authorities: District-level authorities are responsible for coordinating community consultations, overseeing land use compliance, and facilitating collaboration between traditional leaders, customary institutions, and technical agencies. Their involvement will be central to participatory zoning, grievance redress, and integration of protected area boundaries into district-level land planning.

Local Communities and Customary Institutions

Pastoralists, Agro-pastoralists, and Coastal Communities: These groups are the primary resource users and direct stewards of rangelands, forests, and marine ecosystems. The project engages them in participatory mapping, co-management of PAs, and restoration interventions. Community-led initiatives will include sustainable grazing systems, Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), and biodiversity-friendly income-generating activities.

Traditional Elders and Customary Leaders (Xeer Institutions): Traditional governance structures remain essential in regulating natural resource access and resolving land-use disputes. The project will formally recognize these roles by integrating customary law into co-management frameworks, enhancing legitimacy and conflict sensitivity.

Women and Youth Groups: Women and youth are critical actors in resource use, forest product harvesting, and community-based livelihoods. The project ensures their meaningful participation through gender-responsive planning, leadership development, and enterprise support. Women’s associations and youth cooperatives will be targeted for restoration, nursery management, and value chain development capacity building.

Civil Society and NGOs

National and Local NGOs: Organizations such as Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC), Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC), and the Somali NGO Consortium play vital roles in community mobilization, environmental education, and the delivery of field-based interventions. These actors will support the implementation of community-led restoration, promote awareness of biodiversity values, and facilitate inclusive stakeholder engagement.

Academic and Research Institutions: Somali universities and research centers will provide technical input on biodiversity monitoring, ecological surveys, and GIS mapping. Their involvement will help build national capacity for applied conservation science and contribute to the development of Somalia's centralized biodiversity knowledge platform.

International Development Partners and UN Agencies: UNDP, as the GEF Implementing Agency, will provide project oversight, technical backstopping, and fiduciary assurance. Other partners, such as FAO, UNEP, and the World Bank, have ongoing initiatives in natural resource management and climate resilience that offer potential synergies.

Private Sector

Natural Resource-Based Enterprises: Micro and small enterprises engaged in sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products (e.g., frankincense, myrrh, honey), eco-tourism, apiculture, and coastal fisheries will be supported to adopt biodiversity-friendly practices. These businesses will benefit from training, market access, and technical advisory services.

Potential Services Providers

Service providers will include the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Federal Government of Somalia and Federal Member States (FMSs) authorities for PA governance, private ecotourism operators, and community-based organizations. Buyers will include tourists, private companies seeking biodiversity offsets, and development partners. BIOFIN in Somalia is currently at the diagnostic stage, focusing on Institutional capacity, expenditure reviews and finance needs assessments. It does not implement site-level finance solutions. The proposed GEF Biodiversity project will complement BIOFIN by piloting operational mechanisms such as payment for Ecosystem services (PES) schemes and tourism concessions linked to legally recognized PAs, ensuring clear additionality.

The project includes strategic partnerships with private sector actors to strengthen the economic sustainability of conservation efforts and ensure long-term community benefits. Engagement will focus on sectors aligned with biodiversity-friendly practices, such as:

- Sustainable harvesting and processing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) (e.g., frankincense, myrrh, Cordeauxia edulis),
- Community-based ecotourism in and around protected areas,
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, particularly through Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs),
- Restoration supply chains include nurseries for native tree species, mangrove propagation, and landscape restoration services.

During project implementation, the private sector will serve as partners in:

- Creating and scaling value chains, especially in pastoral and coastal communities.
- Providing market access and investment, particularly for women- and youth-led micro-enterprises.
- Enhancing product development and processing through innovation and technical support.

The project promotes inclusive models, ensuring that community-based enterprises, especially those led by women and youth, benefit equitably from economic opportunities. By engaging responsible businesses, the

project will build sustainable markets that reinforce biodiversity objectives while diversifying livelihoods and reducing dependency on harmful practices like charcoal production and overfishing.

Landscape of Investment, Lessons Learned, and Alignment with Country Priorities

Landscape of Investment

Somalia's environmental and natural resource management sector has historically been underfunded due to decades of conflict, political fragility, and humanitarian crises. However, investment in climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and land restoration is gradually increasing, supported by a growing ecosystem of donors, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Ongoing and recent investments include:

GEF-funded initiatives, such as the UNDP-led Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Pro-Resilience Action (PROSCAL) projects, focus on rangeland management, land degradation, and disaster risk reduction. In addition, the project will be working closely with GEF funded Global Biodiversity Financing Initiatives (BioFin), Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) and Global Updating NBSAPs and National Reporting project (NBSAP 7th Report).

The World Bank's Somalia Water for Agro-pastoral Productivity and Resilience (Biyoole) project supports integrated watershed planning and infrastructure to reduce climate vulnerability.

The FAO-supported Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Climate-Smart Agriculture initiatives work with communities to improve land productivity and ecosystem health in arid regions.

EU- and DFID-funded natural resource governance programs have supported policy development, rangeland mapping, and capacity building of state-level environment ministries.

Somalia's participation in regional climate initiatives, such as IGAD's drought resilience and desertification control programs, provides additional technical partnerships.

Significant investment gaps remain despite these efforts, particularly in establishing a national protected area system, restoring degraded ecosystems at scale, and embedding biodiversity considerations into national development and peacebuilding processes. The current project is designed to be catalytic, directly addressing these gaps by strengthening legal, institutional, and community-based mechanisms for conservation.

Baseline in the absence of the Project

In recent years, Somalia has made notable strides in establishing an enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management. The adoption of the 2023 National Environmental Policy and the 2024 Environmental Protection and Management Act signals a renewed national commitment to sustainable environmental governance. Ongoing initiatives, led by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Federal Member States (FMS), and international partners, have begun to lay the groundwork for more coordinated environmental action. For example, FAO's SWALIM provides essential land and water data, while UNDP and UNEP have supported the development of environmental frameworks and protected area assessments. The EU-funded BRICiS program and the Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods (SCAL) project have tackled drivers of land degradation and promoted alternative livelihoods, especially for rural populations.

In parallel, several major national and regional programs are being implemented to address land degradation and climate vulnerability. These include the FAO-led 'Ugbaad' initiative, which focuses on land restoration and climate-resilient agriculture; a UNIDO–FAO irrigation and water storage project in Jowhar; and the OSS Match Partnership for Biodiversity Action, which is supporting biodiversity data systems, restoration activities, and institutional capacity building. Somalia is also benefiting from substantial new funding through

the Green Climate Fund, including for the Biyo-Baad Climate Risk Water Security project and the Multi-country Project Advancing Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL)[5][5] initiative, both of which enhance resilience to climate risks.

Somalia's 2020 Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP 3.0) further reflect policy momentum and alignment with global environmental commitments. The Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF-EAS) is assisting with national-level alignment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the revision of Somalia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

Despite these developments, efforts remain fragmented and largely project-based, with limited coordination across sectors, institutions, and regions. Somalia currently lacks a formally designated and legally recognized national protected area system, and the 21 reported informal conservation sites are not supported by a legal or institutional framework capable of ensuring long-term protection or management. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) and FMS environmental authorities continue to face capacity constraints, including insufficient staffing, limited technical expertise, and underdeveloped enforcement mechanisms. The regulatory framework remains partially implemented and is still constrained by overlap among statutory, customary, and religious legal systems.

Community engagement in conservation remains inconsistent and under-supported. Although civil society organizations and local NGOs are active, rural and coastal communities—particularly women and marginalized groups—often lack the tools, incentives, or formal roles to participate meaningfully in conservation planning or benefit from sustainable natural resource management. At the same time, data and knowledge systems are still nascent. The absence of a national biodiversity information platform hampers Somalia's ability to monitor environmental trends, inform decision-making, or report against international targets such as the SDGs or CBD indicators.

In this context, while Somalia is making progress, it is unlikely that current efforts alone will achieve a nationally coherent, ecologically representative, and sustainably financed system for biodiversity conservation. Without the proposed project, Somalia will remain without a formal protected area network and will struggle to operationalize its environmental policy reforms. Key ecosystems—including dry forests, rangelands, mangroves, coral reefs, and riverine habitats—will continue to face degradation pressures from deforestation, overgrazing, unsustainable fishing, and climate impacts. Forest loss, exceeding 2.5 million trees annually, and mangrove deforestation, estimated at 1% annually, will likely persist due to inadequate enforcement and unsustainable practices such as charcoal production and agricultural expansion.

Ultimately, the absence of this project would represent a significant setback for Somalia's environmental future to scale up and institutionalize emerging efforts, bridge critical gaps in conservation governance, and build a resilient, community-driven protected area system that supports biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate adaptation.

Lessons Learned

The project design incorporates key lessons from past and ongoing projects in Somalia and other fragile contexts:

Legal reform must be participatory and context sensitive. Experience from the IWRM and SLM projects shows that harmonizing statutory, customary, and religious laws requires inclusive consultation processes that respect local governance structures, particularly in post-conflict settings.

Local ownership is critical for sustainability. Community-led initiatives in afforestation, fishery co-management, and NRM have shown greater success when local elders, women's groups, and youth associations are engaged and given shared responsibility in planning and decision-making.

Gender equality cannot be assumed—it must be planned. Past projects often overlooked the systemic barriers Somali women face in accessing land, decision-making, and benefits. This project explicitly integrates gender-responsive mechanisms, recognizing women as agents of change in conservation and restoration.

Data and spatial tools must be designed for low-capacity environments. Tools developed in past interventions often failed to gain traction due to technological complexity or poor alignment with institutional capacities. The project proposes a scalable GIS-based biodiversity knowledge platform built with local training and data ownership in mind.

Security and mobility must be factored into implementation models. Lessons from World Bank and UNDP projects stress the importance of decentralized implementation and working through NGOs and local governments in areas with constrained access.

Ecosystem restoration is more effective when paired with livelihoods. Income-generating activities—such as mangrove nurseries, beekeeping, and value-added processing of NTFPs—have proven essential to community participation in land and marine restoration.

Alignment with Country Priorities

The project is strongly aligned with Somalia's national policy frameworks, development plans, and international environmental commitments. While these frameworks express strong commitments to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, sustainable land management, and inclusive development, they face persistent implementation challenges—most notably weak institutional capacity, limited financing, and fragmented mandates. The project is designed to operationalize these commitments through site-based interventions and targeted institutional support, with a strong emphasis on strengthening biodiversity governance, restoring degraded ecosystems, and ensuring inclusive participation in natural resource management.

National Environmental Policy (2023): This policy provides a broad framework for ecosystem protection, rangeland and marine conservation, and the establishment of protected areas. However, it lacks detailed operational mechanisms and is not yet fully institutionalized at federal and state levels. The project helps bring this policy into practice by piloting biodiversity-focused interventions—including the identification and formal recognition of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)—while promoting community-based conservation models that integrate both men and women into stewardship roles.

Environmental Protection and Management Act (2024): This recent legislation offers a legal platform for environmental protection and sustainable development but is in the early stages of implementation. The project contributes by enhancing enforcement capabilities, supporting policy harmonization, and building institutional capacity to manage protected areas and monitor biodiversity trends, while also promoting inclusive governance at subnational levels.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP): The NBSAP outlines national targets for conserving terrestrial and marine ecosystems, protecting endemic species, and enhancing ecological connectivity. However, it suffers from limited resourcing, data gaps, and weak community engagement mechanisms. The project directly supports NBSAP implementation by restoring priority habitats, enabling biodiversity monitoring, and integrating biodiversity objectives into local and national land-use plans. Where relevant, the project will ensure the knowledge and participation of women and youth are reflected in biodiversity management decisions.

Ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9): NDP-9 identifies environmental sustainability and climate resilience as cross-cutting priorities for inclusive development. While aligned in principle, implementation has

been limited by institutional and fiscal constraints. The project contributes by advancing nature-based solutions that improve ecological stability, reduce vulnerability to climate shocks, and generate local economic opportunities—especially in rural areas—through activities such as community rangeland restoration and biodiversity-friendly livelihoods.

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0): Somalia's NDC commits to restoring degraded lands and enhancing carbon sequestration through ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, with an estimated potential to sequester 1.17 million tCO_2e. The project supports these commitments by restoring forest and rangeland ecosystems, developing natural resource management plans that build resilience to climate change, and facilitating gender-sensitive adaptation strategies where appropriate.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: The project contributes to several key targets of the framework, notably: Target 2 (restoration of degraded ecosystems), Target 3 (expansion and effective management of protected areas), Target 9 (sustainable use of wild species), and Target 11 (equitable benefit-sharing). Somalia's engagement with these targets is still emerging, and the project will support alignment by strengthening conservation planning, enhancing monitoring capacity, and facilitating more inclusive benefit-sharing arrangements.

Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets: The LDN framework sets ambitious goals to reduce land degradation by 50% by 2030. Somalia's progress has been hindered by insufficient monitoring systems and limited land governance. The project contributes to these targets by piloting rangeland restoration, reducing overgrazing pressures, and promoting land management practices that balance ecological integrity with livelihood needs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The project advances Somalia's contributions to SDGs 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 14 (Life Below Water), while integrating relevant aspects of SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Its biodiversity-driven approach is complemented by efforts to ensure inclusive participation in resource management and equitable access to conservation benefits.

In summary, the project responds to both the ambitions and the limitations of Somalia's current environmental frameworks by offering a model for locally rooted, biodiversity-focused, and institutionally supported implementation. Through a combination of ecosystem restoration, protected area establishment, and inclusive governance, it will help operationalize national commitments while laying a foundation for sustainable biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.

The project proposes to formally establish 11 PAs identified and prioritized through preliminary consultations with different government stakeholders during the PPG. Some of these sites were managed as PAs in the past, and some are identified as new sites for protection based on current biodiversity values and informal management as conservation areas.

The table below summarizes the historical and current legal status of the 11 priority Protected Area (PA) sites in Somalia, and outlines the actions required under the project to formalize their designation and management. Historical status is based on available records; where no prior legal designation exists, sites are considered new proposals.

Site Name	Historical Status	Current Legal Status	Action Required under Project
Hobyo	Declared under 1969 Wildlife Law (year unknown)	Not gazetted under EPMA	Re-gazette under EPMA 2024
Harardheere	Declared under 1969 Wildlife Law (year unknown)	Not gazetted under EPMA	Re-gazette under EPMA 2024

Chilani & Manari Islands	Proposed – no prior legal status	Not designated	New gazettement under EPMA 2024
Rooboow	Proposed – no prior legal status	Not designated	New gazettement under EPMA 2024
Jawhar	Proposed – no prior legal status	Not designated	New gazettement under EPMA 2024
Adalle	Proposed – no prior legal status	Not designated	New gazettement under EPMA 2024
Laagbadane (Laga Badana–Bushbush)	Declared under 1969 Wildlife Law (year unknown)	Not gazetted under EPMA	Re-gazette under EPMA 2024
Dhahar	Proposed – no prior legal status	Not designated	New gazettement under EPMA 2024
Daalo Mountain Forest	Declared under 1969 Wildlife Law (year unknown)	Not gazetted under EPMA	Re-gazette under EPMA 2024
Sacadin Zayla Archipelago	Proposed – no prior legal status	Not designated	New gazettement under EPMA 2024
Eyl Garacad	Proposed – no prior legal status	Not designated	New gazettement under EPMA 2024

[1] Information extracted from Somalia Baseline Biodiversity Review completed by Somalia Country Office March 25, 2025

[2] Information extracted from Somalia Biodiversity Project Sustainable Land Management Report dated March 25, 2025

[3] Information extracted from Somalia Biodiversity Project Sustainable Land Management Report dated March 25, 2025

[4] https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/2020-10/Somalia%20LDN%20TSP%20Final%20Report%20%28English%29.pdf

[5] https://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/multi-country-project-advancing-early-warnings-all-ew4allhttps://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/multi-country-project-advancing-early-warnings-all-ew4all

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Project Objectives and Expected Outcomes

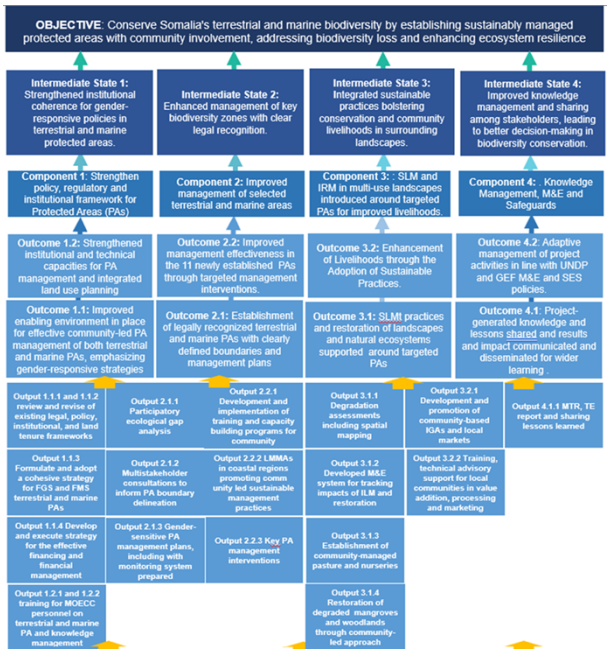
The project objective is to conserve Somalia's terrestrial and marine biodiversity by establishing sustainably managed protected areas (PAs) through community-led approaches, addressing biodiversity loss and enhancing ecosystem resilience. Without intervention, Somalia's biodiversity and ecosystems will continue to decline.

The **Theory of Change** begins with the recognition that fragmented governance structures, the absence of legal protection for ecosystems, and limited institutional and technical capacities are primary drivers of biodiversity degradation. It assumes that IF the enabling legal and institutional environment is strengthened, IF communities are empowered to manage protected areas through inclusive co-governance frameworks, and IF degraded ecosystems are restored while nature-based, climate-resilient livelihoods are promoted, THEN ecosystem services will be stabilized, biodiversity loss will be reversed, and resilience to climate change will be enhanced.

The design explicitly ensures that gender equality principles and respect for customary tenure systems shape all protected area establishment, restoration, and governance activities. It assumes that by embedding participatory processes at every stage—from legal reform to site selection to management planning—local ownership and sustainability of outcomes will be significantly strengthened. Further, it recognizes that marginalized groups—especially women, youth, IDPs, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities—must be active agents of change rather than passive beneficiaries and thus includes specific measures to ensure their leadership and empowerment.

Critically, the Theory of Change is explicitly transformative. Rather than isolated interventions, it seeks to build systems—legal, governance, ecological, and knowledge systems—that are self-reinforcing and resilient to future shocks. It shifts conservation from being externally driven to being community-anchored and legally institutionalized. It also links biodiversity conservation to broader national objectives of sustainable development, social equity, peacebuilding, and climate change. The Somalia biodiversity project is designed to catalyze systemic transformation in ecosystem conservation and governance by addressing deeply rooted legal, institutional, and ecological barriers. The project's impact pathway outlines how the strategic combination of legal reform, institutional capacity building, community engagement, and ecosystem restoration will lead to measurable global environmental benefits and long-term resilience for both people and nature

Figure 1: Theory of Change Changed Component 4 to remove outputs 4.12 and 4.13



Pathways of change are logically sequenced: strengthening legal frameworks and institutional capacities (Component 1) creates the conditions for the establishment of a protected area network (Component 2); the protection and restoration of critical ecosystems combined with promotion of sustainable livelihoods (Component 3) reduces environmental pressures and builds community resilience and restores degraded forests and rangeland; and (Component 4) ensures adaptive management, learning, and evidence-based decision-making through the establishment of a centralized biodiversity knowledge platform and knowledge sharing.

Problem Statement

The PROBLEM STATEMENT underlying the theory of change is the acute and widespread degradation of Somalia's terrestrial and marine biodiversity, characterized by deforestation, coral reef bleaching, mangrove loss, and rangeland desertification, which has already led to diminished ecosystem function, reduced agricultural and fisheries productivity, and weakened resilience of coastal and inland livelihoods, and which climate change—including intensified droughts and sea level rise—will continue to exacerbate, further threatening the ecosystem services that sustain the livelihoods and food security of Somalia's vulnerable rural and coastal communities.

Challenges and Barriers

The project responds to a set of deep-rooted, systemic barriers that have historically impeded effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in Somalia. A fragmented and outdated legal framework remains one of the primary challenges, where statutory, customary (Xeer), and religious (Sharia) systems operate in parallel, creating confusion over land tenure, resource rights, and enforcement responsibilities. Environmental legislation remains outdated—still anchored in Law No. 15 (1969)—and efforts to update policy frameworks have been slow and uneven across federal and state levels. Institutional weakness compounds this challenge: the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) and Federal Member State (FMS) agencies suffer from limited technical expertise, human resources, and operational capacities, severely constraining biodiversity planning, monitoring, and protected area management.

Adding to these governance challenges is the complete absence of a legally recognized and operational protected area network. Somalia's biodiversity hotspots remain vulnerable to unchecked land conversion, overgrazing, unsustainable fishing, and deforestation, particularly as climate change intensifies drought, coastal erosion, and ecosystem collapse. Social exclusion further undermines conservation efforts. Women—who make up only 32.7% of Somalia's labor force—and marginalized groups such as Indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and persons with disabilities are systematically left out of environmental decision-making, limiting community ownership of conservation initiatives and equitable distribution of benefits. Resource-based conflicts, fueled by competition over land, pasture, and water, are exacerbated by insecure tenure arrangements and the lack of conflict-sensitive natural resource management frameworks.

Finally, the near-total absence of reliable biodiversity data and monitoring systems presents a major barrier to evidence-based policymaking and adaptive management. Somalia lacks comprehensive ecological baselines, protected area inventories, and functioning biodiversity knowledge systems, impeding strategic prioritization and accountability. These interlinked barriers require a holistic, multi-scalar strategy that addresses governance reform, institutional capacity strengthening, inclusive community engagement, ecosystem

restoration, and the development of knowledge systems capable of sustaining biodiversity gains into the future.

Assumptions

Underlying the potential for launching a framework for the sustainable restoration, protection, and community-led management of biodiversity, ecosystems, and landscapes in Somalia are several key assumptions, falling into the categories of community attitudes and participation, institutional engagement, and external environmental factors. These assumptions draw upon insights from Somalia's recent biodiversity initiatives and national strategies—such as the Somalia National Environmental Policy (2023), the Somalia Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, UNDP/GEF programs in the Horn of Africa, and comparative experiences from UNEP, FAO, and IUCN restoration and conservation planning in fragile and post-conflict contexts.

Key assumptions include: a) interventions under the project will lead to measurable increases in biodiversity and improve the resilience of ecosystems to climate and conflict-related shocks; b) community groups, including customary governance structures and newly established Protected Area Management Committees (PAMCs), will remain engaged and supportive throughout the project's duration; c) women-headed households, women's cooperatives, and youth organizations will actively participate in biodiversity restoration, conservation, and livelihood activities; d) local communities, pastoralist associations, and Indigenous groups will support the designation of new protected areas and co-management arrangements for biodiversity governance; e) community members, including displaced populations, will be willing to participate in training workshops, restoration work, and community-based monitoring activities; f) households engaged in nature-based enterprises will adopt sustainable practices and technologies, including renewable energy solutions for eco-livelihoods; g) extreme climatic events—such as severe droughts, flooding, or coastal storms—will not cause widespread disruption to restoration and conservation activities; h) national and FMS-level decision-makers will support the legal establishment and operationalization of protected areas and associated biodiversity governance frameworks; and i) the establishment of sustainable management plans, supported by strengthened institutional capacities and community stewardship, will lead to long-term resilient ecosystem services despite ongoing climate variability and external shocks.

As inferred by these assumptions, local stakeholders—including women, men, youth, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, and marginalized communities—will play a central role in shaping, implementing, and sustaining the project's outcomes. Their participation is critical not only for informing effective biodiversity management strategies but also for ensuring ownership, relevance, and sustainability of restoration, conservation, and livelihoods interventions across project landscapes.

Project Components and Interventions

The project is structured around interdependent components that collectively contribute to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable land management in Somalia's arid and semi-arid ecosystems. These interventions are grounded in Somalia's national commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and Paris Agreement, and are informed by the country's 2020 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme.

The project explicitly aligns with Somalia's LDN targets, which commit to reducing degraded or stressed lands by 50% by 2030 through actions that restore ecological functionality, improve productivity, and build community resilience. The project design is framed by the LDN Conceptual Framework, which emphasizes systems thinking, the use of integrated land use planning (ILUP), and the application of the Avoid–Reduce–Reverse (ARR) logic for land degradation.

Avoid: Through the expansion and improved management of protected areas and community-conserved areas (Component 1), the project will prevent further degradation in ecologically sensitive rangelands, watersheds, and coastal ecosystems.

Reduce: By introducing sustainable rangeland management, climate-resilient agroecological practices, and improved land-use governance (Component 2), the project will reduce ongoing pressures such as overgrazing, fuelwood extraction, and unsustainable land conversion.

Reverse: The project will restore degraded landscapes using nature-based solutions (NbS) and traditional land rehabilitation practices, particularly in areas identified as high priority under Somalia's LDN spatial analysis.

Additionally, the project employs a Drivers-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) lens to ensure interventions are contextually grounded. It identifies land degradation drivers (e.g., insecure land tenure, poverty, institutional fragmentation), pressures (e.g., deforestation, overgrazing), and ecological impacts, and designs response strategies that are socially inclusive, ecologically informed, and institutionally feasible.

In doing so, the project not only operationalizes Somalia's LDN targets but also enhances synergies with biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation goals. By rooting interventions in both global science and local realities, the project ensures that land restoration and protected area strategies are sustainable, equitable, and adaptive to the country's socio-political and ecological context.

The components and their associated outcomes are described below.

- **Component 1: Strengthening Legal, Policy, and Institutional Frameworks.** This component creates the enabling conditions for effective biodiversity and land governance by reviewing and harmonizing federal, customary, and religious legal frameworks. By embedding Somalia's LDN targets and principles into national environmental and land management systems, the project ensures that governance is aligned with the Avoid–Reduce–Reverse (ARR) logic.

  A unified national framework will support the development of a National Protected Area (PA) Strategy, legal instruments for biodiversity and land use planning, and a centralized biodiversity data platform. These instruments will incorporate integrated land use planning (ILUP) and ensure institutions can monitor, report on, and adaptively manage degradation trends. Training and institutional strengthening for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) and its Federal Member State counterparts will improve capacity to implement LDN-aligned conservation, restoration, and sustainable land use strategies.

  This component contributes to the "response" element of the DPSIR model by embedding systems thinking into governance reform and enabling a coordinated approach to the drivers and pressures contributing to land degradation. Flexibility is built into the policy and planning activities to adjust to governance changes.

- Component 2: Protected Area Designation and Management. This component directly supports the "Avoid" aspect of the LDN framework by legally securing ecologically sensitive areas against degradation. The project will designate and demarcate 11 new protected areas (5 terrestrial, 4 marine, 2 mixed) totaling 387,000 ha, chosen for their ecological significance and vulnerability to land-use pressures.

  PA Management Committees will be established to guide inclusive governance, and co-management plans will be developed with local communities, ensuring that social, ecological, and institutional drivers of degradation are addressed. Investments in ranger training, ecological monitoring systems, and basic infrastructure (e.g., ranger outposts, signage) will improve enforcement and ecological integrity. The Protected area management planning incorporates contingency measures for conflict-related access constraints and community displacement scenarios. Adaptive co-management and local stewardship models are prioritized to ensure continuity of conservation actions during instability.

  The process will apply conflict-sensitive, participatory, and rights-based approaches to land protection, integrating traditional land uses and securing ecosystem services. This aligns with LDN spatial planning

principles and reflects the preventive nature of land degradation mitigation under Somalia's 2020 LDN target setting commitments.

Component 3: Ecosystem Restoration and Nature-Based Livelihoods

- This component is central to the "Reduce" and "Reverse" objectives of the LDN framework. It targets 6,000 ha of degraded rangelands, mangroves, and dry forests for restoration using participatory, nature-based solutions such as soil and water conservation, native vegetation regeneration, and community nurseries. Restoration sites will be prioritized based on the LDN basely ne and spatial degradation maps produced during Somalia's Target Setting Programme. These efforts will be embedded within integrated land use planning processes and contribute to reversing ecosystem degradation trends while enhancing ecological connectivity.

  In parallel, livelihood diversification strategies—such as non-timber forest products (NTFPs), sustainable fisheries, eco-tourism, and apiculture—will reduce pressure on vulnerable ecosystems. The promotion of women- and youth-led enterprises ensures that restoration is socially inclusive and economically viable, consistent with LDN principles of equity and sustainability.

Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Component 4: Monitoring, Lessons Learned and Information Sharing. The project will institutionalize adaptive management and learning. The key aims of this component is to ensure an enabling environment for adaptive management during the project and close alignment with M&E frameworks and risk mitigation strategies.

There are four outputs under the first outcome 1.1 – Strengthened institutional and technical capacity for PA Management and Integrated land use planning. This outcome aims to develop an enabling environment for establishing and operationalizing PAs by improving and harmonizing Somalia's legal and institutional frameworks for protected areas (PAs), including developing new policies, laws, and strategies at both federal, state and community levels.

The first output, 1.1.1 "Conduct a bottom-up comprehensive review of existing legal, policy, institutional, and land tenure frameworks to assess gaps in current natural resource governance, including biodiversity conservation," includes five major activities. These activities aim to identify and close legal, policy, and governance gaps related to biodiversity conservation, particularly around establishing and managing protected areas (PAs). The first activity will identify key stakeholders and conduct inception workshops at the Federal and Federal Member State (FMS) levels to review existing laws, policies, and customary regulations governing biodiversity, land tenure, and protected areas. This will include comparing Somalia's frameworks with international best practices to identify areas for reform. The second activity will involve regional field visits to assess the implementation of these legal and customary frameworks at the community level. Field assessments will gather participatory feedback from local actors to identify real-world governance gaps affecting biodiversity conservation. The third activity will develop a comprehensive gap assessment to identify inconsistencies and conflicts between federal, state, and customary legal systems. The assessment will also evaluate Somalia's compliance with international environmental agreements and highlight areas for harmonization. The Fourth activity will compile the findings of the gap assessment into a detailed report and policy brief, including prioritized recommendations for legal reforms to support the establishment and management of PAs. The Fifth Activity will launch dissemination and advocacy efforts to promote the recommended legal reforms, targeting key audiences such as government ministries, parliamentary committees, traditional leaders, and civil society organizations.

The second output 1.1.2 under Outcome 1.1 "Revise, update, upgrade, and provide technical support to design new gender-sensitive bills, policy, and institutional frameworks as identified by the gap assessment, relevant to FGS, FMS, customary and religious systems to guide PA establishment and management" includes six major activities that will help ensure that Somalia's biodiversity governance network is legally sound, institutionally strong and socially inclusive. The first activity will develop gender-sensitive, legally sound

draft revisions to existing or new laws, policies, and regulations. If feasible, create a land use policy that considers environmental and social risks by adopting a participatory Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for each draft law, policy, or regulation. The second activity conducts public & expert consultations that encompass multi-stakeholder forums at the federal and FMS levels to validate proposed legal and policy changes. Gather feedback from communities, civil society, customary leaders, and religious institutions. The third activity will incorporate consultation feedback and finalize legal amendments, PA governance frameworks, and gender-sensitive policies for parliamentary approval. The fourth activity includes policy adoption, implementation, and monitoring that supports the adoption and enactment of laws. Development of a monitoring framework to track policy implementation and enforcement. The fifth activity will develop educational material and educate and train government agencies on implementing revised policies, including training on safeguarding the civil rights of local community members. The sixth activity will support the development of policy/SOPs and non-lethal training within UNDP SES/GEF rules.

The third output 1.1.3 under Outcome 1.1 "Formulate and adopt a cohesive strategy for FGS and FMS terrestrial and marine PAs, integrating gender mainstreaming principles (Strategy will encompass potential expansion plans, ensuring all sites are well-documented with adequate maps and data)" includes five major activities. The first activity will engage key stakeholders through targeted consultations and a national needs assessment for PA governance. The second activity will conduct spatial mapping and biodiversity data collection to underpin evidence-based strategy development. The project will use GIS tools and ecological field surveys to assess existing PA coverage gaps, and ensuring that mapping integrates climate vulnerability assessments and local ecological knowledge. The third activity will develop a draft Protected Area Strategy. This comprehensive strategy will explicitly incorporate gender mainstreaming, climate resilience considerations, and community-based management approaches. It will align with national development frameworks such as the Somalia NBSAP. The fourth activity will ensure the draft PA Strategy undergoes extensive public and expert consultations. Regional validation workshops will be organized, engaging national and subnational governments, local communities, private sector stakeholders, customary authorities, women's cooperatives, and youth organizations to refine and validate the draft strategy and ensure it reflects ground realities and community aspirations. The fifth activity will finalize the Protected Area Strategy based on stakeholder feedback and expert recommendations. The finalized document will be submitted for formal endorsement and adoption by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and relevant Federal Member State authorities, creating a unified national approach to protected area development.

The fourth output is 1.1.4 under Outcome 1.1, which is "Develop and execute strategy for the effective financing and financial management of Somalia's consolidated system of terrestrial and marine PAs." The implementation plan for Output 1.1.4 will help ensure that Somalia's protected areas are financially sustainable, legally supported, and managed with transparency. By integrating diverse funding sources, Somalia can build a resilient, well-financed biodiversity conservation system. The strategy will be informed by a comprehensive baseline assessment that maps current and potential financing mechanisms, identifies legal and institutional gaps, and proposes enabling reforms. The project will coordinate closely with the GEF-funded BIOFIN project to ensure alignment on biodiversity financing strategies. Collaboration will focus on sharing data from baseline assessments, aligning legal and policy recommendations, and jointly identifying sustainable financing options such as PES, carbon credits, and ecotourism. Capacity-building efforts will also be harmonized to strengthen financial management systems and promote long-term sustainability of protected areas. This output will undertake five major activities to develop sustainable and transparent financing mechanisms for establishing, managing, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Somalia's protected areas. The first activity is the baseline assessment which will map potential ecosystem services with market or quasi-market potential, including ecotourism opportunities in scenic coastal and forest areas such as Hafun and Awdal, watershed services in riverine landscapes like the Shabelle floodplain, and carbon credit potential in forested regions with restoration opportunities. The assessment will also identify key institutional and legal gaps, such as the absence of a national policy on Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), limited capacity for ecosystem valuation, and weak mechanisms for contract enforcement. The findings will guide the design of financing mechanisms and support enabling reforms, such as the development of benefit-sharing guidelines and legal recognition of community conservation areas. The second activity will conduct a detailed assessment of current biodiversity financing mechanisms. This assessment will map existing funding sources, review financial governance structures at the federal and FMS levels, identify financing gaps in protected area

(PA) management, and evaluate lessons learned from past or ongoing environmental finance initiatives in Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa region. The third activity will develop a comprehensive Protected Area Financing Strategy. This strategy will design a financing model incorporating government funding, donor support, payment for ecosystem services (PES), carbon credit, and ecotourism revenue, considering associated environmental and social risks through adopting a participatory SESA. The fourth activity will pilot selected sustainable financial mechanisms in targeted protected areas. This activity will support effective and accountable financial management by conducting capacity-building programs for PA authorities, government officials, and local conservation managers. Finally, the project will develop capacity building & training on PA financial management that trains PA authorities, government officials, and local conservation managers on fund management, revenue collection, and financial sustainability.

There are two outputs under the second outcome 1.2 – Strengthened institutional and technical capacity for PA Management and Integrated land use planning. This outcome 1.2 aims to build the institutional capacities necessary for the effective governance, management, and enforcement of protected areas and biodiversity conservation in Somalia. This outcome ensures that legal reforms are matched by empowered institutions capable of implementing, monitoring, and adapting biodiversity management frameworks over the long term.

The first output 1.2.1 under outcome 1.2 "To facilitate specialized training for MOECC personnel on terrestrial and marine PA system planning to undertake (a) METT assessments of all future PAs with national and sub-national partners; (b) National Biodiversity Spatial Assessment and Land Use Plan with national and sub-national partners, including relevant clan and religious group leaders" This output will undertake four major activities to help ensure that Somalia's Protected Areas are managed by highly trained professionals, integrating traditional governance, modern conservation science, and gender-responsive approaches. The first activity will conduct a national Training Needs Assessment (TNA) to identify skill gaps among PA authorities, environmental institutions, and community-level governance bodies. Based on the findings, customized training curricula and learning materials will be developed, explicitly targeting the technical, legal, ecological, and administrative competencies required for protected area system planning, establishment, and management. The second activity will develop specialized training modules to build technical expertise in the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), biodiversity data collection methodologies, and GIS-based spatial land-use planning for protected areas. The third activity will design and deliver a Protected Area Management Training Program for federal and state environmental authorities, traditional and religious leaders, community-based management structures, and sectoral agencies. The training will incorporate gender mainstreaming principles, promote women's leadership in PA governance, and ensure that women, youth, indigenous peoples, and marginalized groups are meaningfully engaged in conservation decision-making processes. Lastly, a series of regional and national training workshops will be delivered to strengthen PA management capacities across key stakeholder groups.

The second output 1.2.2 under outcome 1.2 "1.2.2. A knowledge management platform, including a GIS system, to manage, exchange, and present information about terrestrial and marine areas." The platform will enable Somalia's protected areas to be managed using real-time data, GIS tools, and gender-responsive decision-making frameworks that reflect customary and scientific knowledge systems. This output will undertake five major activities. The first activity will conduct a detailed gap analysis to identify existing biodiversity datasets, institutional data needs, and technical capacity constraints. Based on findings, define the functional and technical requirements for a national GIS-enabled knowledge management platform for PA system planning. The second activity will collect geospatial and biodiversity baseline data across targeted terrestrial and marine sites, including by accessing open-source spatial data from the UN Biodiversity Lab - https://unbiodiversitylab.org/en/. Map current and proposed PA boundaries using satellite imagery, participatory mapping, and field verification. The third activity will acquire or develop a national-level GIS and knowledge management platform to host spatial biodiversity data[1][6], real-time monitoring inputs, and PA management records. Ensure compatibility with UNDP-supported and national systems. The fourth activity

will build capacity by training PA authorities[2][7], MoECC/FMS officials, and local conservation stakeholders to use the system for evidence-based planning, performance tracking (e.g., METT), and enforcement decision-making. The last activity will involve piloting and deploying the system into operational use.

There are three outputs under the third outcome 2.1 – Establishment of legally recognized terrestrial and marine PAs with clearly defined boundaries and management plans. This outcome aims to establish 11 protected areas across Somalia through participatory planning and legal recognition, encompassing marine and terrestrial zones. This output will undertake five major activities as follows:

The first output 2.1.1 under outcome 2.1 "Participatory analysis conducted to identify gaps in the current system (i.e., ecological gap analysis) and inform future management objectives for PAs (in line with the IUCN PA categories I-VI)". This output will conduct a participatory ecological gap analysis of Somalia's terrestrial and marine ecosystems, identify priority conservation areas, and delineate boundaries for 11 proposed protected areas (PAs) in accordance with IUCN PA categories I–VI. This output will lay the ecological and spatial foundation for Somalia's protected area (PA) network. This output will undertake seven major activities to establish the 11 PAs. The first activity will conduct inception meetings with federal and FMS governments, local communities, customary and religious leaders, and NGOs to introduce the ecological gap analysis process, build stakeholder ownership, and establish coordination structures for fieldwork and data collection. The second activity will involve the primary and secondary ecological data collected through field surveys, remote sensing, and review of existing biodiversity studies to establish baseline information on ecosystems, species distribution, and ecological services across targeted regions prioritized for protected area expansion. The third activity will conduct a gap analysis using systematic conservation planning tools. It will identify areas of high ecological importance currently unprotected or underrepresented within Somalia's emerging protected area network, focusing on ecosystem representation, connectivity, and climate resilience. The fourth activity will conduct stakeholder validation workshops to present findings from the ecological gap analysis to stakeholders through a series of federal, state, and community validation workshops. These workshops will apply gender-sensitive facilitation techniques to ensure inclusive review, feedback, and confirmation of priority conservation areas. The fifth activity will determine PA Boundary Mapping and Zoning - Detailed spatial boundary mapping and zoning of the eleven targeted protected areas will be developed, integrating ecological data, land use patterns, customary tenure systems, and results from stakeholder consultations to define conservation zones, community use areas, and buffer zones. The sixth activity will ensure all mapped boundaries, ecological metadata, and spatial products will be integrated into Somalia's national GIS and Biodiversity Knowledge Management System (linked to Output 1.2.2), ensuring that data supports national planning, monitoring, and reporting systems. Lastly, this activity will develop a comprehensive technical report and stakeholder-friendly policy briefs summarizing the ecological gap analysis, boundary mapping results, and conservation priorities will be prepared to guide downstream planning processes, including protected area management plans and broader land use policy development.

The second output 2.1.2 under outcome 2.1 "Detailed multistakeholder consultations to inform PA boundary delineation, re-definition and infrastructure development for the 11 proposed PAs". Refer to Annex E for a project site map. This output includes the 11 terrestrial and marine PAs reestablished management plans covering approximately 387,000 Ha which is made up of GEF Core Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas totaling 193,000 Ha and GEF Core Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas totaling 194,000 Ha. For restoration, 6000 ha of degraded forest and forest land are under restoration inside the PA (GEF Core Indicator 3.2). Replanted multipurpose trees/mangroves and assisted natural regeneration with >75% survival (target 5000 Ha Acacia, 1000 Ha mangroves). This participatory process mitigates potential land-use conflicts, fosters trust, and aligns conservation efforts with community development aspirations. This output will undertake seven major activities to help ensure that local realities, customary practices, and ecological priorities inform PA boundaries. This participatory process mitigates potential land-use conflicts, fosters trust, and aligns conservation efforts with community development aspirations. The first activity will identify and map key stakeholder groups—including federal and FMS authorities, community

representatives, customary and religious leaders, women's organizations, youth groups, and NGOs—and mobilize them for participatory consultations on protected area boundary setting and infrastructure needs. The second activity will be the Regional Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Workshops, where protected areas are proposed. Mapped boundaries will be presented, and input will be gathered from local stakeholders regarding land use patterns, tenure claims, sacred or culturally significant sites, and proposed access points to inform PA delineation. The third activity involves Community-Level Consultations at the village and coastal community level, ensuring active and inclusive participation from women, elders, pastoralists, fisher groups, and other local resource users to validate boundary proposals and assess community priorities and concerns. The fourth activity will address conflict sensitivity and land tenure assessment to identify potential land-use disputes, overlapping tenure claims, and access conflicts. Mitigation strategies will be proposed, including negotiated land-use zoning options and conflict resolution mechanisms, to ensure equitable and peaceful PA establishment. The fifth activity will assess infrastructure requirements for effective PA management, such as ranger outposts, entry gates, patrol trails, visitor information centers, and eco-tourism amenities, balancing ecological priorities with community needs and access considerations. The sixth activity will conduct a national and regional-level validation workshop to present consolidated findings on final PA boundaries, land-use zoning, and infrastructure plans, ensuring endorsement by government stakeholders, communities, and customary authorities before moving to formal designation. Lastly, finalized boundary maps, zoning layouts, and infrastructure site plans will be updated and integrated into Somalia's national Protected Area GIS and Knowledge Management System (linked to Output 1.2.2) to support long-term planning, monitoring, and reporting.

The third output under outcome 2.1 "Gender-sensitive PA management plans, including a monitoring system prepared and under implementation with participation of local communities for effective and equitable terrestrial and marine biodiversity conservation." The development and implementation of gender-sensitive PA management plans represent a critical turning point in Somalia's journey toward inclusive and effective biodiversity conservation. There are seven major activities under this output that will guide the day-to-day protection of species and ecosystems, but will also ensure that communities, especially women, youth, and customary leaders, are integrated into governance structures and benefit equitably from conservation efforts. The first activity will establish PA management planning teams at national and site levels, comprising government staff, FMS authorities, PA managers, gender specialists, and community representatives, to lead the participatory development of PA management plans. The second activity will conduct participatory PA site assessments. Each PA site will undergo participatory assessments analyzing ecological conditions, socio-economic dynamics, land and resource use patterns, and governance structures. The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) will establish baseline management scores, complemented by local knowledge and traditional ecological insights. The third activity will draft gender-sensitive PA management plans that set biodiversity conservation targets, defining zoning schemes, assigning management and enforcement responsibilities, and incorporating gender-responsive measures to ensure equitable participation and benefit-sharing among women, youth, and marginalized groups. The fourth activity will conduct multi-stakeholder validation workshops to review draft PA management plans. These will be reviewed and validated through regional workshops engaging local communities, customary and religious leaders, environmental NGOs, women's groups, and FMS government authorities, ensuring full stakeholder ownership and contextual relevance. The fifth activity will finalize and obtain approval for the PA management plans. The sixth activity will involve launching initial implementation activities such as establishing patrol routines, installing signage, operationalizing resource-use zoning systems, and mobilizing communities, particularly women and youth groups, into conservation activities. Further operationalization steps will be addressed under Output 2.2.3. The seventh activity will establish the monitoring and reporting framework, incorporating METT evaluations and site-specific performance indicators to track progress in biodiversity conservation, law enforcement effectiveness, community participation, and gender outcomes over time.

There are three outputs under the fourth outcome 2.2 – "Improved management effectiveness in the 11 newly established PAs through targeted management interventions." Outcome 2.2 aims to operationalize Somalia's

newly designated protected areas by establishing functional governance structures, management systems, and enforcement mechanisms at the site level.

The first output 2.2.1 under outcome 2.2 "Development and implementation of training and capacity building programs for community management teams, park wardens, with women and youth involvement in implementation of PA management plans". There are five major activities under this output that will support the development of a capacity-building program. The first activity will conduct a training needs assessment to identify technical and operational capacity gaps among newly formed community-based PA management teams, rangers, and enforcement personnel. The assessment will incorporate a specific gender and youth participation analysis to ensure that training programs are responsive to the needs of women, youth, and marginalized groups. The second activity will develop training modules that cover key topics such as community-based conservation techniques, biodiversity monitoring methods, conflict resolution strategies, patrol procedures, civil rights protection, and principles of inclusive, gender-responsive governance for protected areas. The third activity will recruit trainees, comprised of community members, including women's groups, youth leaders, pastoralists, fisherfolk, and local enforcement officers, who will be identified and selected to participate in training programs, ensuring that recruitment processes actively promote diversity, local ownership, and gender equity. The fourth activity will conduct regional Training Workshops across all FMS regions, combining classroom instruction, field-based exercises, and role-specific modules. Specialized sessions will be organized for women and youth participants, focusing on leadership development, inclusive governance, and gender-responsive implementation of protected area management activities. The fifth activity will evaluate the training effectiveness through pre- and post-training knowledge tests, participant feedback surveys, and qualitative impact assessments, identifying areas for further capacity-building support and continuous professional development.

The second output 2.2.2 under outcome 2.2 "Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in coastal regions and implementation of community-led sustainable management practices in line with customary law and sustainable fisheries and coastal management practices". Establishing Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) represents a transformative shift in Somalia's approach to coastal conservation. These community-led LMMAs will address overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate vulnerability, while restoring ecological function and supporting sustainable resource use. Involving women and youth in governance and marine livelihoods ensures that benefits are inclusive and lasting. There are seven major activities under this output that will support the establishment of LMMAs. The first activity will map coastal communities, traditional authorities, and marine resource user groups to identify key stakeholders and define their roles and responsibilities in managing Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), ensuring inclusive, rights-based management structures. The second activity will conduct participatory ecological assessments that will document baseline conditions of fish stocks, coral reefs, mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and local resource use patterns, using a combination of field surveys, traditional ecological knowledge, and remote sensing to inform LMMA design. The third activity will delineate LMMA boundaries, establish management zones (e.g., no-take zones, sustainable use areas), and support the formal legal recognition of LMMAs through endorsement at the Federal Member State (FMS) government level. The fourth activity will involve the development of gender-sensitive and socially inclusive LMMA management plans for each LMMA, as well as defining community roles, enforcement protocols, traditional resource management practices, and seasonal regulations. The fifth activity will develop and deliver targeted capacity-building programs to LMMA committees, youth associations, and fisher groups on sustainable fisheries management, coral reef conservation, mangrove restoration techniques, marine resource monitoring, and governance best practices. The sixth activity will implement Sustainable Coastal Management Practices through community-led sustainable management interventions across LMMA sites, including seasonal fisheries closures, community reef patrols, mangrove restoration campaigns, and the promotion of alternative coastal livelihoods to reduce pressure on marine ecosystems. The seventh activity will establish monitoring and Knowledge Sharing tools that will help track LMMA performance against ecological, governance, and socio-economic indicators.

The third output 2.2.3 under outcome 2.2 "Implementation of key PA management interventions (i.e., species monitoring, control of invasive species, habitat restoration, assisted natural regeneration and

wildlife migration corridors) in the Protected Area". There are six major activities that will move Somalia's protected areas system from planning to practice. The first activity will prioritize PA sites for intervention based on ecological sensitivity, degree of degradation, conservation importance, and readiness for management action, with preference given to sites where active management teams and governance structures are already established. The second activity will conduct species inventories across priority PAs to establish biodiversity baselines, focusing on endangered, endemic, and indicator species of flora and fauna. The third activity will map invasive species such as *Prosopis juliflora* and target for control and eradication using integrated methods, including mechanical removal, natural control strategies, and community-led management efforts to restore native biodiversity and reduce ecosystem degradation. The fourth activity will restore degraded ecosystems—including Acacia woodlands, coastal mangroves, and grasslands. The fifth activity will Establish Wildlife Corridors and Buffer Zones between fragmented protected areas to facilitate species movement, genetic exchange, climate adaptation, and broader landscape-level conservation connectivity. The sixth activity will involve Public Awareness and Community Participation Campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity restoration, the role of protected areas, and the benefits of sustainable land use. These campaigns will encourage active local stewardship and strengthen community participation in PA interventions.

Under the fifth and sixth outcomes, 3.1 and 3.2, there are six outputs: Establishment of legally recognized terrestrial and marine PAs with clearly defined boundaries and management plans and Enhancement of livelihoods by adopting economically, socially, and ecologically sustainable practices. Outcome 3.1 aims to establish 11 protected areas across Somalia through participatory planning and legal recognition, encompassing both marine and terrestrial zones.

The first output 3.1.1 under outcome 3.1 "Degradation assessments conducted across a range of landscapes and ecosystems, including spatial mapping to determine the level and type of degradation, identify priority areas and inform restoration and management interventions (ILUPs)". This output will assess degradation levels across targeted landscapes and ecosystems surrounding protected areas (PAs) and produce spatial maps identifying priority zones for restoration and sustainable land management (SLM) interventions. The Project Management Unit will collaborate closely with the 'Maps of Hope[3][8]' platform under the UN Biodiversity Lab and the 'Restoring Hope[4][9]' initiative to enhance spatial data utilization and support evidence-based biodiversity planning and ecosystem restoration efforts. There are five major activities to be undertaken under this output. The first activity will determine the geographic scope of landscape assessments surrounding the 11 designated protected areas, including buffer zones, adjacent watersheds, and communal lands, ensuring that restoration planning captures ecological connectivity, climate risks, and socio-economic dependencies across broader landscapes. The second activity will conduct field-based land degradation assessments to collect data on vegetation cover, soil condition, erosion patterns, land use changes, and climate impacts. The third activity will review findings from landscape assessments through community validation workshops, engaging local stakeholders to refine data, gather traditional ecological knowledge, validate historical land-use changes, and collaboratively map degradation hotspots and resource management priorities. The fourth activity will establish priority zones for landscape restoration and rank them based on the severity of degradation, ecosystem importance, proximity to protected areas, tenure security, and levels of community interest and readiness for stewardship of interventions. The fifth activity will integrate all field data, degradation maps, priority site selections, and climate risk information, which will be systematically compiled to inform Output 3.1.4 (site-level Landscape Restoration Plans) and the development of Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUPs), supporting evidence-based national and subnational decision-making processes.

The second output 3.1.2 under outcome 3.1 "Development and implementation of a national capacity building program and M&E system for tracking impacts of ILM and restoration interventions, ensuring equitable participation and leadership opportunities for women and men". By building

capacity at all levels—from ministry officials to local community leaders—and establishing a national M&E framework, this output bridges the gap between restoration ambition and implementation reality. There are five major activities to be undertaken under this output. The first activity focuses on assessing technical capacity gaps at federal, state, and community levels in implementing sustainable land management (SLM), ecosystem restoration activities, and Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP), with attention to institutional, operational, and knowledge barriers. The second activity will design a capacity-building program covering integrated landscape management (ILM), ecosystem restoration techniques, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, and climate-resilient land use planning. The third activity will conduct regional training sessions to build skills and practical knowledge on ILM principles, ecosystem functions, drivers of land degradation, sustainable restoration practices, and adaptive restoration strategies, using a participatory, hands-on learning approach across federal and FMS levels. The fourth activity will establish a standardized monitoring and evaluation framework for ILM. The fifth activity will finalize the National ILM Capacity Strategy & M&E Toolkit.

The third output 3.1.3 under outcome 3.1 "Establishment of community-managed pasture and woodland/mangrove nurseries in strategically selected locations in communal landscapes, with a focus on gender equity in management roles and decision-making processes." Encourage the participation of women's groups in nursery operations, ensuring that both men and women benefit from the knowledge and economic opportunities arising from these nurseries. There are six major activities under this output. The first activity focuses on site selection for nurseries where suitable sites will be identified on communal lands adjacent to degraded areas around the target protected areas, with selection criteria focusing on accessibility, water availability, community willingness, and proximity to priority restoration zones. The second activity will focus on mobilization and forming inclusive nursery management committees at each selected site, ensuring gender balance and youth representation. The third activity will concentrate on nursery design, build-out and setup. Technical support will be provided for nursery establishment, covering site layout, fencing, water harvesting infrastructure, shading systems, and propagation areas. Seeds and propagation materials for native trees, grasses, and mangrove species will be procured to support seedling production. The fourth activity will deliver training sessions to nursery committees, with a strong focus on empowering women and youth. Training topics will include seed collection, propagation techniques, nursery operations management, transplanting protocols, recordkeeping, and sustainable resource management. The fifth activity will focus on the startup and operations of the nurseries. This will also include reforestation, mangrove restoration and rangeland rehabilitation efforts. The sixth activity will develop community-led livelihood and benefit-sharing plans that define how nursery activities generate employment, income, and long-term community stewardship, ensuring equitable distribution of benefits and sustainable nursery management beyond the life of the project.

The fourth output 3.1.4 under outcome 3.1 "Restoration of degraded mangroves and woodlands through community-led interventions, with targeted technical advisory support, ensuring increased access to advice, knowledge and benefits for women." This output will include replanting multipurpose trees/mangroves and assisted natural regeneration in communal land with > 75% survival (target 3000 Ha Acacia, 500 Ha mangroves). This is covered under the Area of landscapes under improved practices (GEF Core Indicator 4.3). There are six major activities under this output. The first activity will use spatial data and degradation assessment to identify and confirm sites through participatory consultations with local communities, traditional leaders, and FMS authorities. The second activity will develop site-specific restoration plans for each priority site. The third activity will mobilize and train restoration teams of selected community members, particularly women and youth. The fourth activity will undertake restoration actions in targeted sites, including mangrove planting in coastal areas, enrichment of degraded woodlands, stabilization of soils, and rehabilitation of eroded landscapes, utilizing community labor and traditional ecological knowledge wherever possible. The fifth activity will mobilize and deploy advisory teams to restoration sites to provide hands-on coaching, supervise implementation quality, address site-specific challenges, and troubleshoot adaptive management needs throughout the initial establishment phase. The sixth activity will monitor restoration areas for survival rates, vegetation cover changes, and community participation rates and adapt restoration techniques where needed.

The fifth output 3.2.1 under outcome 3.2 "Development and promotion of community-based Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and local markets for sustainable products, with a gender-inclusive approach that recognizes and enhances the roles of women in pastoralism, community-based tourism, sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, apiculture and NTFPs". The focus of this output is to design and implement equitable incentive mechanisms that promote and sustain community participation, especially by women and youth, in ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management (SLM) efforts in Somalia, contributing to poverty reduction, climate resilience, and long-term conservation outcomes. There are seven major activities to be undertaken under this output. The first activity will focus on participatory assessments, and dialogues will be conducted with local communities to identify viable incentive options such as cash-for-work schemes, eco-credits, revolving funds, and alternative livelihoods, ensuring alignment with community priorities, ecosystem restoration needs, and gender equity considerations. The second activity will focus on co-designing incentive schemes with community stakeholders to ensure fairness, sustainability, and gender responsiveness. The third activity will establish transparent community governance committees that will be formed at pilot sites to oversee incentive distribution, monitor compliance with restoration commitments, and ensure inclusive representation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in decision-making processes. The fourth activity will pilot implementing Incentive Schemes in 4–6 priority sites, providing financial rewards linked to measurable ecological and community restoration outcomes. The fifth activity will deliver training programs to incentivize beneficiaries, especially targeting women and youth, to strengthen skills in financial literacy, savings group formation, microenterprise development, and reinvestment of restoration-related earnings into sustainable local businesses. The sixth activity will establish a participatory M&E framework to track key social, ecological, and economic indicators such as hectares restored, income generated, women's participation rates, and community satisfaction levels, enabling adaptive management and evidence-based learning. The seventh activity will document and share lessons learned, success stories, and performance data from pilot incentive schemes.

The sixth output 3.2.2 under outcome 3.2 "Training and technical advisory support for local communities, with a gender-responsive curriculum that ensures women have equal access to training opportunities and the necessary resources to apply their skills in value addition, processing and marketing (e.g., seed and mangrove nursery management, agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and NTFPs)." There are six major activities to be undertaken under this output. The first activity focuses on the preparation of a detailed market assessment and value chain analysis to identify viable restoration-linked livelihood opportunities such as non-timber forest products, mangrove beekeeping, native seed production, eco-tourism ventures, and seaweed farming, with special attention to market demand, feasibility, and gender-responsive enterprise options. The second activity will involve co-designing locally appropriate business models with communities. The third activity will identify and mobilize women's groups, youth cooperatives, and inclusive community associations to serve as lead actors for piloting selected nature-based enterprises, ensuring broad-based participation and equitable distribution of benefits. The fourth activity will deliver capacity-building programs targeted at groups focusing on enterprise planning, financial literacy, budgeting, branding, value addition, market positioning, and applying climate-smart production techniques to enhance the sustainability and profitability of green enterprises. The fifth activity will provide seed capital and tools to selected enterprises through transparent and accountable disbursement processes. The sixth activity will monitor, mentor and deliver scale up planning for local businesses.

There is one output under the seventh and eighth outcomes.

The seventh outcome 4.1: "Project-generated knowledge and lessons shared, and results and impact communicated and disseminated for wider learning." The key aims of the output 4.1.1 are to foster a learning culture among project participants, increase accountability and transparency, and enhance the collective impact of project activities.

The eighth outcome 4.2: "Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and Risk Management Policies. The key aims of the outcome is o ensure an enabling environment for adaptive management and close alignment with M&E frameworks and risk mitigation strategies.

Global Environmental Benefits and Additionality

The project will generate multiple Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) consistent with the GEF-8 focal areas of Biodiversity (BD), Land Degradation (LD), and Climate Change Mitigation (CCM), and directly contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly Targets 2 (ecosystem restoration), 3 (protected areas), 9 (sustainable use of species), and 11 (equitable governance and benefit-sharing). It will also contribute to Somalia's Land Degradation Neutrality targets. These benefits will support Somalia's transition from a country with no formally recognized protected areas to one with an ecologically representative, legally grounded, and community-managed network of conservation areas.

387,000 hectares of new protected areas (PAs) will be legally designated, including 193,000 ha of terrestrial ecosystems and 194,000 ha of marine and coastal zones. These PAs will address major representation gaps in Somalia's conservation landscape, including mangroves, dry forests, rangelands, and coral reef systems. Their establishment represents the first formal biodiversity protection in Somalia, transforming the national conservation baseline.

6,000 hectares of degraded terrestrial and coastal ecosystems will be restored using nature-based solutions such as reforestation, mangrove rehabilitation, and watershed restoration. These efforts will improve habitat connectivity, support native species recovery, and enhance ecosystem service provision, including water retention and erosion control.

3,500 hectares of land in PA buffer zones will be placed under improved, sustainable land and resource management. These areas will support ecological corridors while reducing direct pressures on core biodiversity zones.

An estimated 888,869 tCO_2e in greenhouse gas emissions will be avoided or sequestered through forest regeneration, soil carbon enhancement, and the protection of high-carbon ecosystems like mangroves and dry woodlands. These mitigation benefits will support Somalia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the UNFCCC and contribute to SDG 13 on climate action.

200,000 direct beneficiaries, including at least 50% women, will benefit from improved access to sustainable livelihoods, conservation and restoration-related employment, and ecosystem services. The emphasis on women and youth ensures the delivery of equitable benefits and supports SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 1 (poverty reduction).

These GEBs would not be achieved under a business-as-usual scenario. Without the project, Somalia would remain without a legally recognized PA system, and high-value terrestrial and marine ecosystems would continue to degrade. The project introduces a new legal, institutional, and operational model for conservation in fragile states, supported by community co-management, traditional knowledge, and climate-adaptive livelihoods.

Furthermore, the project introduces systemic reforms to biodiversity governance, integrates statutory and customary law, builds long-term institutional capacity, and creates replicable PA establishment and restoration models. These features position the project to deliver strong additionality and serve as a regional demonstration for conflict-affected and under-protected African countries and beyond.

Innovativeness

The Project is pioneering an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to biodiversity conservation, protected area establishment, and ecosystem restoration, adapted to Somalia's complex governance and ecological context. The project innovatively combines legal reform, institutional capacity building, establishing Somalia's first national protected area (PA) network, and large-scale restoration of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. This integrated model responds to Somalia's needs for urgent biodiversity protection and sustainable community development.

Key innovative elements include:

Establishment of the first legally recognized protected area system in Somalia, combining terrestrial and marine areas (387,000 ha).

Implementation of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) will place coastal resource management in the hands of the community and fisher associations.

Integration of gender equality and youth leadership into biodiversity governance and restoration practices, with targeted support towards the development of local restoration economies through incentives and financial support for development of new nature-based enterprises and value chains, and associated skills and capacities.

Application of spatial mapping technologies, ecological gap analyses, and participatory land-use planning to identify and protect critical biodiversity areas.

Development of sustainable finance models for PA management, piloting revenue-generating mechanisms such as eco-tourism, carbon credits, and payment for ecosystem services.

The project introduces a transformative model for conservation in fragile and post-conflict states by simultaneously focusing on community co-management, sustainable livelihoods, and legal reforms.

Potential for Scaling Up

The Somalia Biodiversity Project is designed as a catalytic intervention with high replication potential. By demonstrating effective models of protected area establishment, landscape restoration, and community-led conservation, the project will generate tested frameworks, tools, and knowledge products that can be applied nationally and regionally.

At the national level, lessons from the 11 initial PAs will inform the future expansion and strengthening of Somalia's protected area system. The approaches piloted for community-managed LMMAs, and sustainable land restoration can be replicated across coastal and terrestrial landscapes beyond the project sites.

Regionally, Somalia will contribute its experience to South-South knowledge sharing platforms, informing biodiversity and ecosystem restoration initiatives in other fragile, arid, and post-conflict contexts in the Horn of Africa and beyond. By creating lasting legal, institutional, financial, ecological, and social foundations for biodiversity conservation, the project sets the stage for long-term scaling of sustainable environmental management in Somalia.

Stakeholder Engagement

An extensive and inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed to guide this project, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders—government institutions, civil society organizations, Indigenous peoples, women, youth, persons with disabilities, academia, the private sector, and local communities—are meaningfully engaged throughout the project lifecycle. Grounded in UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards, the SEP outlines a participatory, transparent, and gender-responsive approach to project design, implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management.

The stakeholder engagement strategy emphasizes early and ongoing consultations, inclusive feedback mechanisms, and targeted outreach to marginalized and vulnerable groups. Particular attention has been given to overcoming barriers to participation and ensuring that those historically excluded, such as Indigenous groups, female-headed households, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, and rural pastoralist and fisherfolk communities, can engage fully and equitably in project processes.

This approach aims to foster a shared understanding of the project's objectives and expected outcomes, strengthen institutional coordination across Federal and State levels, and cultivate local ownership and sustainability. The engagement process is designed to build the capacity of community actors and empower stakeholders to become long-term stewards of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Gender equity and social inclusion are integral elements throughout the project, with dedicated mechanisms to mainstream these priorities in conservation policies, local governance arrangements, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and financing strategies.

The table below summarizes the stakeholders consulted and provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities during project implementation.

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[1] The UN Biodiversity Lab that has more than 1,000 global data layers, and the capacity to integrate national data layers into workspaces for every country. Somalia could access and use this platform to host national data at a reduced cost.

[2] Including through the **Learning for Nature (www.LearningForNature.org) platform**. This flagship UNDP e-learning platform, initiated in 2018, has grown into a vibrant hub for professionals dedicated to learning about the many aspects of biodiversity conservation, advancing nature-positive sustainable development, and implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework.

[3] https://unbiodiversitylab.org/en/maps-of-hope/

[4] https://www.learningfornature.org/en/restoring-hope-optimizing-and-aligning-restoration-goals-using-spatial-data/

Table 1: Partners and Roles

Entity	**Mandate and role in the project**
UNDP	UNDP will act as the GEF Implementing Agency and in this role will provide technical and administrative oversight as well as co-financing, quality assurance, as well as social and environmental safeguards accountability. UNDP in Somalia will also execute the project activities under Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), working with others such as NGOs and private sector.
Government (Federal and Federal member states)	
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), Federal Government of Somalia in collaboration with its counterparts at federal member states	The MOECC is the national authority responsible for formulation, management, oversight, coordination and effective implementation of environmental laws, policies, standards, and strategies. It promotes sustainable management and standards for protecting critical habitats, combatting desertification, enhancing stewardship and ownership, restoration, and utilization of natural resources, in accordance and collaboration with the relevant government structures at Federal and State levels. The MOECC is responsible for localizing and mainstreaming the global environmental laws and providing periodic updates on progress for implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements. The MOECC will be the federal level lead agency for this project and will have the overall responsibility for achieving the project goal and objectives. It will have a joint role with UNDP for coordination and oversight. During project implantation MOECC will collaborate with its counterparts at federal member states in the target areas.
Federal Ministry of Livestock, Forest and Rangeland	The Federal Ministry of Livestock, Forest and Rangelands has role to play in the conservation of national tree forest conservation, range management, grazing management systems in rural development programs, and contribution to drought and desertification combatting efforts.

and Ministries of Livestock at Federal Member States (MOLFR)	At the Federal Member State (FMS) level, including Somaliland, Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest, and Jubaland, the Ministries of Environment and Climate Change are responsible for rangeland and forestry management. The role of the ministries of livestock remains primarily focused on livestock and animal husbandry. The rangeland management and afforestation components of projects such as PROSCAL, IWRM which were GEF projects and World Bank funded initiatives have been implemented by the Ministries of Environment across all FMSs. The ministry and its counterparts at state levels will be important key members of the federal and state level inter-ministerial working group, which will be responsible for coordinating conservation efforts, information, and knowledge sharing, and providing guidance to the strategic plans of the project.
Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy and Ministries of Fisheries at Federal Member States. (MOFBE)	The Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy is responsible for the sustainable utilization of fisheries for economic development as well as the marine conservation and ecosystems. The ministry and its counterparts at state levels will be important key members of the federal and state level inter-ministerial working group, which will be responsible for coordinating conservation efforts, information and knowledge sharing, and providing guidance to the strategic plans of the project on the conservation of marine ecosystems.
Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development and Ministries of Planning at Federal Member State levels (MOPIED)	The federal ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development is responsible for coordinating all government and non-government agencies as well as developing medium and long-term strategies and plans for sustainable economic development and growth. The ministry develops and monitors the National Development Plans etc., while also seeking donor support and funding of the national priorities. The federal ministry and its counterparts at state levels will be members of the federal and state level inter-ministerial working group and will help in seeking funds and mainstreaming the biodiversity conservation plans and strategies.
Federal Ministry of Finance and Ministries of Finance at Federal Member State levels	The federal Ministry of Finance is responsible for devising and administering economic and financial policy of the country, including mobilization of internal and external resources and their allocation. The federal ministry of finance and its counterparts at levels will be key members of the federal and state level inter-ministerial working group, which will be responsible for coordinating financing for conservation as well as engaging custom authorities at seaports and airports for controlling wildlife crimes.
Local Government	Local governments/District Authorities will provide the necessary support required for the demarcation and legal framework and management of the PAs. Through their actions, they will be responsible for coordinating with the traditional leaders and in partnership with the local communities overseeing biodiversity protection within the PAs and outside of the PAs in their districts. The LG will enforce the biodiversity conservation legislations and have a standby district-level response police unit ready to act swiftly to prevent and deal with offenders. The districts have District Pastoral Associations (DPAs) who are involved in the

	management, coordination with districts, awareness, and sensitizations, as well as enforcement of customary laws.
Civil Society Organisations	Several NGOs were engaged though focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and regional workshops. These NGOs provide broad perspectives on a number of areas that influenced the design of the some of the project outputs (2.1 and 2.2) PA Establishment and Management. These NGOs include The Somalia NGO Consortium, Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC), Somali Women Development Centre (SWDC), Hear Women Organization (HWO), Somali Greenpeace Association (SOGPA), Action for Environment (AFE), Somali Environmental Forum (SEF), Disability Aid Foundation (DAF), Somali Disability Network (SDN), Minority Rights Group International (MRG), Somali Minority Rights and Aid Forum (SOMRAF).
Community Based Organizations	
Traditional leaders, women, youth, pastoral communities, fisherfolk	At the start of the project, community level stakeholder mapping will be conducted to ensure full representation and participation of community groups in the project. Communities will be actively involved and will participate in biodiversity conservation, law enforcement and restoration of ecosystem services efforts in and around the protected areas and economic incentives will be provided to offset their dependence on natural resources.
Private sector, professional associations, cooperatives	
Private sector	The potential development of local tourism in and around Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas is expected to attract the private sector (tour operators). The tour operators in the country are neither well-regulated nor widely recognized. Many are individuals with small boats or leisure vehicles that offer basic services for moving people around. However, these businesses are not yet fully developed to provide comprehensive tourism experience. During the consultation phase, they expressed a strong interest in benefiting from the project to grow and expand their operations. Other Private sectors will also be engaged in the sustainable production and commercialization of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in collaboration with local communities.
Media	The media will help with awareness raising for environmental conservation and project goals. Throughout the project field activities, training and awareness, the media will be present to provide outreach to not only the beneficiary communities but also to wider public. Additionally, print and electronic/social media will both be engaged for advocacy and education.
Academia Universities and Research Institutes	Several universities and research institutes actively participated in the consultation process. They will also play a pivotal role during the project implementation phase, contributing to knowledge generation and advocating for the integration of biodiversity conservation and environmental initiatives. These universities and academic institutions include Puntland State University, East Africa University, and the SIDRA Institute in Puntland; Sanaag University and Amoud University in Somaliland; and Somali National University in South Central.

During the project design phase, consultations were undertaken with the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), several Federal Member States (FMSs Jubaland, Puntland and Somaliland), and local communities. In-person workshops were held in Jubaland, Puntland, and Somaliland, while structured questionnaires were completed in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, and Southwest due to time and resource constraints. These regions will be fully engaged during implementation through Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) consultations, participatory planning, and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), ensuring all stakeholders are meaningfully involved before site gazettement.

Civil society organizations and NGOs were also engaged during project preparation, including members of the Somalia NGO Consortium and national groups active in biodiversity, gender equality, and youth

empowerment. Academic and research institutions such as Somali National University, Puntland State University, and Amoud University contributed perspectives on local priorities and capacity development. Their involvement will continue through the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and co-management mechanisms during implementation.

The project is further designed to complement ongoing baseline initiatives such as the World Bank's Biyoole program, the GEF Integrated Water Resources Management project, and the GCF "Biyo-Baad" initiative, among others. These initiatives provide a platform of investment in water, land management, and climate resilience that the project will build upon to strengthen synergies and avoid duplication.

A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed, ensuring that stakeholder voices inform all aspects of project implementation—from legal reform and protected area (PA) establishment and governance to restoration planning and monitoring. The SEP outlines continuous engagement mechanisms, including community consultations, participatory planning sessions, grievance redress procedures, and multi-stakeholder platforms.

Particular attention is given to gender equality and social inclusion, aligning with the project's Gender Action Plan. Proposed measures will that ensure women, youth, and marginalized groups are not only beneficiaries but also active decision-makers and participants in co-management of protected areas and sustainable livelihood initiatives.

These inclusive and culturally sensitive engagement processes build local ownership, enhance trust, and foster long-term stewardship of biodiversity and natural resources.

Stakeholder Group	**Level**	**Role and Contribution During Project Preparation**	**Role During Implementation and Monitoring**
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC)	Federal	Led the development of the project concept and coordinated consultations across different levels.	Lead government focal institution for all project planning and implementation in close coordination with UNDP under DIM arrangements; policy coordination; oversight of PA governance; integration of M&E and knowledge platforms.
Federal Member State (FMS) Environment Ministries	State	Participated in consultations; provided input on priority areas and PA locations.	Coordinate implementation of PA management interventions; oversee land use planning and restoration within their jurisdictions.
Traditional and Religious Leaders	Community	Engaged through community dialogues to integrate Xeer and Sharia law perspectives into PA governance and planning.	Partners in local conservation governance; promote legitimacy and acceptance of PAs and restoration activities.
Local Government Authorities	Local/ Regional	Consulted on land-use planning, management pf land use conflicts and administrative boundaries.	Facilitate community engagement; link communities with technical and financial resources.
Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Civil Society (CSOs)	Local/ Regional	Provided input on community needs, gender equality and women's empowerment issues, and environmental threats.	Implement community-based conservation and restoration initiatives; act as feedback channels for adaptive management.

Women's and Youth Groups	Local	Engaged in FGDs to define gender-specific needs, challenges and opportunities, and livelihood barriers.	Co-lead restoration and sustainable livelihood activities; ensure inclusive benefit-sharing and decision-making.
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Community	Participated in risk analysis and restoration site prioritization.	Participants in and beneficiaries of restoration interventions, employment opportunities, training programs, and climate-resilient livelihood initiatives.
Academic and Research Institutions	National	Shared data on biodiversity baselines, legal frameworks, and socio-economic trends.	Support M&E; contribute to environmental research, monitoring, and knowledge-sharing platforms.
Private Sector Actors (e.g., NTFPs, ecotourism, fisheries)	National/Local	Consulted on sustainable use opportunities and market linkages.	Partners in livelihood value chains; invest in community-based conservation-compatible businesses.
UNDP	International	Coordinated the project preparation process; ensured technical quality and GEF compliance.	GEF Implementing Partner and Executing Entity under DIM arrangements; provide fiduciary oversight, technical quality assurance and implementation oversight, and adaptive management.
Development Partners (e.g., FAO, UNEP, IUCN)	International	Shared lessons learned and mapped synergies with existing initiatives.	Support technical implementation and potential co-financing of complementary biodiversity and climate resilience efforts. Specific interventions include: **FAO** – Support sustainable rangeland management, agro-pastoral practices, and community-based natural resource management; align with FAO dryland and fisheries programs. **UNEP** – Provide technical expertise on environmental governance, biodiversity data systems, and reporting to multilateral conventions (e.g., CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC). **IUCN** – Contribute to PA management standards, METT assessments, Red List data, and guidance on co-management/LMMAs.

Environmental and Social Safeguards

Environmental and Social Project/Program Risk Classification: ***Substantial***

The project has been assessed as Substantial Risk under UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and includes a robust Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Safeguard measures are in place to:

- Ensure free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in stakeholder engagement,

- Prevent displacement or exclusion from access to ecosystem services,
- Monitor potential risks associated with land use planning and PA boundary establishment,
- Promote conflict-sensitive implementation, especially in contested or insecure regions.

The ESMF is complemented by the project's Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, ensuring that environmental and social risks are mitigated through inclusive planning, grievance redress mechanisms, and adaptive management.

Knowledge Management

Knowledge generation and sharing are central to the project's sustainability strategy. Component 4 will establish Somalia's first centralized biodiversity knowledge platform, including:

- Ecological baseline data,
- Spatial mapping of PAs and restoration zones,
- Tracking systems for monitoring PA management effectiveness and restoration outcomes.

The platform will facilitate adaptive management, inform policy decisions, and serve as a resource for stakeholders at all levels. It will also ensure the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned, case studies, and good practices through workshops, reports, and regional networks.

Project Area:

The Project aims to support formal establishment of 11 new Protected Areas (PAs). A key element of the project strategy involves selecting three sites as pilot PAs, which will serve as platforms for learning and optimizing the project's processes and community engagement methodology. The insights gained from these pilots will be applied to the remaining eight sites, thereby benefiting from the project's adaptive management approach. These three pilot sites will become operational after Year 3 of the project, facilitating continuous improvement and refinement of the methodologies employed.

Three pilot sites for the Protected Areas (PAs) under the Project are:

- Sacadin Zayla Archipelago (Marine Protected Area)
- Hobyo-lebad (Marine and terrestrial protected area)
- Eyl-Garacad (Marine Protected Area)

These sites were selected based on their high ecological importance, the presence of critical terrestrial and marine biodiversity, accessibility for project implementation, and strong community and district authority support. Both Sacadin Zayla and Eyl-Garacad will serve as marine protected areas, while Hobyo-lebad will serve as integrated marine terrestrial protected areas. These pilot sites provide strategic opportunities to demonstrate participatory governance models, biodiversity monitoring systems, and sustainable community-based management approaches that can be replicated across Somalia's emerging protected area network (8 remaining PAs).

Somalia's biodiversity situation, resource availability, and socioeconomic dynamics continually change. Community engagement, acceptance, and collaboration agreements are essential when selecting sites/areas for project implementation. The type of protected area to be established should also be carefully considered for each site. The objective is to conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity resources to ensure continued productivity. Additionally, communities should be willing to continue conservation efforts beyond the project's duration. FMS ministries of environment should be consulted at the beginning of the project, along

with relevant stakeholders, to identify suitable sites for implementation and determine the specific project components for each protected area.

The selection of priority sites was undertaken during the project preparation phase (PPG) through a government-led process. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), working in coordination with Federal Member State (FMS) environment ministries and supported by UNDP, convened consultations and technical reviews that resulted in the identification of 11 priority terrestrial and marine sites.

Earlier drafts occasionally referenced 12 sites; this reflected preliminary scoping lists before the prioritization was finalized. The definitive number is 11, as reflected in the site table included in this CEO Endorsement. Each of these sites will undergo further FPIC consultations, ecological surveys, and legal steps toward gazettement during project implementation.

Provided on the two next pages is a map showing the location of the proposed 11 PAs and additional information on the size of each of the Protected Areas. More detailed maps are provided in Annex E.

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[1] The UN Biodiversity Lab that has more than 1,000 global data layers, and the capacity to integrate national data layers into workspaces for every country. Somalia could access and use this platform to host national data at a reduced cost.

[2] Including through the **Learning for Nature (www.LearningForNature.org) platform**. This flagship UNDP e-learning platform, initiated in 2018, has grown into a vibrant hub for professionals dedicated to learning about the many aspects of biodiversity conservation, advancing nature-positive sustainable development, and implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework.https://undp-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lina_madadha_undp_org/Documents/Desktop/NCE/Somalia/6330%20CONSERVING%20BIODIVERSITY/CEO%20ER/for%20internal%20clearance/GEF%20portal/2.%20CEO%20ER_05June%202025_PTA%20review.docx - _ftnref3

[3] https://unbiodiversitylab.org/en/maps-of-hope/

[4] https://www.learningfornature.org/en/restoring-hope-optimizing-and-aligning-restoration-goals-using-spatial-data/

Figure 2 – Location and Map of PAs

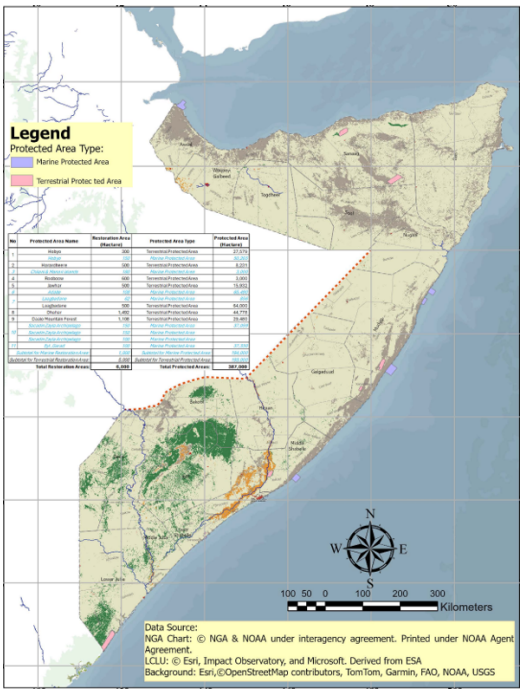

Table 2: Legend for Site Map on Previous Page

1	Hoboyo	E	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	300	Terrestrial	27,579
	Hoboyo	E	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	150	Marine	50,265
2	Harardheere	E	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	500	Terrestrial	8,231
3	Chilani and Manati Islands	N	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	180	Marine	3,000
4	Rooboow	N	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	600	Terrestrial	3,000
5	Jawhar	E	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	500	Terrestrial	15,932
6	Adalle	N	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	108	Marine	65,490
7	Laagbadane	N	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	62	Marine	856
7	Laagbadane	E	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	500	Terrestrial	64,000
8	Dhahar	N	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	1,492	Terrestrial	44,778
9	Daalo Mountain Forest	E	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	1,108	Terrestrial	29,480
10	Sacadin Zayla Archipelago	E	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	150	Marine	37,059
	Sacadin Zayla Archipelago	E	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	150	Marine	
	Sacadin Zayla Archipelago	E	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	150	Marine	
11	Eyl, Garad	N	Protected Landscape/Seascape IUCN Cat V	100	Marine	37,330
Total Marine				1,000	Total Marine	194,000
Total Terrestrial				5,000	Total Terrestrial	193,000
Total Restoration Areas				6,000	Total Protected Area	387,000

Table 3 Protected Area – GEOCODE ID

1	Hobyo	Terrestrial Protected Area	5.7667	48.6167	13494257
2	Harardheere	Wildlife Protected Area	4.6719	47.7423	13494257
3	Chilani & Manari Islands	Marine Protected Area	1.0732	44.0109	13494277
4	Rooboow	Wildlife Protected Area	1.1976	44.0027	13494279
5	Jawhar	Wildlife Protected Area	2.6257	45.5748	13494280
6	Adalle	Marine Protected Area	2.5273	46.1906	13494281
7	Laagbadane	Marine Protected Area	-1.6465	41.5925	13494282
		Wildlife Protected Area	-1.3771	41.6879	13494283
8	Dhahar	Terrestrial Protected Area	9.6780	48.5524	60095
9	Daalo Mountain Forest	Forest & Wildlife Reserve	10.7949	47.3196	13494284
10	Sacadin Zayla Archipelago	Marine Protected Area	11.4494	43.4513	13494286
11	Eyl Garacad	Marine Protected Area	7.0098	49.4465	13494285

General Description/Socioecological Characteristics of the Eleven Proposed Protected Areas

1. Hobyo Integrated Reserve (Marine & Terrestrial, 77,844 ha)

Hobyo, located along Somalia's central coast, is an ecologically diverse landscape that includes savannahs, coastal dunes, and marine ecosystems. While the project proposes zoning, awareness-raising, and enforcement to improve ecological governance, it initially overlooked the significant threat posed by impending offshore oil exploration. The project will now support stronger engagement of local institutions and communities in environmental impact assessment processes. This will include the development of marine biodiversity baselines, mapping of critical habitats, and facilitation of policy dialogue with regulatory bodies. These efforts will be complemented by restoration and zoning activities, providing a holistic approach to conservation that builds resilience in the face of large-scale development pressures.

The 450-hectare restoration initiative is divided between terrestrial zones near Gawaan, focusing on woodland regeneration, and marine areas near Ceelka Carlo, dedicated to mangrove restoration and coral protection. The restoration activities are designed to strengthen ecological integrity and governance through effective zoning, increased local awareness, and enhancements in enforcement mechanisms. METT assessments have identified challenges such as insufficient monitoring, limited management personnel, and unclear boundary demarcation.

For Hobyo, comprehensive establishment of both terrestrial and marine protected areas (PAs) will be necessary, including formal gazettement, stakeholder engagement, and legal boundary definition. METT evaluations highlight gaps in institutional capacity, availability of ecological data, and enforcement effectiveness. Strategic interventions will involve conducting baseline ecological surveys, recruiting and training staff, and forming community-based management committees. Restoration priorities include stabilizing coastal dunes, rehabilitating rangelands, and protecting reefs through targeted marine zoning and enhanced surveillance.

2. Harardheere Protected Area (Terrestrial, 8,231 ha)

Xarardheere PA in Galmudug represents one of the last functioning dryland wildlife habitats in the region. Despite supporting small mammal populations and bird species, the site is highly vulnerable due to advancing sand dunes, overgrazing, and lack of management infrastructure. Remote sensing confirms ongoing vegetation loss from 2017 to 2024.

Harardheere is a coastal and inland ecosystem that includes wetlands, mangrove areas, and rich marine biodiversity. While restoration of these ecosystems was initially prioritized, critical gaps such as absence of boundary demarcation, patrolling systems, and stakeholder coordination were not adequately addressed. The project will now incorporate activities to formally demarcate the protected area, establish a trained ranger force, and set up a multi-stakeholder management platform to guide enforcement and decision-making. These institutional interventions will be complemented by targeted restoration of mangroves, wetlands, and seagrass beds, supported by ecological baselines and community co-management agreements. This combined approach will enhance both ecological integrity and governance effectiveness.

Harardheere will be designated as a multi-use coastal protected area that integrates marine biodiversity with inland wetland conservation. Legal recognition and gazettement will be supported by comprehensive mapping of community-managed zones. METT evaluations have identified weaknesses in enforcement, monitoring,

and public awareness, which will be addressed through the creation of inter-ecosystem management units and community education programs. Restoration activities will target mangrove and seagrass ecosystems, wetland rehydration, and shoreline stabilization, while marine biodiversity patrols will enhance protection efforts.
The 500-hectare restoration site, positioned in regions affected by sand encroachment, will focus on planting drought-tolerant native species, constructing sand barriers, and training local herders in sustainable grazing. Addressing the absence of patrolling and boundary markers, as well as improving stakeholder coordination, remains essential for effective management and long-term conservation.

3. Chilani & Manari Islands (Marine, 3,000 ha)

The Chilani and Manari Islands are significant marine areas facing challenges like overfishing, bycatch of turtles, unregulated tourism, and limited enforcement capacity. The project seeks to address the root causes of environmental degradation by formally designating these islands as marine protected areas, implementing marine zoning for reef sanctuaries, turtle nesting habitats, seabird conservation, and sustainable fishing zones, and developing community agreements in line with Somalia's Marine Spatial Planning policy. Restoration efforts will target coral reef rehabilitation, mangrove planting, and protection of turtle nesting sites, while alternative livelihoods such as community aquaculture and ecotourism aim to reduce reliance on extractive practices. Additional interventions include deploying marine rangers, satellite monitoring systems, and conducting biodiversity assessments to enhance monitoring and measure outcomes.
Recent METT (Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool) assessments, conducted during the PPG Phase, for the Chilani and Manari Islands identified several strengths, including strong community involvement in conservation activities and initial success in reducing bycatch. However, the results also highlighted gaps in enforcement, limited resources for monitoring marine biodiversity, and the need for improved education around sustainable fishing practices. Recommendations from the METT assessment are guiding current interventions, aiming to increase management capacity and strengthen long-term ecological resilience.

4. Rooboow Protected Area (Terrestrial, 3,000 ha)

Situated in Somalia's Bay region near Baidoa, the proposed Robow Protected Area is characterized by acacia woodlands and savannah grasslands. It supports diverse wildlife, including lions, porcupines, and reportedly the highest ostrich concentration in southern Somalia. The landscape is culturally and economically significant for pastoralist communities, who rely on it for grazing livestock.
The proposed Robow Protected Area site has experienced localized environmental degradation due to informal quarrying and unsustainable land use. In accordance with GEF eligibility rules, the project will not support ex-post remediation of quarry-related impacts, which are the responsibility of the developers or relevant local authorities. Instead, GEF support will focus on addressing broader biodiversity and land degradation challenges through the establishment of a legal protected area framework, participatory management planning, and ecosystem monitoring. The 'legal protected area framework' refers to the operationalization of the Environmental Protection and Management Act (2024) through secondary regulations, procedures, and institutional mandates that enable sites such as Rooboow to move from nominal status to fully recognized protected areas. This includes drafting PA-specific regulations under EPMA, clarifying federal and state roles, conducting FPIC consultations, ESIA, and participatory boundary mapping, and issuing gazettement decrees. At Rooboow, these steps will culminate in a legally recognized protected area with an approved management plan, operational enforcement mechanisms, and registration in the WDPA. The project thus establishes both the enabling legal framework and the site-level application needed to make PAs functional in practice. Restoration efforts will target rangeland health and biodiversity corridors, supported by rotational grazing systems and sustainable land management practices.
Robow is planned to become a community-managed protected area under Somalia's participatory conservation framework. Legal procedures will include clarifying land tenure, establishing community co-management agreements, and integrating the area into regional land-use plans. METT results have identified issues with governance and limited ecological data. Planned activities consist of conducting biodiversity assessments, building capacity for local institutions, and documenting traditional knowledge to inform management decisions. Restoration efforts will comprise controlled grazing systems, acacia woodland regeneration, and erosion control across the landscape. A 600-hectare restoration area has been designated, with interventions targeting replanting native tree species and implementing rotational grazing management. Community-based methods are intended to facilitate local involvement, with anticipated livelihood benefits resulting from improvements in ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation.

5. Jawhar (Balcad Nature Reserve) (Terrestrial, 15,932 ha)

Balcad Nature Reserve is located in the Middle Shabelle region, approximately 35 km north of Mogadishu along the Shabeelle River. Established in the 1980s, the reserve is one of the last remnants of intact riverine forest in Somalia. It is a biodiversity hotspot, supporting endemic species such as the Somali Bee-eater (Merops revoilii) and over 200 bird species. Recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA), the site is critical for ecological connectivity in the Shabelle watershed.

From 2017 to 2024, significant land use changes occurred, including cropland expansion and reduction in natural forest patches. Seasonal flooding and informal agriculture have further stressed the ecosystem. A 500-hectare restoration area has been designated to buffer the forest core, stabilize riverbanks, and enhance flood resilience.

Restoration strategies encompass enrichment planting, the advancement of nature-based livelihoods (such as beekeeping and sustainable non-timber forest product collection), and participatory land-use zoning. The METT assessment highlights enforcement deficiencies and significant grazing pressures; these challenges will be addressed through enhanced local stewardship initiatives and comprehensive ecological education.

Jowhar's riverine system is slated for formal designation as a wetland protected area. Planned activities include hydrological mapping, the identification and establishment of core conservation zones, and the institutional integration with water and forestry authorities. Gaps identified by the METT, such as inadequate inter-sectoral coordination and the lack of a management plan, will be remedied through the development of an integrated river basin management plan, implementation of community-based floodplain monitoring, and investment in early warning systems. Restoration efforts will prioritise riparian reforestation and wetland rehabilitation.

6. Adalle Marine Protected Area (Marine, 65,490 ha)

Located off the central coast of Middle Shabelle, the proposed Adalle Marine Protected Area encompasses coral reefs, sandy beaches, seagrass beds, and historically, mangrove forests. It serves as nesting habitat for endangered sea turtles (hawksbill and green turtles) and as a corridor for migratory seabirds.

Remote sensing data indicates complete loss or degradation of mangroves by 2020, and pressures from overfishing, coral bleaching, and unregulated coastal development continue to impact marine health. The area is critical for sustaining local fisheries and coastal resilience.

A 108-hectare marine restoration zone has been designated for mangrove replanting and marine spatial zoning. Central to this strategy is community co-management, supported by training in surveillance, sustainable fisheries, and eco-enterprise development such as seaweed farming and turtle tourism. The METT baseline highlights challenges including lack of enforcement and weak community awareness, which the project will address through integrated conservation planning.

Adalle's designation as a coastal protected area will incorporate seabird conservation zones, with legal activities encompassing marine boundary mapping, community consultations, and marine spatial planning. METT assessments reveal a lack of institutional coordination between fisheries and environment sectors, prompting interventions like marine surveillance training, avian monitoring programs, and community co-management structures. Restoration efforts will prioritize coastal dune rehabilitation and the protection of seabird nesting cliffs.

7. Laag Badana National Park (Terrestrial, 64,000 ha)

Laag Badana National Park, located in Somalia's Lower Jubba region near the coastal town of Kambooni, is one of Somalia's oldest protected areas, originally established in the 1950s. It encompasses a diverse mosaic of savannah grasslands, dry woodlands, seasonal wetlands, and coastal vegetation. These habitats historically supported rich biodiversity including antelope species, gazelles, and numerous migratory and resident bird species.

The socioecological importance of Laag Badana has increased in recent years due to improved local security and a decline in illegal charcoal production, which has allowed forest patches to regenerate. However, pressures remain high: cropland increased over 300% from 2017 to 2024, indicating growing encroachment and land conversion for informal agriculture. Conversely, sandy areas have decreased by more than half, potentially signaling re-vegetation or stabilization of degraded land.

The project has allocated 500 hectares for restoration, prioritising reforestation, the enhancement of ecosystem services, and the advancement of sustainable community-based initiatives such as ecotourism and non-timber

forest product (NTFP) harvesting. Situated adjacent to existing forest fragments, this restoration area is readily accessible for local stakeholder participation. Principal challenges identified include illegal poaching and limited environmental awareness, both of which will be addressed through participatory planning processes, monitoring based on the METT framework, and targeted capacity building.
Furthermore, the area requires formal gazettement under Somalia's EPMA, with particular consideration for its transboundary conservation significance. Planned activities comprise delineation and participatory demarcation of boundaries in collaboration with local communities, as well as cross-border coordination with Kenyan authorities. Preliminary METT assessments have highlighted key deficiencies, including the absence of legal status, insufficient staff capacity, and inadequate monitoring systems. To address these gaps, interventions will encompass legal designation procedures, recruitment and training of rangers, and the development of a site-specific management plan. Restoration and sustainable land management (SLM) efforts will target degraded rangelands and mangrove ecosystems, underpinned by community-based natural resource governance mechanisms.
At Laag Badana National Park Marine PA, the project will implement a zoned approach to marine restoration and conservation. Out of the total 865 ha, the project will conduct direct ecological restoration to rehabilitate critical habitats within a 62-hectare marine restoration zone in shallow coastal waters adjacent to the park. These include fringing coral reefs and mangrove forests that serve as essential spawning grounds, coastal buffers, and biodiversity reservoirs. Activities in this zone will involve replanting native mangrove species (*Avicennia marina* and *Rhizophora mucronata*), establishing community nurseries, conducting coastal and underwater cleanups with local fishers and youth, installing waste collection systems at key landing sites, and training community members in restoration practices and biodiversity monitoring.
The remaining hectares of the Laagbadane marine protected area will focus on broader conservation efforts to maintain ecosystem integrity and prevent further degradation. In this zone, the project will support the development of legal and institutional frameworks to enable community-led seasonal no-fishing zones, participatory zoning and enforcement strategies, and restrictions on destructive fishing practices. It will also strengthen community surveillance systems, build institutional capacity for ecosystem valuation, and facilitate research partnerships with universities.

8. Dhahar Protected Area (Terrestrial, 44,778 ha)

Located in Puntland, Dhahar is a semi-arid woodland region known for successful community conservation efforts. The area recovered from widespread charcoal-induced deforestation, especially of Acacia bussei, due to local bans enforced through customary law.

Dhahar is a dry forest and shrubland ecosystem with high biodiversity and ethnobotanical importance, faces ongoing threats from overgrazing, fuelwood harvesting, land conversion, and climate-induced aridity. While there are community-based efforts to protect the landscape, these are limited by a lack of technical capacity, absence of formal ecological monitoring, and no legal recognition under Somalia's protected area framework. The project will support the legal gazettement of Dhahar as a formal protected area, the development of a participatory management plan, and the training of community rangers and ecological monitors. Restoration activities will focus on the propagation and planting of native species, particularly Acacia bussei, using community nurseries. These interventions will operationalize existing community interest, address institutional gaps, and contribute to sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation.
A 1,492-hectare zone has been designated in Dhahar to support natural recovery and address vegetation gaps caused by overgrazing. Restoration efforts will employ assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting, and rotational grazing, with a particular focus on Acacia bussei and native species via community-run nurseries. While Dhahar benefits from strong informal governance and community conservation initiatives, key challenges remain—including the lack of formal ecological monitoring, restoration protocols, and technical capacity as identified by the METT framework.
To address these issues, Dhahar will be formally established as a protected area through community land-use agreements and gazettement, integrating traditional ecological knowledge and cultural heritage into conservation planning. Management activities are set to include ethnobotanical surveys, the development of community ranger systems, and sustainable land management interventions such as rotational grazing and erosion control, all underpinned by participatory planning and training programs.

9. Daallo Mountain Forest (Terrestrial, 29,480 ha)

In the highlands of Sanaag, Somaliland, Daallo Mountain is one of Somalia's most critical biodiversity hotspots. Its montane forests host rare and endemic species such as the Beira antelope, Somali pigeon, and dragon tree (Dracaena ombet). However, deforestation, fuelwood extraction, and unregulated livestock production have fragmented habitats.
Daallo remains one of the most ecologically intact regions but does not yet benefit from formal legal protection. Planned actions will centre on achieving official gazettement, implementing ecosystem zoning, and facilitating integration into the national protected area (PA) registry. METT assessments highlight deficiencies in enforcement, visitor infrastructure, and ecological monitoring. Accordingly, future investments will be directed towards establishing eco-guard services, developing visitor management protocols, and conducting biodiversity inventories. Restoration initiatives will focus on erosion mitigation, juniper reforestation, and the promotion of sustainable grazing practices.
The 1108-hectare restoration zone serves to connect fragmented forest areas and stabilise slopes susceptible to erosion. Restoration activities prioritise the planting of native highland species, utilising existing seed sources and aligning with local topographical features. Key identified gaps in Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) include the lack of nurseries, robust monitoring systems, and comprehensive management of tourism impacts.

10. Sacadin-Zeylac Archipelago (Marine, 37,059 ha)

The Sacadin–Zeylac Archipelago, located along Somalia's northwestern coast, has experienced significant ecological degradation due to overharvesting of mangroves, unsustainable artisanal fishing, shoreline erosion, and the impacts of rising sea levels. Although recent community-led restoration initiatives have begun, these remain small in scale and unsupported by formal governance structures or scientific guidance. The area is currently unprotected under national law and lacks a marine spatial plan, ecological monitoring systems, and enforcement mechanisms. The project will support the formal designation of the archipelago as a marine protected area, establish zoning regulations to safeguard sensitive habitats, and build institutional and community capacity for ecological monitoring and enforcement. Restoration efforts, particularly mangrove replanting and reef protection, will be expanded and guided by technical assessments, ensuring alignment with both national conservation frameworks and global biodiversity targets.
The 450-hectare restoration zone expands upon recent community-led efforts, which have resulted in the planting of over 21,000 mangrove seedlings. Future initiatives will include additional planting, improved protection from camel grazing, and the implementation of monitoring systems. Current challenges include the absence of long-term co-management frameworks and limited mechanisms for tracking ecological impacts.
Sacadin–Zeylac Archipelago, an offshore island recognized for its high biodiversity value, is scheduled for marine protected area designation under the new EPMA. This process will involve the legal demarcation of marine boundaries, engagement with local communities, and the establishment of marine use zones such as no-take areas and artisanal fishing regions. Identified management gaps include insufficient surveillance and the lack of a dedicated management institution. Planned activities encompass capacity building for marine enforcement personnel, the introduction of community patrols, and the development of a marine biodiversity monitoring plan. Restoration strategies will concentrate on mangrove replanting and shoreline stabilization.

11. Eyl-Garacad (Marine, 37,330 ha)

This coastal area in Nugal includes vital coral reefs, mangrove remnants, sea turtle nesting beaches, and adjacent dryland ecosystems. It is heavily affected by illegal fishing, charcoal extraction, and unregulated development linked to the Garacad port.
The Eyl–Garacad coastal and inland area is threatened by poaching, overgrazing, illegal sand mining, and degradation of marine ecosystems from unregulated fishing and turtle egg harvesting. Although these threats are well documented, the original activity design lacked a clear connection between interventions and their expected impact. The project will now support the legal designation of Eyl–Garacad as a multi-use protected area, with marine and terrestrial zoning to define no-take zones, turtle nesting sanctuaries, and regulated grazing areas. Restoration activities will include turtle nesting beach protection and rangeland rehabilitation based on ecological baselines. Community-based enforcement mechanisms and biodiversity monitoring systems will be established, ensuring that conservation actions are directly linked to threat reduction, improved management effectiveness, and ecosystem resilience.
A 100-hectare restoration zone was prioritized for its high ecological value and community readiness. Restoration will involve coral reef and mangrove rehabilitation, marine zoning, and support for ecotourism

ventures such as turtle nesting tours. The area benefits from long-standing community conservation traditions but lacks formal management plans.

Global Diversity Present on each site

Site	Frameworks	Biome/Species Highlights
Hobyo is situated within the Hobyo Grasslands and Shrublands Ecoregion and includes a diverse assemblage of ecosystems ranging from coastal dunes and desert shrublands to highly productive marine habitats. Offshore coral reefs and seagrass beds support populations of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), reef fish, and migratory cetaceans. On land, Hobyo is home to the endemic Beira antelope (*Dorcatragus megalotis*), desert-adapted reptiles, and a range of halophytic vegetation such as *Zygophyllum simplex* and *Salvadora persica*. The area is an ecological nexus of terrestrial and marine biodiversity and is an excellent candidate for both Marine and Terrestrial KBA designation.	KBA, Horn of Africa Hotspot	Coastal desert, xeric shrubland
Harardheere: The Harardheere encompasses both marine and terrestrial ecosystems, including shallow coastal waters, salt marshes, and inland plains. The marine component supports coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds that are vital habitats for endangered marine species such as the green turtle, dugong, and bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). Inland, the seasonal wetlands host flocks of lesser flamingos (*Phoeniconaias minor*), Somali ostriches, and African spoonbills (*Platalea alba*). The site's unique combination of marine productivity and avian diversity makes it eligible for Marine KBA, Ramsar Site, and IBA designation.	KBA, IBA, Ramsar	Semi-arid savannah, acacia woodland
Chilani & Manari Islands: The Chilani & Manari Islands are among the most important marine biodiversity hotspots in Somalia. The islands feature coral reefs (*Porites* spp., *Acropora* spp.), seagrass meadows (*Halophila ovalis*, *Thalassia hemprichii*), and intertidal flats. These ecosystems serve as breeding grounds for hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), dugongs (*Dugong dugon*), and spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*). Birdlife includes sooty tern (*Onychoprion fuscatus*), greater crested tern (*Thalasseus bergii*), and white-tailed tropicbird (*Phaethon lepturus*). The islands are of international importance under Marine KBA, Ramsar, and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) frameworks.	Ramsar, EBSA, IBA	Coral reefs, seagrass beds
Rooboow: Robow lies within a transitional ecological zone bridging dry savannah and bushland, creating a high diversity of plant and animal life. Dominated by *Acacia senegal*, *Grewia tenax*, and *Boscia coriacea*, the area is botanically rich and supports traditional agro-pastoral systems. Fauna includes lesser kudu (*Tragelaphus imberbis*), Somali wild cat (*Felis lybica*), and several endemic rodents. Birdlife includes the golden-breasted starling (*Lamprotornis regius*) and the Somali fiscal (*Lanius somalicus*). Robow's ecological diversity and community relevance position it well for KBA recognition and community-based conservation programming.	KBA	Forest-savannah mosaic, riverine forest
Jawhar: Jowhar lies within the Shabelle River basin, a vital freshwater ecosystem in southern Somalia. The PA includes riparian forests, seasonal marshes, and floodplain grasslands. The riverine corridors host *Ficus sycomorus*, *Phoenix reclinata*, and *Cyperus papyrus*, while supporting faunal species such as Nile crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*), African darters (*Anhinga rufa*), and rarely recorded amphibians like *Ptychadena anchietae*. Migratory waterbirds such as black-crowned night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and African jacanas (*Actophilornis africanus*) use the wetlands as breeding and feeding grounds. Due to its hydrological and ecological significance, Jowhar is a strong candidate for Ramsar Site, IBA and KBA designation.	KBA, IBA and Ramsar	Riverine woodland, grassland

Adalle: The Cadale represents a coastal mosaic of marine cliffs, grasslands, and dune systems, functioning as a key site for seabird conservation. The area provides nesting habitat for brown noddy (*Anous stolidus*), white-cheeked tern (*Sterna repressa*), and bridled tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*). Inland, endemic larks such as the Somali coastal lark (*Mirafra somalica*) and Somali short-toed lark (*Alaudala somalica*) are regularly observed. Vegetation includes *Suaeda monoica*, *Atriplex halimus*, and other halophytes. Cadale is a critical Marine IBA and KBA, vital for the conservation of seabird and coastal biodiversity.	Ramsar, EBSA, MarineIBA, KBA	Coastal lagoons, mangroves
Laagbadane: Located in southern Somalia along the border with Kenya, Laag badana is a vital component of a transboundary conservation landscape that includes Kenya's large national parks such as Boni and Dodori. This PA facilitates cross-border wildlife movement, making it an essential corridor for elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), lesser kudus (*Tragelaphus imberbis*), and lions (*Panthera leo*). The terrestrial ecosystems range from open savannahs to dry woodlands dominated by *Commiphora* and *Acacia* species. Additionally, Bushbushle encompasses small offshore islands with mangrove ecosystems (*Avicennia marina*, *Rhizophora mucronata*) that contribute to the productivity of coastal and marine biodiversity. These mangroves provide nursery habitats for juvenile fish, crustaceans, and support populations of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and dugongs (*Dugong dugon*). The area is a strong candidate for both transboundary conservation designation and Ramsar Site status due to its combined terrestrial and marine importance.	Ramsar, IBA	Estuaries, mangroves, coastal savannah
Dhahar: Dhahar is home to an expansive dry forest and shrubland ecosystem, with exceptional botanical richness. Notably, it hosts large populations of *Acacia bussei*, a culturally and ecologically significant species used in traditional medicine, household construction, and pastoralist utilities. The area is an important ethnobotanical landscape, supporting nomadic livelihoods while also providing habitat for the Somali wild ass (*Equus africanus somaliensis*), desert warthog, and the endemic Somali golden mole (*Chrysochloris somalica*). Avifauna includes the Somali wheatear (*Oenanthe phillipsi*) and chestnut-headed sparrow-lark (*Eremopterix signatus*). Dhahar qualifies as a KBA and Endemic Plant Area, and merits recognition as a cultural landscape of conservation interest.	KBA, Global 200, Endemic Plant Area	Arid shrubland, rocky escarpments
Daalo Mountain Forest: The Daallo Mountains, part of the Somali Montane Xeric Woodlands, are among the most ecologically intact montane forests in eastern Africa. They form part of the Global 200 Ecoregions and are recognized by BirdLife International as a high-priority Endemic Bird Area (EBA) and IBA. The montane forests harbor relict species such as *Juniperus procera*, *Olea africana*, and *Boswellia frereana*, alongside a suite of endemic orchids. Avifauna includes the Somali thrush (*Turdus ludoviciae*), Archer's buzzard (*Buteo archeri*), and Somali pigeon (*Columba oliviae*), while the forests provide refuge for Speke's pectinator (*Pectinator spekei*) and the leopard (*Panthera pardus*). Perennial springs and mist-fed catchments offer critical water sources, qualifying the area for potential Ramsar and KBA designation.	KBA, EBA, Global 200	Montane forest, escarpments
Sacadin Zayla Archipelago: The Sacadadiin is a coastal island ecosystem located off Somalia's northern coast, known for its extensive mangrove forests and ecological importance for migratory birdlife. The mangroves, composed primarily of *Avicennia marina* and *Rhizophora mucronate,* host a diversity of crustaceans and juvenile marine species. The island serves as a critical stopover along the East Africa–West Asia Flyway for migratory birds such as Eurasian curlews (*Numenius arquata*), sandwich terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), and greater flamingos (*Phoenicopterus roseus*). The surrounding shallow waters are also frequented by hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and various reef fish species. Sacaadadiin is a priority site for Marine IBA, KBA, and Ramsar designation.	Ramsar, EBSA, IBA	Coral islands, intertidal zones

Eyl Garacad: Eyl–Garacad is a coastal and inland PA of high ecological diversity, combining marine ecosystems with savannah plains. The area is rich in large ungulates including several antelope species, Somali ostrich (*Struthio molybdophanes*), and warthogs (*Phacochoerus africanus*). The coastline, dotted with nesting beaches, is a known breeding ground for green and hawksbill turtles. Offshore, coral reefs and seagrass beds support marine biodiversity, including reef fish and migratory whales. Inland, vegetation includes *Acacia nilotica*, *Salvadora persica*, and *Commiphora habessinica*. Eyl–Garacad is an ideal Marine and Terrestrial KBA, Marine IBA, EBA, and Ramsar Site candidate.	Ramsar, EBSA, IBA	Upwelling zone, sandy beaches, coastal cliffs

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Given the fragile operational context in Somalia, with limited national capacities, and other challenges, particularly in terms of its governance, security, legal frameworks, and logistical and operational challenges, the UNDP 2021-25 Country Programme cycle follows a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). This arrangement means UNDP will be both the Implementing Partner and Executing Entity for this project. This arrangement applies to all UNDP projects and programmes in Somalia, based on an agreement with the government. UNDP conducted micro-assessments for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) in January 2024. While the overall risk rating was assessed as "Low," specific areas such as procurement, asset and inventory management, reporting and accountability were rated as "Moderate Risk." Other assessments including the Somalia Public Financial Management Roadmap Action Plan (2021–2024)[1][10] and the Somalia Financial Governance Report 2024[2][11] continue to rate the country's public finance and procurement systems as "High Risk", further justifying the DIM arrangements. In line with the UNDP Internal Control Framework (ICF), there would be distinct roles within the UNDP Country Office to ensure proper delineation of functions between the Executive Decision-Making Role, Project Oversight and Execution Role under DIM. Capacity building and skills transfer are an integral part of this DIM arrangement.

During project preparation, alternative execution arrangements, including the engagement of other GEF Agencies such as FAO and UNEP as well as others NGO execution modality, were reviewed by the Government. While these agencies have strong technical expertise, UNDP was selected by the Federal Government of Somalia as the Executing Agency under the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) due to its established physical and operational presence in Somalia, experience in managing complex environmental governance projects in fragile contexts, and ability to ensure fiduciary compliance and risk management. This approach leverages UNDP's comparative advantage in institutional capacity building and policy support, which are central to the project's objectives. UNDP will not charge DPC for providing these execution support services and will instead bear those costs.

Somalia is also classified as a conflict-affected fragile state (FCSListFY26.pdf). Therefore, UNDP's dual role as both implementer and executor is justified by Somalia's FCS status and aligns with the GEF policy exceptions that permit direct agency execution in such contexts. Council members have explicitly supported this flexibility for countries with severely limited institutional capacity, recognizing that it enables timely delivery of results while safeguarding accountability.

In recognition of these challenges, the Government has requested UNDP to execute the project activities, and the execution support letter attached in Annex 2. Specific tasks include:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data is used and generated by the project to support national systems.
- Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

While UNDP is the sole executing agency under DIM, the project design also incorporates an engagement with the national government to foster local ownership and sustainability. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) will act as a key partner engaged at the national level and MOECC will co-chair the Project Board. At federal and state levels, the inter-ministerial working groups will include ministries and government with key mandates on Environment, Agriculture, Climate Change, Livestock, Forestry, Range, Wildlife, Water, Land, Finance, Planning, Rural Development, Interior and Local Governments and Security, as well as other UN entities and civil society organizations through existing multi-stakeholder platforms and those that will be created by the project.

Project stakeholders and target groups

UNDP

UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution ensuring that the project is carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureau, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project**. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Steering Committee.

A strict firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and project execution undertaken by UNDP. The segregation of functions and firewall provisions within UNDP in this case is described in the next section.

The UNDP Somalia country office has the capacity within its Operations Unit to deliver economical and efficient execution-support services through long-established and well-tested mechanisms and procedures in line with GEF and UNDP's Programmes and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) framework. The quality assurance of services and personnel provided using UNDP procedures and criteria is preferred by the Government because of UNDP's transparency and competitiveness and the robust accountability framework and oversight policies in place. UNDP has been delivering to Government at the right time, in accordance with correct specifications, and at competitive and responsive prices and does not face restrictions in conducting international procurement. UNDP has access to a large pool of international service providers, including through use of its GPN Roster of pre-vetted experts and global Long-Term Agreements.

Project governance structure

The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project steering committee and therefore attend Project steering committee meetings as a non-voting member.

UNDP Execution Role: The GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) has requested UNDP to execute the project activities (Annex 2). If the GEF agrees, UNDP will execute the project under the DIM modality. No project execution costs will be charged to the GEF budget. To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independently from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

Oversight support: The following technical and management expertise capacities are in place at Somalia Country Office and will provide oversight to the project, covered by the GEF Fee:

- Resident Representative (RR)
- Deputy Resident Representative (DRR-Programme)
- Portfolio Manager – Resilience and Climate Change
- Head of Programme, Oversight and Quality Assurance (POQA)
- Programme Specialist (POQA)

The following personnel will provide execution support and will not be covered by the GEF grant, but rather through UNDP's own core budget.

- Deputy Resident Representative (DRR-Operations)
- Finance Specialist
- Procurement specialist
- HR analyst

Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-à-vis UNDP representation on the Project steering committee

As noted in the Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

UNDP's implementation oversight and quality assurance role in the project – as represented in the Project Steering Committee and via the Project Assurance function – is performed by the Resident Representative and the Resilience and Climate Change Portfolio Manager/UNDP Somalia, respectively. UNDP's execution role in the project is performed by the Project Manager (to be recruited), who will report to the Deputy Resident Representative Operations.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure

The project's governance arrangements are illustrated in the organigram that follows and described in follows in the information below.

A. Project Board/Steering Committee

All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board/Steering Committee is the most senior dedicated oversight body for a project. The Project Board/Steering Committee for the project will serve as the decision-making structure for the GEF-financed project, providing overall direction to the project through the Project Board/Steering Committee meetings.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the Project Board/Steering Committee are as follows:

- **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the "Provide Oversight" section of the POPP). "This is the primary function of the Project steering committee and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Steering Committee reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board/Steering Committee is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.
- **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the "Manage Change" section of the POPP.

The requirements to serve on the Project Board/Steering Committee are as follows:

- Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- Meet annually; at least once.
- Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board/Steering Committee member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
- Discharge the functions of the Project Board/Steering Committee in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.
- Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board/Steering Committee meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

The responsibilities of the Project Board/Steering Committee are as follows:

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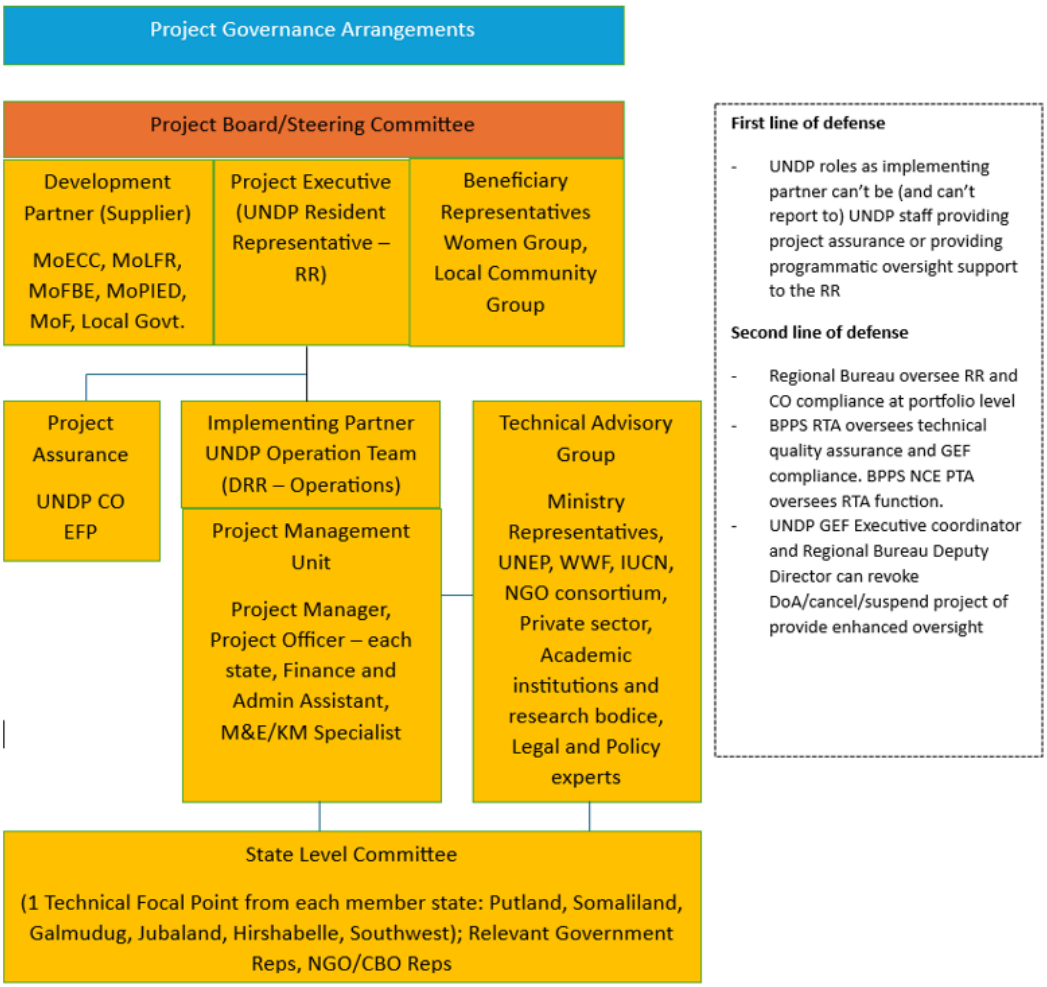
[1] https://mof.gov.so/sites/default/files/Publications/Somalia%20new%20PFM%20RAP%202021-2024.pdf

[2]https://mof.gov.so/sites/default/files/Publications/Somalia%20Financial%20Governance%20Report%20%202024%20.pdf

Figure 2: Project Organization Structure



Consensus decision making

- The Project Board/Steering Committee provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints and overseeing the project's implementation.
- Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
- The Project Board/Steering Committee is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
- In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board/Steering Committee decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
- In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the Board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

Oversee project execution:

- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
- Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
- Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP Somalia Country Office (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);

- Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
- Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
- Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

Risk Management:

- Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
- Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
- Address project-level grievances.

Co-ordination:

- Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the Project Board/Steering Committee: The composition of the Project Board/Steering Committee must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

- **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board/Steering Committee. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation. The Project Executive is the Resident Representative of UNDP, Somalia.
- **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board/Steering Committee. The Beneficiary representative is: the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and civil society groups, including women and local community groups. The GEF Operational Focal Point will be co-opted into this Project Board/Steering Committee to represent the government's interest in the GEF-financed part of the operation. The UNDP Country Office (UNDP Resident Representative) will also ensure that all necessary information and updates are shared with the GEF OFP via other means, including exchange of letters and reports outside of Project Board/Steering Committee meetings.
- **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner is the various ministries from Somalia.

B. Project Assurance

Project assurance is the responsibility of each Project steering committee member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board/Steering Committee (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board/Steering Committee cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meetings and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is: Portfolio Manager of Resilience and Climate Change, UNDP, Somalia (UNDP CO EFP).

Additional project and quality assurance will be provided by the RBAS Chief of Country Support and Oversight as well as by the Bureau for Management Services regarding operational (legal, financial and procurement) matters.

C. Project Management – Execution of the Project

The project management unit is headed by a senior Project Manager (to be recruited) who is provided with the delegation of authority regarding the management and implementation of the project from the Somalia Resident Representative, who has the fiduciary accountability for the project. The Project Manager is the senior-most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers. The Project Manager will be supported by the biodiversity assessment and conservation expert, project officer, finance and administrative assistant.

The project team receives directions from the Project Board/Steering Committee and provides updates and reports to the Project Board/Steering Committee in the pursuit of project objectives, timeframes, and partnerships.

A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is the Project Manager (to be recruited).

Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Projects

The project prioritizes close collaboration with ongoing initiatives to optimize its execution and impact. This cooperation will be realized by integrating resources, expertise, and personnel from complementary projects, such as the UNDP/GEF Integrated Water Resources Management initiative, which supports water management efforts for rural households in Somalia. This partnership ensures the sharing of technical insights and infrastructure necessary for ecosystem restoration.

Further collaboration will occur with the UNDP Resilience Hub through the Water, Environment, and Disaster Management project, which aims to build the capacity of Somali authorities and communities to promote sustainable and resilient development. This will be achieved through targeted support in integrated water resource management, environmental governance, and disaster risk reduction.

The project builds on and integrates the lessons learned from the implementation of several national projects, including:

- **UNDP/GEF Somalia**: 'Strengthening national capacities for improved decision-making and mainstreaming of global environmental obligations,' aimed at enhancing environmental governance to incorporate and implement the three Rio conventions.

- **United Nations Joint Program on Charcoal Production (PROSCAL):** Addressing the impacts of unsustainable charcoal production and supporting reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems in Somalia.

- **UNDP/GEF Somalia Support for Integrated Water Resources Management:** Ensuring water access and disaster reduction for Somalia's agro-pastoralists through sustainable water management, reforestation, and re-seeding measures.

- **UNDP/GEF Global projects:** The project will be working closely with Biodiversity Finance Programme, Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF EAS) and Global updating NBSAP and 7th National Report (NBSAP) projects.

- **IFAD/GEF Somalia Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2R2):** Enhancing climate resilience of poor rural households in Somalia through sustainable natural resources management at multiple levels, including improved water resources and rangeland management, eco-agriculture, climate-proof livelihoods, forest/habitat rehabilitation, and better governance and information systems for land degradation and biodiversity.

The project's biodiversity conservation and land restoration approach align with national development and crisis recovery plans and strategies. It conforms to the priorities set forth in Somalia's 9th National Development Plan (NDP9), which considers environment and natural resources management as crucial for the country's economic and social development. It also aligns with the National Environmental Policy (2019), emphasizing biodiversity conservation and addressing land degradation challenges. The project's approach is consistent with Somalia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2016–2030), the proposed actions of the National Adaptation Program of Action Update (NAPA) on strengthening biodiversity resilience, and the UNFCCC National Determined Contribution (NDC) recommendations related to nature-based solutions, habitat protection, and reversing ecosystem degradation. The project will also contribute to achieving the national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets.

These projects align with Somalia's environmental and developmental goals, addressing challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable resource use.

Project Duration and Implementation Strategy

The project duration was initially planned to be 60 months (as indicated in the PIF) but will now be 72 months to ensure the full realization of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience goals. Sequencing foundational outputs—legal frameworks, ecological baselines, and institutional capacity-building—before downstream implementation (e.g., restoration and co-management) is essential for sustainability. This phased approach will ensure all hectares to be included in PAs and/or restored will be covered in the 6-year duration of the project but will also allow for the incorporation of midterm review (MTR) recommendations, reinforce institutional capacities, and consolidate project gains for enduring impact.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

The requirements to serve on the Project Board/Project steering committee are as follows:

- Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- Meet annually; at least once.
- Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project steering committee member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
- Discharge the functions of the Project steering committee in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.
- Ensure high levels of transparency and ensure Project steering committee meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

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 (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project prioritizes close collaboration with ongoing initiatives to optimize its execution and impact. This cooperation will be realized by integrating resources, expertise, and personnel from complementary projects, such as the UNDP/GEF Integrated Water Resources Management initiative, which supports water management efforts for rural households in Somalia. This partnership ensures the sharing of technical insights and infrastructure necessary for ecosystem restoration.

Further collaboration will occur with the UNDP Resilience Hub through the Water, Environment, and Disaster Management project, which aims to build the capacity of Somali authorities and communities to promote sustainable and resilient development. This will be achieved through targeted support in integrated water resource management, environmental governance, and disaster risk reduction.

The project builds on and integrates the lessons learned from the implementation of several national projects, including:

- **UNDP/GEF Somalia**: 'Strengthening national capacities for improved decision-making and mainstreaming of global environmental obligations,' aimed at enhancing environmental governance to incorporate and implement the three Rio conventions.

- **United Nations Joint Program on Charcoal Production (PROSCAL):** Addressing the impacts of unsustainable charcoal production and supporting reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems in Somalia.

- **UNDP/GEF Somalia Support for Integrated Water Resources Management:** Ensuring water access and disaster reduction for Somalia’s agro-pastoralists through sustainable water management, reforestation, and re-seeding measures.

- **UNDP/GEF Global projects:** The project will be working closely with Biodiversity Finance Programme, Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GBF EAS) and Global updating NBSAP and 7th National Report (NBSAP) projects.

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The project's biodiversity conservation and land restoration approach align with national development and crisis recovery plans and strategies. It conforms to the priorities set forth in Somalia's 9th National Development Plan (NDP9), which considers environment and natural resources management as crucial for the country's economic and social development. It also aligns with the National Environmental Policy (2019), emphasizing biodiversity conservation and addressing land degradation challenges. The project's approach is consistent with Somalia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2016–2030), the proposed actions of the National Adaptation Program of Action Update (NAPA) on strengthening biodiversity resilience, and the UNFCCC National Determined Contribution (NDC) recommendations related to nature-based solutions, habitat protection, and reversing ecosystem degradation. The project will also contribute to achieving the national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets.

These projects align with Somalia's environmental and developmental goals, addressing challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable resource management.

Project Duration and Implementation Strategy

The project duration requests an extension from 60 months (specified in the PIF) to 72 months to ensure the full realization of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience goals. This extended period accommodates Somalia's governance and environmental context's legal, institutional, and ecological complexities. The project seeks to establish 11 protected areas (terrestrial, marine, and combined), restore 6,000 hectares of degraded ecosystems, and implement systemic legal and policy reforms.

Given the fragile and decentralized governance environment, additional time is required for legal harmonization across federal, state, customary, and religious systems. Participatory processes are essential for building trust and long-term stewardship, especially in underserved and insecure regions. The extended timeframe also addresses seasonal climate variability and security-related access restrictions.

Sequencing foundational outputs—legal frameworks, ecological baselines, and institutional capacity-building—before downstream implementation (e.g., restoration and co-management) is essential for sustainability. This phased approach will ensure all hectares to be included in PAs and/or restored will be covered in the 6-year duration of the project, but will also allow for the incorporation of midterm review (MTR) recommendations, reinforce institutional capacities, and consolidate project gains for enduring impact.

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

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)
193000	193000	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
193000	193000	0	0

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)
Bushbushle*	555629376	Protected Landscape/Seascape		0.00		
Daalo Mountain Forest	555629377	Protected Landscape/Seascape		29,480.00		
Dhahar		Protected Landscape/Seascape		44,778.00		
Harardhere	555629369	Protected Landscape/Seascape	1,000.00	8,231.00		
Hobyo		Protected Landscape/Seascape	500.00	27,579.00		
Jawhar	555629370	Protected Landscape/Seascape	23,500.00	15,932.00		
Laagbadane	555629371	Protected Landscape/Seascape	167,000.00	64,000.00		
Roobow (barawe area)		Protected Landscape/Seascape	1,000.00	3,000.00		

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)
0	0	0	0

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)

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
194000	194000	0	0

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
194000	194000	0	0

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)
Adalle	313747	Protected Landscape/Seascape	22,500.00	65,490.00		

Chilani & mnari islands (barawe area)		Protected Landscape/Seascape	4,000.00	3,000.00		
Eyl Garad		Protected Landscape/Seascape		37,330.00		
Hobyo	555629379	Protected Landscape/Seascape	500.00	50,265.00		
Laagbadane		Protected Landscape/Seascape	167,000.00	856.00		
Sacadin Zayla Archipelago		Protected Landscape/Seascape		37,059.00		

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

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)
6000	6000	0	0

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)

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)
6,000.00	5,000.00		

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)

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)
	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)
3500	3500	0	0

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)

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)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
3,500.00	3,500.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

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_2e (direct)	1175939	888869	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (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_2e (direct)	1,175,939	888,869		
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025	2026		
Duration of accounting	20	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)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (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)

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	100,000	100,000		
Male	100,000	100,000		
Total	**200,000**	**200,000**	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)

This project will contribute to formal establishment of 11 proposed Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas nationally and sub-nationally (5 Terrestrial, 4 Marine, 2 are combined marine and terrestrial). These areas have been identified based on biodiversity value, geographic representation, FMS priorities, and stable security. The IUCN protected area management categories will be adopted to determine the most suitable management category to apply to each protected area.

Core Indicator 1 - Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management – 193,000.00 Ha

Core Indicator 1.1 - Terrestrial Protected Areas newly created – 193,000.00 Ha. These areas will be confirmed through annual METT scores and SMART data/patrol reports.

Core Indicator 2 - Marine protected areas created or under improved management – 194,000.00 Ha

Core Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas newly created – 194,000.00 Ha

Core Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration – 6000 Ha

Core Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration – 5,000 Ha and Core Indicator 3.4: Area of Wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) under restoration – 1,000 HA

The project will restore 6,000 hectares degraded mangroves and forestlands in the inside of the protected area through community-led interventions (indicator 3.2: Tropical Dry Forest - Acacia Forest restoration 5,000 ha and indicator 3.4: Mangroves Forest restoration 1,000 ha). Under Core Indicator 3, the project will restore degraded rangelands, riparian zones, and woodlands through a suite of context-specific, low-cost, and scalable techniques tailored to Somalia's ecological and socio-economic conditions. Restoration approaches include assisted natural regeneration, agroforestry, soil and water conservation, climate-smart agriculture, invasive species control, and participatory land use planning. These methods have been successfully applied across Somalia and the Horn of Africa and are grounded in traditional knowledge and local experience. Designed to be inclusive, conflict-sensitive, and climate-resilient, the interventions promote community ownership and long-term sustainability by embedding restoration in local governance structures. This integrated approach addresses the primary drivers of degradation—deforestation,

overgrazing, drought, and weak land governance—while enhancing ecosystem services and improving livelihoods for vulnerable communities.

Core Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)– 3,500 Ha

Core Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems – 3,500 Ha

The project will support 3,500 ha of sustainable land management in production systems (indicator 4.3: 500.00 ha of Mangrove Forest and 3,000.00 ha of Tropical Dry Forest - Acacia Forest landscapes under improved practices), including improving terrestrial and mangrove ecosystems. Under Core Indicator 4, the project will promote improved land and resource management practices across Somalia's rangelands, agro-pastoral systems, and smallholder agroforestry landscapes. These practices aim to restore ecosystem functionality, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen community resilience. Key interventions include rotational grazing, controlled stocking, and reseeding in rangelands; mulching, composting, and erosion control in croplands; integrated crop-livestock systems and drought-tolerant crops in agro-pastoral zones; and mixed-use agroforestry systems, community woodlots, and nitrogen-fixing trees to improve soil health and carbon sequestration. Cross-cutting measures such as participatory land use planning, reduced chemical input, organic soil amendments, and invasive species control will ensure environmental sustainability and community ownership. These low-cost, context-appropriate practices are designed for long-term adoption and scalable impact across production landscapes.

Core Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated – Expected Metric Tons of CO2e (direct) – 888,869

Core Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector – 888,869 Anticipated Start Year- -2026 and Duration – 20 years.

Due to restoration activity, the project is expected to avoid 888,869 tonnes of CO2eq over 20 years. The GHG emissions reductions resulting from the project were estimated using the Ex-Act tool over 20 years.

Core Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments – 200,000.

An estimated 200,000 individuals are expected to directly benefit from the project interventions. The project will strive for at a minimum 50/50 ratio of women and men in terms of participation in and beneficiation from all project interventions. This figure represents individuals living in and around the project intervention sites, including those actively participating in or directly impacted by project activities related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration. Beneficiary groups include agro-pastoralists, local villagers, youth and elderly persons with disabilities and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). These populations are identified based on socio-economic assessments, demographic mapping of targeted geographic areas and alignment with national census and local administrative data.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	Somalia's climate projections indicate escalating risks due to increased variability in rainfall, leading to more frequent and severe droughts and floods by 2050. These changes are expected to exacerbate biodiversity loss, disrupt livelihoods, and increase displacement. In response, the project will conduct a detailed climate risk assessment to inform the integration of targeted mitigation measures. Strategies will include the promotion of drought-resistant species in reforestation, climate-smart agricultural practices,

		and adaptive capacities at community and institutional levels. This approach will be guided by the latest IPCC reports and STAP recommendations on climate risk screening, ensuring that interventions are robust against identified climate hazards such as intensified droughts, flooding, rising temperatures, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events. Regarding the potential impact of climate events on project activities, the project team will have the capacity to adjust program activities in response to any adverse climate-related events that may affect the project schedule.
Environmental and Social	Substantial	Environment: Charcoal production, use and commercialization have contributed to land degradation and serious deforestation in the country and most likely in PA candidates. Initiatives such as PROSCAL have been successful to contribute to reducing charcoal obtained by deforestation. As a mitigation strategy, this project will support interventions for the conservation, reforestation, and restoration of degraded lands in PAs candidates. Social: Women and men have unequal access to natural resources based on the intersectionality. A gender action plan has been developed with specific recommendations to mitigate risks and help ensure equal access for all groups.
Political and Governance	Substantial	The ongoing armed conflict in the country affects conditions of movement and consultations in areas that are deemed not safe. However, this project will assess the situation and will take the necessary measures accordingly. Where required, the project implementation schedule will be flexible and use an adaptive approach to enable the shifting of activities within minimal impact to the overall delivery timeframe. Fragile coordination relationships between Federal and state level institutions can delay implementation. A clear coordination mechanism and responsibilities will be developed during the implementation phase to help enable smooth implementation of activities across the country.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	The risk associated with strategies and policies is considered low, given that the project is designed to align with Somalia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) National Reports, Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Additionally, Somalia will engage in various related initiatives, including those funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), such as the development of Biodiversity Finance Plans. These efforts are expected to foster momentum at the national policy level through policy dialogue and multistakeholder platforms surrounding Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) implementation. The project will build upon and contribute to these initiatives. This strategic alignment ensures that the project is both supportive of and supported by national strategies and policies, thereby minimizing the risk of policy-related disruptions. Furthermore, a concentrated initiative within Somalia as part of this project aims to enhance the policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS) for Protected Areas. This will facilitate an environment conducive to the implementation of Protected Areas. As part of the project's initial phase, this

		effort seeks to identify potential issues and opportunities and ensure alignment among all stakeholders before proceeding with the implementation of Protected Areas.
Technological	Low	The technical design risk is considered low due to the project being developed through a collaborative process involving UNDP, the Government of Somalia, state-level authorities, civil society organisations and local communities. This inclusive design process ensures that the project's technical aspects are well-informed and tailored to the local context, reducing the likelihood of technical design flaws. The project will implement a knowledge management platform (GIS) to manage and exchange information on terrestrial and marine areas. This technology is a pivotal component for the ongoing sharing of lessons learned and promoting sustainable conservation efforts across Somalia. By leveraging the GIS system, stakeholders will have access to crucial data that supports informed decision-making and effective conservation strategies, ensuring the project's success and longevity. Training and capacity building will be conducted to support the effective use of the knowledge management system.
Financial and Business Model	Low	The macro-economic risk for the project is assessed as low, given the specific focus on environmental conservation and sustainable practices that are generally less vulnerable to macro-economic fluctuations. However, the project operates in a context where economic instability and unexpected geopolitical events could potentially affect project financing and costs. To mitigate this risk, the project will adopt flexible financial planning, with contingencies built into the budget to accommodate inflation and currency fluctuation. Additionally, the project will seek to diversify funding sources and engage with local economic actors to build resilience against macro-economic changes. Regular economic analyses will be conducted to anticipate and respond to economic trends that may impact project activities.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	The risk related to institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability is considered moderate. While the project includes plans to enhance the capabilities of the Federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and its state-level counterparts, the existing institutional frameworks and human resource capacities may not fully meet the complex demands of managing new protected areas. A DIM arrangement where UNDP will be the implementing partner has been put in place to help mitigate the capacity risk at the Federal level. In addition, significant efforts are planned by the project to implement a robust capacity-building program, including training workshops, technical assistance, and the development of management tools. Additionally, the project will establish clear lines of responsibility and accountability, and foster partnerships with experienced international organizations to provide ongoing support and knowledge transfer. Regular assessments will be conducted to monitor institutional performance and adapt capacity-building strategies as needed.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Fiduciary risks, including financial management and procurement, are moderate. The project will be executed by UNDP under a DIM arrangement with support from the Ministry which involves close collaboration with the

		Government about decisions on project financial resources management and reporting. UNDP Somalia will provide financial and audit services, appoint independent financial auditors and evaluators, and ensure compliance with UNDP and GEF procedures for all activities, including procurement, contract management and financial services.
Stakeholder	Low	The risk associated with stakeholder engagement is low. A detailed stakeholder mapping has been developed as part of this PPG Phase. This will facilitate the development of a comprehensive engagement strategy, including a project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), to support project implementation and sustainability. On the ground outreach and stakeholder engagement activities during the PPG phase only covered four proposed PA sites/regions due to time constraints. The remainder of the PA sites/regions will be conducted during the implementation phase to ensure key stakeholder perspectives are incorporated into the project implementation.
Other	Moderate	The project's financial sustainability strategy includes exploring multiple revenue streams, such as nature-based tourism, public financing, and carbon credits. However, reliance on future carbon finance introduces additional uncertainty. The voluntary carbon market is in the early stages of development in Somalia and subject to pricing volatility, evolving international standards, and significant capacity constraints. Somalia currently lacks legal and institutional frameworks to support carbon transactions, including systems for monitoring, reporting, verification (MRV), and benefit-sharing. If carbon credit mechanisms fail to materialize or attract reliable buyers, anticipated contributions to long-term protected area (PA) financing could be at risk. Risk mitigation measures include early engagement with experienced carbon market actors, technical support for MRV systems, and alignment with emerging voluntary and compliance standards (e.g., Article 6 readiness). Any pilot interventions pursued through co-financing will be distinctly managed, and associated GHG mitigation results will be excluded from GEF core indicator reporting. GEF resources will be used only to support upstream enabling conditions for carbon financing—such as legal and policy assessments, institutional design, and capacity development—not for transaction-level implementation.
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	The overall risk rating for the project is Substaitial. While the project is well-structured and includes robust mitigation measures, it operates in a complex and challenging environment. Key risks include political and institutional instability, security concerns in certain regions, limited institutional capacity, and potential challenges in achieving broad-based community engagement. Environmental risks such as climate variability and extreme weather events also pose threats to the sustainability of interventions. Additionally, data deficiencies may hinder evidence-based planning and monitoring. However, these risks are mitigated through strong project design elements, including participatory planning, capacity-building for government and community actors, integration of gender-sensitive and conflict-aware approaches, and the

		establishment of robust knowledge and GIS systems. Collectively, these measures justify the overall moderate risk rating for the project.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain 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.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

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 aligned with the GEF-8 Biodiversity and Land Degradation Focal areas as follows:

Biodiversity Focal Area (BDFA). The project is fully aligned with Objective 1, which aims to improve the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems, in support of Goals A and B of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Specifically, the project will (i) support the development of a stronger policy and regulatory framework that enables the establishment of 11 PAs totaling approximately 387,000 hectares (193,000 ha of terrestrial and 194,000 for Marine PA). (ii) The project supports the restoration of 6,000 hectares of degraded mangroves and forests within protected areas and 3,500 hectares of landscapes under sustainable land management practices. These efforts contribute to increasing ecosystem functionality and resilience, essential for mitigating climate impacts and restoring nature. (iii) The project will engage local communities in the management of Protected Areas (PAs) and ensure equal opportunities for community stakeholders through a gender-based approach.

Land Degradation Focal Area (LD): The project is also aligned with Objective 1, "Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM)," and Objective 2, "Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration''. The specific activities are covered under outcome 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2. The specific activities appropriate to local socio-ecological conditions to improve vegetative cover and its functionality, assisted natural regeneration of woodlands, planting of community native Acacia and Mangrove tree species, practices to enhance soil and water conservation and locally accepted technology. Restoration and managing restored and existing forest areas will be addressed through comprehensive land-use planning and protection measures. Activities will increase forest and vegetation cover and improve agro-ecosystem services such as providing food and fuel for livelihoods. The interventions supported by the project will generate significant co-benefits, notably in terms of climate adaptation, improved livelihoods for local communities, enhanced biodiversity, and reduced degradation of terrestrial forests and mangroves. Through Component 3, the project will include protecting and restoring these ecosystems. In the targeted areas, nature-based solutions will demonstrate high potential in reducing carbon loss and providing carbon sequestration (estimated 888,869 tCO2e). The restoration interventions will be mainly implemented through community-based approaches.

The project contributes significantly to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets 2, 3, 9, and 11 through its well-designed interventions:

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets	**Project Alignment Statement**
Target 2: Restore 30% of all degraded ecosystems by 2030, ensuring effective restoration of terrestrial, inland water, marine, and coastal ecosystems to enhance biodiversity, ecosystem functions, services, ecological integrity, and connectivity. (https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets).	The project supports the restoration of 6,000 hectares of degraded mangroves and forests within protected areas and 3,500 hectares of landscapes under sustainable land management practices. These efforts contribute to increasing

	ecosystem functionality and resilience, essential for mitigating climate impacts and restoring nature.
Target 3: Conserve 30% of land, waters, and seas by 2030, focusing on areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions. This includes ecologically representative, well-connected, and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories (https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets).	The establishment of 11 legally recognized terrestrial and marine protected areas with clear boundaries, totaling approximately 387,000 hectares, directly addresses habitat loss and degradation. By conserving globally significant biodiversity, including endemic species and threatened habitats, the project ensures that critical ecosystems are preserved.
Target 9: Ensure the sustainable management of wild species by 2030, preventing overexploitation and minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems. This includes reducing human-wildlife conflict and ensuring benefits for biodiversity and people. (https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets).	Through community-led conservation efforts, sustainable practices such as controlled grazing, eco-tourism, sustainable fisheries, and commercialization of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are implemented. This ensures safe, legal, and equitable use of biodiversity resources, reducing human-wildlife conflict and promoting sustainable livelihoods.
Target 11: Restore, maintain, and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services such as air, water, climate regulation, soil health, pollination, and protection from natural hazards, through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches. (https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets).	By integrating sustainable land use planning and biodiversity conservation with community empowerment, the project strengthens ecosystem services such as food provisioning, carbon sequestration (estimated 888,869 metric tons CO2 avoided), and disaster risk reduction. It also benefits 200,000 people, ensuring gender equity and inclusive development.

The project contributes to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 15 (Life on Land) through the establishment of protected areas and restoration of degraded ecosystems; SDG 14 (Life Below Water) through community-led marine conservation; SDG 13 (Climate Action) through ecosystem-based adaptation and climate resilience activities; SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by promoting sustainable, nature-based livelihoods and value chains; and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through the empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized groups in biodiversity governance and benefit-sharing. The project is also aligned and contributes to the following regional and national priorities:

- The project aligns with Somalia's Nationally Determined Contribution (2021) by promoting climate-resilient agronomic practices and livelihood diversification to empower women and youth in environmental conservation.

- The project contributes to the 2020 national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. It aligns with the Somalia UNCCD National Adaptation Programme (2016), focusing on integrated land and water management and access to communal land.

- It supports Somalia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2016-2030), particularly Strategic targets 1, 5, 9, 12, 18, and 19, and the CBD Aichi target 11 regarding protected areas.

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's 5-year strategic plan (2023-2028) emphasizes biodiversity conservation for ecosystem resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

- The Ministry of Livestock, Forestry, and Rangeland Management's strategy (2022-2032) highlights biodiversity conservation to improve rangeland productivity and community awareness.

- The project aligns with the Somalia National Adaptation Program of Action Update (NAPA) 2013, supporting tree planting, soil and water conservation, legal frameworks, awareness campaigns, and biodiversity protection.

- The project is designed to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, focusing on ecosystem restoration (Target 2), biodiversity conservation (Target 3), sustainable resource management (Target 9), and enhancing nature's contributions to human wellbeing (Target 11).

- It aligns with the Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia, 2012, which emphasizes environmental rights, land rights, and natural resources.

The project's holistic approach aligns conservation efforts with socioeconomic development, directly contributing to these global targets.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement**.**

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; Yes

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE

Medium/Moderate	High or Substantial		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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 ($)
UNDP	GET	Somalia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	7,873,394.00	708,606.00	8,582,000.00
UNDP	GET	Somalia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	4,575,001.00	411,750.00	4,986,751.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**12,448,395.00**	**1,120,356.00**	**13,568,751.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

300000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

27000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNDP	GET	Somalia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	200,000.00	18,000.00	218,000.00
UNDP	GET	Somalia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**300,000.00**	**27,000.00**	**327,000.00**

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
UNDP	GET	Somalia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	8,800,000.00
UNDP	GET	Somalia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	5,095,751.00
Total GEF Resources					**13,895,751.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-1	GET	7,873,394.00	3250000
LD-1	GET	4,575,001.00	3250000
Total Project Cost		**12,448,395.00**	**6,500,000.00**

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Other	Investment mobilized	1500000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4500000

Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Total Co-financing				**6,500,000.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) and UNDP will avail resources amounting to USD 6.5 million in support of the GEF-financed project "Conserving terrestrial and marine biodiversity and restoring ecosystem services in globally relevant and vulnerable sites in Somalia."

MOECC Co-Financing (USD 0.5 million in-kind): Provided through recurrent expenditures, including technical staff time, logistical support, and engagement in surveys, assessments, and technical backstopping directly linked to project interventions. These resources will strengthen federal and state-level implementation capacity for environmental conservation, terrestrial and marine ecosystem restoration, and PA management.

UNDP Co-Financing (USD 1.5 million cash; USD 4.5 million in-kind):

- Cash Contribution (USD 1.5M): Project vehicles for PA operations; incremental project management support; communications/visibility and resource-mobilization activities outside the GEF oversight services.
- In-kind Contribution (USD 4.5M): Represents partial, non-reimbursed allocations of existing UNDP resources, not infrastructure ownership. This includes:

o Staff Time and Expertise: From UNDP country office technical programme (e.g., staff in Governance & Peacebuilding team, Inclusive Growth team, Sustainable Finance Hub etc.), operations (e.g., for procurement services, HR support, travel planning, payment processing), as well as regional and global experts, for technical advice and backstopping for key project outputs and deliverables not covered by the GEF fee.

o Monitoring, Evaluation, and Knowledge Management: Access to UNDP's corporate M&E platforms, risk management tools, and knowledge management and sharing systems.

Any vehicles, light IT work will be categorized as cash co-financing to ensure alignment with GEF requirements.

Linkage to Project Outputs:

GEF Components Linked to UNDP Co-Financing:

Component 1: Strengthen FGS and FMS Policy, Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks for Protected Areas (PA)

UNDP Co-financing Support:

- Output 1.1: Legal and policy reform, including international consultants and stakeholder workshops.
- Output 1.2: Institutional capacity building, including training, travel, and equipment.
- Activities Supported:
  - Contractual services for legal consultants.
  - Training workshops and travel for PA governance.
  - IT equipment and audiovisual materials for awareness.

Component 2: Establishment and Improved Management of Selected Terrestrial and Marine Areas

UNDP Co-financing Supports:

- Output 2.1: PA boundary delineation and infrastructure development.
- Output 2.2: Management effectiveness, ranger stations, LMMA implementation.
- Activities Supported:
  - Equipment and furniture for PA operations.
  - Rental and maintenance of equipment.
  - Contractual services for PA infrastructure and ranger stations.
  - Travel and training for community engagement.

Component 3: Integrated Landscape Management Around Targeted PAs

UNDP Co-financing Supports:

- Output 3.1: Restoration of degraded ecosystems.
- Output 3.2: Nature-based livelihoods and community nurseries.

Component 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptive Management

UNDP Co-financing Supports:

- Output 4.1: M&E systems and midterm/terminal evaluations.

Project Management (PMC)

UNDP Co-financing Supports:

- Hosting of PMU within UNDP Somalia office.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	6/16/2025	Nancy Bennet		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	6/16/2025	Min Htut Yin		min.htut.yin@undp.org

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

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Abdullahi Godah Barre	Minister	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	5/2/2025
Abdullahi Godah Barre	Minister	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	5/2/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal (s):

- Goal 13: Climate action
- Goal 14: Life below water
- Goal 15: Life on land

Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: Outcome 3.2: Natural resources are sustainably managed and binding constraints addressed in key productive sector value chains, leading to enduring productivity gains, increased value addition and enhanced opportunities for decent work

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:*(for ex. 1.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2, etc.)*

The project is linked to the following outputs of the UNDP strategic plan (2021-2025).

Output 4.1. Enhanced capacities of government institutions and communities at federal, state, and local levels to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Output 4.2. People-centred environment and climate-smart strategies established for sustainable natural resources management.

Project Title and Quantum Project Number: Conserving Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystem Services in Globally Relevant and Vulnerable Sites in Somalia. Quantum Project Number - 01003099

Objective and Outcome Indicators **(no more than a total of 20 indicators)**	**Data Source**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**	**Data Collection Methods**	**Risks/Assumptions**
Project Objective:	Conserve Somalia's terrestrial and marine biodiversity by establishing sustainably managed protected areas through community-led approaches, addressing biodiversity loss and enhancing ecosystem resilience.					
1- 4 indicators maximum	**Mandatory** Indicator 1: # direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people) *Male: 100,000* *Female: 100,000* *(GEF CI 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments)* Indirect beneficiaries estimate: 100,000 (50% women). They include nomadic pastoralists, neighboring villagers,	*MoECC*	*None of the target beneficiaries are sustainably managing protected areas*	*Target 1: 30% of beneficiaries sustainably manage ecosystems and protect biodiversity resources*	*Target 1: 100% of beneficiaries sustainably manage ecosystems and protect biodiversity resources*	Socio-economic baseline and final evaluation surveys on strengthened livelihoods	ASSUMPTION: National and state policymakers and planners will understand the importance of PAs and ecosystem conservation and support the development and implementation of plans and enforcement of legal frameworks Local communities are incentivized to implement ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation plans. **RISKs**:

	local tourists, students, research groups, and other projects benefiting from ecological, educational, and economic impacts.						**Climate**: increase of climate-related shocks in the project areas adversely affecting livelihoods **Environment and social**: continuation of charcoal production and hunting of wildlife undermining the project efforts. Women and men not equally benefiting from the project interventions. **Stakeholders**: not fully engaged and absence of effective grievance mechanism
	<u>Mandatory</u> <u>GEF Core Indicators:</u> *<u>Indicator 2:</u> Number of terrestrial protected areas established or under improved management.* *(GEF CI 1.1.: Terrestrial protected areas newly created 193,000 ha)* *<u>Indicator 2.1:</u> Number of newly designated terrestrial protected areas.* *<u>Indicator 2.2:</u> Number of existing protected areas with enhanced management effectiveness.*	*Government records, METT assessments, management plans, and stakeholder reports (government, communities, CSOs).*	- *Zero (0) terrestrial protected areas established or effectively managed.* - *Zero (0) newly designated terrestrial protected areas.* - *Existing areas, if any, have zero (0) structured management or effectiveness.*	*<u>Target 2:</u> one (1) integrated marine and terrestrial protected area established* *<u>Target 2.1:</u> one (1) integrated marine terrestrial protected area designated and operationalized.* *<u>Target 2.2:</u> Improved management effectiveness of one (1) integrated marine terrestrial protected area by 20%.*	*<u>Target 2:</u> seven (7) Terrestrial protected areas created (2 integrated marine and terrestrial sites and 5 terrestrial protected areas).* *<u>Target 2.1:</u> Seven (7) Terrestrial protected areas created (2 integrated marine and terrestrial sites and 5 terrestrial protected areas).* *<u>Target 2.2:</u> Seven (7) terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (2 integrated marine and*	*Project Implementation Report* *Mid-Term Review Report* *Final Evaluation Report,* *Government records, legal designations, WDPA validation, remote sensing, and NGO reports. Management is assessed using METT, RAPPAM, and SMART, supported by site reports and stakeholder feedback.*	*ASSUMPTIONS:* *Policies and legal frameworks are developed on time and enforced by relevant institutions.* *Government transitions at the FGS and FMS levels occur smoothly, without affecting project progress.* *There is broad acceptance and cooperation from districts, communities, and CSOs in implementing management plans.* ***RISK:*** ***Government and Politics**: Weak federal-state coordination and lack of regulatory*

					terrestrial sites and 5 terrestrial protected areas) by 40%.		*frameworks may hinder PA establishment and conservation.* ***Climate**: increased climate related shocks in the project areas adversely affecting livelihoods and conservation efforts.* ***Environment and social:** Charcoal production and wildlife hunting may undermine the project, with potential gender disparities in benefits.* ***Stakeholders:** Community resistance may block PA establishment and conservation plans.* ***Capacity:** Insufficient technical and operational capacity within the government and CBOs may impede the establishment and sustainable management of PAs.*
	Mandatory GEF Core Indicators: *Indicator 3: Number of Marine protected areas created or under improved management (GEF CI 2.1. Marine protected areas newly created 194,000 ha)* *Indicator 3.1: Number of*	*Government records, management plans, METT assessments, community reports, and satellite imagery.*	*Zero (0) marine protected areas officially established or effectively managed, with limited or outdated data on marine ecosystems.*	*Target 3: Two (2) marine terrestrial protected area established* *Target 3.1: Two (1) marine protected area Designated and operationalized.* *Target 3.2: Improved management effectiveness of two (2) marine protected area by 20%.*	*Target 3: Four (4) Marine protected areas established.* *Target 3.1 four (4) marine protected areas legally designated and operationalized.* *Target 3.2: improved management effectiveness of four (4) marine*	*Project Implementation Report* *Mid-Term Review Report* *Final Evaluation Report*	*ASSUMPTIONS:* *Policies and legal frameworks are timely and enforced.* *Government transitions are smooth without disrupting progress.* *Communities, districts, and CSOs cooperate in implementing*

	new Marine protected areas created *<u>Indicator 3.2:</u> Number of marine protected areas with improved management effectiveness.*				*protected areas, achieving at least a 40% improvement in METT scores.*		*management plans.* **Risks** ***Government and politics:*** *fragile coordination relationship between the federal and states. Absence of regulatory frameworks and enforcement of laws enabling PA establishment and conservation.* ***Climate****: increase of climate related shocks in the project areas adversely affecting livelihoods and conservation efforts.* ***Environmental & Social****: Charcoal production, wildlife hunting, and unequal gender benefits may undermine progress.* ***Stakeholders****: Community resistance could delay PA establishment and ecosystem management.* ***Capacity****: Limited technical and operational capacity may affect PA establishment and sustainable management.*
	<u>Mandatory</u> <u>GEF Core Indicators:</u> Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding	*Stakeholder engagement process (government, community, and CSOs)*	*No areas of landscape under improved practices*	<u>Target 4:</u> Area of landscapes under improved practices, excluding PAs 3500 Ha Land <u>Target 4.3):</u> Area of landscapes	<u>Target 4:</u> Area of landscapes under improved practices, excluding PAs 3500 ha <u>Target 4.3</u> Area of landscapes	*Project Implementation Report* *Mid-Term Review Report*	***Assumptions*** *Policies and legal frameworks are prepared in time and enforced by relevant institutions.*

	protected areas (GEF CI 4.3: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems 3,500 ha comprised of 3,000 ha of agro-pastoral systems 500 ha of Sorghum irrigated cropland			under sustainable land management in production systems 3500 Ha comprised of 3,000 ha of agro-pastoral systems 500 ha of Sorghum irrigated cropland	under sustainable land management in production systems 3500 Ha comprised of 3,000 ha of agro-pastoral systems 500 ha of Sorghum irrigated cropland	*Final Evaluation Report*	*General acceptance and cooperation of districts, communities and CSOs in the implementation of the management plans* Local communities are incentivized to implement ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation plans. **Risks** *Climate: increase of climate-related shocks in the project areas adversely affecting livelihoods* *Environment and social: continuation of charcoal production and hunting of wildlife undermining the project efforts. Women and men are not equally benefiting from the project interventions.* *Stakeholders: not fully engaged and absence of an effective grievance mechanism*
	Mandatory GEF Core Indicators: *Indicator 5: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration*	*Stakeholder engagement process (government, community and CSOs)*	*No Area of land and ecosystems under restoration*	*Target 5: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (2,500 ha)*	*Target 5: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (6,000 ha)*	*Project Implementation Report* *Mid-Term Review Report*	***Assumptions*** *Policies and legal frameworks are prepared on time and enforced by relevant institutions.*

	(GEF CI 3.2: Area of forest and forest land under restoration 5,000 ha – Dry Tropical Forest and Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) under restoration 1,000 ha – Mangrove Forest) *Indicator 5.2: Area of forest and forest land under restoration*			*<u>Target 5.1:</u> Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) under restoration 300 ha – Mangrove Forest)* *<u>Indicator 5.2:</u> Area of Dry Tropical Forest Acacia Forest and forest land under restoration (2,200 ha)*	*<u>Target 5.1</u>: Area of mangrove forest and forest land under restoration (1,000 ha)* *Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) under restoration 1,000 ha – Mangrove Forest)* *<u>Indicator 5.2:</u> Area of Dry Tropical Forest - Acacia Forest and forest land under restoration (5,000 ha)*	*Final Evaluation Report*	*General acceptance and cooperation of districts, communities and CSOs in the implementation of the management plans* Local communities are incentivized to implement ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation plans. RISK: *Climate: increase of climate related shocks in the project areas adversely affecting livelihoods and conservation efforts.* *Environment and social: continuation of charcoal production and hunting of wildlife undermining the project efforts. Women and men are not equally benefiting from the project interventions.* *Stakeholders: not fully engaged and absence of effective grievance mechanism*
	<u>Mandatory</u> <u>GEF Core Indicator</u> <u>Indicator 6:</u> Metric tonnes of Greenhouse			*Target 6:* *Zero (0)* tonnes of CO2eq sequestered	*Target 6:* 888,869 tonnes of CO2eq		*Policies and legal frameworks are prepared on time and enforced by relevant institutions.*

	gas emission mitigated from forest restoration activities included within the project. The project is expected to avoid 888,869 tonnes of CO2eq over 20 years due to restoration activity. (GEF CI 6.5: Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (direct) 888,869 tCO2e) <u>Indicator 6.1:</u> metric tonnes of Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector -						*11 PAs are implemented and operationalized as per project plan* *Restoration Activities are completed as required in the project plan* *RISK* *Environment and social: continuation of charcoal production and hunting of wildlife undermining the project efforts. Women and men are not equally benefiting from the project interventions.* *Stakeholders: not fully engaged and absence of effective grievance mechanism*
Project component 1	Strengthen FGS and FMS policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks for Protected Areas (PAs)						
Project Outcome 1.1. Improved enabling environment in place for effective community-led PA management of both terrestrial and marine PAs, emphasizing gender-responsive strategies.	*<u>Indicator 7(a):</u> Number of gender-responsive land use policies and strategies developed, adopted and implemented directly supporting biodiversity conservation and PAs*	*Stakeholder engagement process (government, community and CSOs)*	*No policy*	*<u>Target 7(a):</u> 4 FMS level policies*	*<u>Target 7(a):</u> 8 FGS and FMS policies*	*MoECC website* *Project Implementation Report* *Mid-Term Review Report* *Final Evaluation Report*	*Assumptions:* *The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS) demonstrate sustained political commitment and cooperation to revise, adopt, and implement gender-responsive policies and frameworks.* *Local communities and traditional*

	<u>Indicator 7(b):</u> Number of gender-responsive land use laws including customary laws formulated and adopted	*Stakeholder engagement process (government, community and CSOs)*	*No specific laws to biodiversity and protected areas*	*<u>Target 7 (b):</u> 4 FMS level frameworks*	*<u>Target 7 (b):</u> 8 FGS and FMS levels frameworks*	*MoECC /Parliament website* *Project Implementation Report* *Mid-Term Review Report* *Final Evaluation Report*	*authorities acknowledge the importance of inclusiveness and are willing to actively engage in participatory processes and adopt gender-sensitive approaches in managing terrestrial and marine protected areas.* *Adequate technical expertise (local and international) and resources are available to conduct comprehensive reviews, assessments, and policy revisions and to develop and implement effective strategies for protected area management.*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1	**Outputs** 1.1.1: Conduct a bottom-up comprehensive review of existing legal, policy, institutional, and land tenure frameworks to assess gaps in current natural resource governance, including for biodiversity conservation 1.1.2: Revise, update, upgrade, and provide technical support to design new gender-sensitive bills, policy, and institutional frameworks as identified by the gap assessment, relevant to FGS, FMS, customary and religious systems to guide PA establishment and management. 1.1.3 Formulate and adopt a cohesive strategy for FGS and FMS terrestrial and marine PAs, integrating gender mainstreaming principles (Strategy will encompass potential expansion plans, ensuring all sites are well-documented with adequate maps and data). 1.1.4. Develop and execute strategy for the effective financing and financial management of Somalia's consolidated system of terrestrial and marine PAs						***Risks***. *Limited institutional capacity, unclear mandates, or poor governance could obstruct the effective development, adoption, and enforcement of gender-responsive laws, policies, and frameworks.* *Inadequate stakeholder consultations, weak trust-building, or limited community empowerment may lead to low levels of ownership and commitment to PA management.*

Outcome 1.2: Strengthened institutional and technical capacities for PA management and integrated land use planning	*Indicator 8:* Number of MoECC staff and partners at national and subnational levels trained on practical PA management skills.	*Stakeholder engagement process (government, community, and CSOs)*	*None*	*Target 8:* *110 MoECC at FGS & FMS (50% female)* *120 Partners, including police*	*Target 8:* *150 MoECC at FGS & FMS* *200 Partners, including police*	*Annual reports*	***Assumptions:*** *Skilled trainers, technical experts, and specialists in biodiversity spatial assessment, GIS, METT assessments, and integrated land use planning—either domestically or through external partnerships—are available to facilitate effective capacity building.* *Adequate internet connectivity and ICT infrastructure exist or can be developed to effectively implement and sustain an interactive online knowledge management and GIS platform accessible to stakeholders at multiple governance levels.* *Risks:* *Conflict, insecurity, disputes between FGS and FMS, or localized clan tensions may limit the feasibility of fieldwork, training events, and participation of stakeholders in capacity-building activities.* *Limited or inconsistent stakeholder involvement at FGS & FMS could reduce ownership and*
	Indicator 9: Number of biodiversity information management platforms (including GIS) established and operational and regularly utilized by FGS & FMS decision-makers	*Stakeholder engagement process (government, community and CSOs)*	*None*	*Target 9:* *One unit*	*Target 9:* *One unit*		
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2	**Outputs** 1.2.1 Facilitate specialized training for MOECC personnel on terrestrial and marine PA system planning to undertake (a) METT assessments of all future PAs with national and sub-national partners; (b) National Biodiversity Spatial Assessment and Land Use Plan with national and sub-national partners, including relevant clan and religious group leaders. 1.2.2. A knowledge management platform, including GIS system, to manage, exchange, present information about terrestrial and marine areas						

							effectiveness of the biodiversity information management platform.
Project component 2 : Established and improved management of selected terrestrial and marine areas							
Outcome 2.1. Establishment of legally recognized terrestrial and marine PAs with clearly defined boundaries and management plans.	*Indicator 10(a):* *Number of* gender-sensitive PA management plans developed	*Stakeholder engagement process*	*None*	*Target 10(a):* - *3 plans*	*Target 10 (a):* - *11 plans*	*Approved management planning documents*	*Assumptions:* *FGS, FMS, and local authorities remain committed to approving, adopting, and implementing gender-sensitive PA management plans.* *Local communities, clan leaders, and religious authorities actively participate in developing and implementing management plans, ensuring genuine ownership and sustained involvement.* *Qualified experts (local and/or international) are available to guide the development of gender-sensitive PA management plans, including robust community-based monitoring systems.* *Risks:* *Weak institutional capacities, unclear mandates, or poor coordination among relevant authorities and stakeholders could hamper adoption and implementation.*
	Indicator 10(b): *Number of* Gender-sensitive PA management plans under implementation	*Stakeholder engagement process*	*None*	*Target 10(b):* *3 plans*	*Target 10 (b):* *11 plans*		
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	***Outputs*** 2.1.1 Participatory analysis conducted to identify gaps in the current system (i.e., ecological gap analysis) and inform future management objectives for PAs (in line with the IUCN PA categories I-VI). 2.1.2 Detailed multistakeholder consultations to inform PA boundary delineation, re-definition and infrastructure development for the 11 proposed PAs. 2.1.3 Gender-sensitive PA management plans, including with monitoring system prepared and under implementation with participation of local communities for effective and equitable terrestrial and marine biodiversity conservation.						

							Limited or inconsistent participation by local communities, including marginalized groups, could lead to low ownership and poor implementation of the management plans.
Outcome 2.2: Improved management effectiveness in the 11 newly established PAs through targeted management interventions.	*Indicator 11:* *Number of women- and youth-focused community-level management teams and park wardens for terrestrial and marine areas.*	*stakeholder engagement process, community records and reports, local government and conservation agency databases, and monitoring and evaluation*	*None. The baseline will be established based on initial assessments during the project's early stages.* *(5 terrestrial, 4 marine & 2 integrated marine terrestrial sites)*	*Target 11:* - *3 Marine Area Management Teams (30% women representatives)* - *1 Terrestrial Park wardens (30% women representatives)*	*Target 11:* - *6 Marine Area Management Teams (30% women representatives)* - *7 Terrestrial Park wardens (30% women representatives)*	*surveys, interviews with local stakeholders, community meetings, and review of relevant records from government and conservation agencies.*	*Assumptions:* *All stakeholders, including government and non-government at all levels, commit to decentralizing and actively community-led management practices*
	Indicator 12: *Number of community-level management teams and park wardens for terrestrial and marine areas, with women and youth trained and operational*		*None. The baseline will be established through an initial assessment of existing management teams and park wardens, along with the current level of training and involvement of women and youth, prior to project implementation.*	*Target 12:* - *30 Marine area management team members (30% women representatives)* - *30 Terrestrial Park wardens (30% women representatives)*	*Target 12:* - *150 Marine Area Management Teams (30% women representatives)* - *150 Terrestrial Park wardens (30% women representatives)*	*PIR* *surveys, interviews with local stakeholders, records from training programs, and reports from local government or conservation agencies, as well as direct observations during field visits.*	*Community stakeholders remain open and supportive of gender-responsive and youth-inclusive approaches, actively enabling meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in management and decision-making processes.* *Surveys, interviews, community meetings, and record reviews will provide accurate data. Local communities and stakeholders will actively participate in data collection. Relevant government and conservation agency data will be accessible and up to date.*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2	Outputs: 2.2.1 Development and implementation of training and capacity building programs for community management teams, park wardens, with women and youth involvement in implementation of PA management plans. 2.2.2 Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in coastal regions and implementation of community-led sustainable management practices in line with customary law and sustainable fisheries and coastal management practices. 2.2.3: Implementation of key PA management interventions (i.e., species monitoring, control of invasive species, habitat restoration, assisted natural regeneration and wildlife migration corridors) in the Protected Area estat						

							Risks: *Low levels of participation, especially among marginalized groups such as women and youth, may reduce local ownership and effectiveness of PA management and LMMA implementation.* *Weak institutional capacity, unclear mandates, and high turnover rates among trained community management team members and park wardens may compromise capacity-building effectiveness and sustainability.*
Project component 3	Integrated Landscape Management in multi-use landscapes around targeted PAs promoted to increase the flow of ecosystem goods and services for improved livelihoods and conservation outcomes.						
Outcome 3.1. Sustainable land management practices of landscapes and natural ecosystems supported around targeted PAs	*<u>Indicator 13:</u> National and subnational biodiversity and sustainable land management capacity building program developed, adopted, and operationalized in FGS & FMS*		*None. The baseline for the national and subnational biodiversity and sustainable land management capacity-building program will be established based on an assessment of current capacity and existing programs at the FGS and FMS levels. This will include the number of existing programs, the level of current training, and the capacity of local institutions to*	*<u>Target 13:</u> Program developed and operational at FGS, SL and PL*	*<u>Target 13:</u> Program developed and operational at FGS, SL, PL, GMS, HSS, SWS and JLS*		*Assumptions:* *Qualified technical experts (local or international) with expertise in biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, training, and gender-sensitive monitoring are available.* *Effective coordination mechanisms exist or can be established among relevant institutions at national and subnational levels.* *Technical expertise, planting materials, equipment, and*

			implement biodiversity and land management initiatives.				*inputs for nurseries are locally available or accessible.* *Clearly identifiable markets or economic opportunities for nursery products exist or can be created, encouraging sustained community engagement.* *Risks:* *Limited technical, administrative, and coordination capacities among national and subnational agencies can delay or compromise the effectiveness of program development and operationalization .* *Climate variability, droughts, flooding, pests/diseases, or other environmental factors could negatively impact nursery productivity and sustainability.* *Insufficient local technical skills and knowledge could compromise nursery establishment, management quality, and productivity, especially the mangrove afforestation.*
	Indicator 14: *Number of community-managed woodland and mangrove nurseries established employing at least 50% women and youths.*		*None. The baseline will be established by assessing the current number of community-managed woodland and mangrove nurseries, including the current involvement of women and youth in their operations. This includes collecting data on the number of existing nurseries, their management structure, and the proportion of women and youth involved.*	*Target 14:* - *1 mangrove nursery* - *2 woodlands nurseries*	*Target 14:* - *4 mangrove nurseries* - *6 woodland nurseries*	*PIR, MTR, TE* *surveys, interviews with local stakeholders , and review of existing records to determine nursery numbers, management structures, and demographic s.*	
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1	***Outputs*** 3.1.1 Degradation assessments conducted across a range of landscapes and ecosystems, including spatial mapping to determine the level and type of degradation, identify priority areas and inform restoration and management interventions (ILUPs) 3.1.2 Development and implementation of a national capacity building program and M&E system for tracking impacts of ILM and restoration interventions, ensuring equitable participation and leadership opportunities for women and men. 3.1.3 Establishment of community-managed pasture and woodland/mangrove nurseries in strategically selected locations in communal landscapes, with a focus on gender equity in management roles and decision-making processes. 3.1.4 Restoration of degraded mangroves and woodlands through community-led interventions, with targeted technical advisory support, ensuring increased access to advise, knowledge and benefits for wome						
Outcome 3.2 Enhancement of livelihoods through the adoption of sustainable practices	*Indicator 15:* *Number of people directly benefiting from the IGAs within and outside*	*Stakeholde r engagemen t reports* *Records from income-*	*None. The baseline will be established in the **first quarter** by assessing the current number of*	*Target 15:* *300 (50% female)*	*Target 15:* *1,500 (50% female)*	*PIR, MTR, and TE* *beneficiary surveys,*	*Assumptions:* *Local communities, including women and youth, actively engage in IGAs and*

	of the PAs disaggregated by sex.	*generating activities (IGAs) within and around protected areas (PAs), surveys and interviews with beneficiaries, reports from local government, NGOs, and project partners, and community records and participation data.*	*people benefiting from income-generating activities (IGAs) within and outside protected areas (PAs), with gender-disaggregated data through surveys, records, and interviews.*			*interviews, and reviews of existing records from local authorities and NGOs, with gender-disaggregated data.*	*cooperatives/interest groups, recognizing clear benefits to livelihoods and economic well-being.* *Project grant funds are readily available, timely disbursed, transparently managed, and accessible to local cooperatives and interest groups based on clear criteria.* *Stakeholders will engage in data collection processes.* *Sufficient technical expertise and resources will be available to implement IGAs.* *Markets or economic opportunities for IGAs will exist or be created.* *Local communities will actively participate in IGAs and gender-disaggregated data will be gathered effectively.*
	Indicator 16: Number of cooperatives and interest groups supported with grants	*Grant distribution records from government and project partners, reports from cooperatives, interest groups, and funding agencies, and monitoring and evaluation reports from capacity-building programs.*	*None. The baseline will be set in the **first quarter** by identifying the current number of cooperatives and interest groups supported with grants, using existing records and assessments of their capacity and activities.*	*Target 16:* *3*	*Target 16:* *11*	*PIR, MTR, and TE* *reviewing grant records and conducting interviews with cooperatives, interest groups, and funding agencies.*	
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.2	***Outputs*** 3.2.1 Development and promotion of community-based Income Generating Activities (IGAs) and local markets for sustainable products, with a gender-inclusive approach that recognizes and enhances the roles of women in pastoralism, community-based tourism, sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, apiculture and NTFPs 3.2.2 Training and technical advisory support for local communities, with a gender-responsive curriculum that ensures women have equal access to training opportunities and the necessary resources to apply their skills in value addition, processing and marketing (e.g., seed and mangrove nursery management, agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and NTFPs)						*Cooperatives and interest groups will be accessible and willing to receive support.* *Government and partners will provide the necessary grants and technical assistance.* *Local communities and institutions will effectively manage the grants and support activities.*

			Risks: *political instability and security concerns may limit data collection and program implementation.* *Climate-related factors could disrupt the continuity of IGAs.* *Resistance to gender-inclusive approaches could hinder full participation of women in IGAs.* *Limited coordination between government and partners could delay grant distribution.* *Environmental challenges may affect the productivity and sustainability of supported groups.* *Insufficient technical skills and capacity in local groups may limit the impact of grants.* *Limited local technical and managerial capacities may lead to ineffective cooperative management, poor financial management, and unsustainable IGAs.* *Weak or insufficient local market linkages may undermine the economic viability and sustainability of IGAs, reducing long-term*

							community motivation. *Frequent droughts, floods, environmental degradation, or climate variability could negatively impact the productivity of IGAs and cooperatives, leading to reduced economic benefits.*
Project component	**Monitoring & Evaluation**						
Outcome 4.1: Project-generated knowledge and lessons shared, and results and impact communicated and disseminated for wider learning	*Indicator 17:* *Number of lessons* learned PAs management knowledge products prepared and shared and accessible to women and marginalized groups	*Stakeholder engagement report* *Reports and documents on PA management lessons learned, Records of dissemination efforts to stakeholders, including women and marginalized groups, Feedback and participation data from women and marginalized groups regarding accessibility.*	*None for biodiversity and PAs. The baseline will be established in the **first quarter** by identifying the number of lessons learned and knowledge products related to PA management, as well as the accessibility and participation levels of women and marginalized groups. This will involve reviewing existing reports and surveys from previous activities.*	*Target 17:* *5*	*Target 17:* *13*	*PIR, MTR and TE* *Surveys and interviews with stakeholders, especially women and marginalized groups, to assess their access to and engagement with knowledge products.* *Review of PA management reports and documents.* *Monitoring records from training sessions, workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms.*	*Assumptions* *Government agencies, local communities, civil society organizations, academia, and private sector actors actively engage in knowledge-sharing activities and demonstrate interest in project-generated lessons and results.* *Project staff, implementing partners, and local stakeholders have the technical capacity and expertise to document, produce, and disseminate quality knowledge products and evaluations.*
	Indicator 18: *Number of project assessments and reports developed and shared with stakeholders*	*Project assessment reports and progress updates, Records of shared documents, presentations, and stakeholder meetings, Feedback*	*None. The baseline will be set in the **first quarter** by identifying the current number of assessments and reports being developed and shared with stakeholders.*	*Target 18:* *4*	*Target 18:* *8*	*PIR, MTR, and TE* *Review of project assessments, evaluation reports, and meeting minutes.*	*Security conditions remain sufficiently stable to allow project teams and evaluators to safely conduct field assessments, stakeholder consultations, and*

		from stakeholders on the accessibility and usefulness of shared assessments.	*This will involve reviewing past documentation and past engagement levels.*			*Surveys and interviews with stakeholders to gather feedback on the usefulness of the reports.* *Analysis of shared materials to track distribution and access.*	*dissemination activities.* ***Risks:*** *Weak local media infrastructure and poor internet or mobile connectivity in rural or remote areas may limit effective dissemination and stakeholder access to knowledge products and evaluation findings.* *Insufficient local technical capacity to conduct rigorous evaluations and produce high-quality documentation may affect the quality and credibility of knowledge products and assessments.* *Delays in report preparation or distribution may hinder the timely sharing of information with stakeholders.* *Limited engagement from stakeholders due to language barriers or lack of technical knowledge could reduce the impact of the assessments.* *Political or organizational barriers may restrict the transparency and sharing of reports.*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4.1	Output 4.1.1 MTR and TE conducted, and reports shared with UNDP and GEF IEOs						

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
- Project Development Specialist (PPG Team Leader) to support the articulation of project strategy, including ToC, and results framework, conduct review of baseline situation, including policy and regulatory frameworks, prepare project budget and workplan, M&E plan and strategy, knowledge management strategy. - International Social and Environment Safeguards expert to conduct a screening of the project-related risks and develop mitigation and management plans, including ESMF and action plans to address confirmed SES risks. - Expert on Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity conservation to conduct baseline reviews and assessments related to GEF Biodiversity Focal Area, stakeholder consultations, review of existing literature and data, including METT, and contribute technically to the design of the project strategy, including strategy on PA establishment. - Expert to conduct spatial data analysis, including Remote Sensing /GIS, analyse Climate Risks and Forest Carbon Measurement (GHG) to inform project strategy. - Institutional and Coordination Expert to lead on the review of policy, legislative and institutional review and guide project strategy on policy development/reform, policy coherence and related aspects. - Gender and Stakeholder Engagement expert to lead stakeholder consultations, conduct gender analysis and prepare Gender Action Plan - Expert on Sustainable Land Management and Livelihoods to conduct baseline analysis on current NRM uses and governance, assess literature and data on livelihood practices and their use of and impact on natural resources and to inform project strategy on mainstreaming SLM and conservation into NR uses. - Printing of documents/banners/folders to support stakeholder consultations. - Professional fee to conduct partner capacity assessments to inform project implementation arrangements.	236,270.00	215,018.55	21,251.45
Cost of travel to 6 Federal Member States including Somaliland Puntland, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Southwest State, and Jubaland, and cost of travel to the field for meetings, stakeholders' consultations by consultants to three in-person workshops (Jubaland, Puntland, Somaliland), with other regions engaged via questionnaires. List participant categories (MoECC, FMS ministries, elders, women/youth groups).	25,000.00	20,395.20	4,604.80
A series of meetings/workshops comprising: 2 technical meetings with the government institutions/partners (at Mogadishu and Hargeisa, Somaliland) for collecting data, information, analysis and validation; 3 nos. local consultations (Mogadishu, Garowe (Puntland) and Hargeisa (Somaliland) involving local authorities, community leaders, youth and women networks, farmers, fishermen, NGOs to support gender analysis and livelihood assessment ; 2 nos. technical thematic workshops on coordination and partnership involving FGS/FMS and synergy and complementarity with the UN agencies, donors and IFIs; 1 final validation workshop involving institutions and stakeholders at Federal and State levels.	38,730.00	36,933.13	1,796.87
Total	**300,000.00**	**272,346.88**	**27,653.12**

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Hobyo District	5.085210	48.338344	13,494,257

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Harardheere	4.626420	47.721296	13,494,257

Location Description:

Harardheere

Activity Description:

Harardheere

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Chilani & Manari Islands	1.092178	44.029182	13,494,277

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Roobow - Barawe	1.334984	44.033698	13,494,279

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Jawhar	2.651350	45.594203	13,494,280

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Adalle	2.466592	46.175231	13,494,281

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
LaagBadana	-1.6465	41.5925	13,494,282

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dhahar	9.716582	48.533854	60,095

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Daallo Mountain Forest	10.817617	47.369572	13,494,284

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sacadin Zayla Arhipelago	11.444359	43.443761	13,494,286

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Eyl, Garacad	6.813535	49.277988	13,494,285

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
LaagBadana	-1.381271	41.570970	13,494,283

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

Annex 10_Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan

Annex 8_Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Annex 9 ESMF Somalia Biodiversity_REV_12

Social and Environmental Screening

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)								Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)
		Component 1		*Component 2*		*Component 3*	*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 3.1	*Sub-Total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		
Equipment	IT Equipment for staff to execute project - for 25 PCs*$2,000 (with accessories and printers)	50,000					50,000			50,000	UNDP

Contractual services-Company	Expert Firm to establish Data management system estimate - $100,000 (GIS, Site Information etc.) Expert Firm to establish Learning Management System estimate - $100,000 (Courses, Education and Awareness Material etc.)		200,000				200,000				UNDP
Contractual services-Company	Expert Firm to support the foundational elements (ecological assessments, initial identification of infrastructure) of the development of PA Management Plans – estimated $100,000 Expert Firm to develop the PA Management Plans – estimated $100,000			200,000			200,000			200,000	UNDP

Contractual services-Company	Contractual services 2.1.3.6 – Infrastructure for PAs – estimated at $30,000 per PA * 11 for a total of $330,000. This is purchased in stages – 3 PAs in 2027 and 8 PAs in 2029. This 8 have been budgeted in 2029 in the spreadsheet. 3 PAs * 30,000 in 2027 = $90,000 8 PAs * 30,000 in 2029 = $240,000 Total :$330,000 Expert Firm to develop and deliver training programs and capacity building programs for PA Management – estimated $100,000 Expert Firm to support the implementation of community led LMMA's – estimated $100,000 Expert Firm to support the implementation of community developed PA Management Plans – estimated $100,000 Total: $300,000 2.2.2.6 – Seed/Mangrove Seedling Replanting in Coastal Areas Current (2025) cost to replant 1 Ha is $190. 10% for inflation was added to the $190 cost because this will not be performed for 2-3 years depending upon the sequence of PA implementation. This brings the cost per Ha to $209 1000 Ha to be replanted * 209 = $209,000 In addition, it is assumed the 1000 Ha of replanted mangrove will take place over 6 PA sites. There				4,570,500		4,570,500			4,570,500	UNDP

	is equipment for each of these 6 sites estimated @ $5000. per site for a total of $30,000 (6 sites* $5000). The equipment will be for items like signage, markers, barricades, temporary fencing etc.) Replanting is $209,000 Equipment = $30,000 Total $239,000 Total: $239,000 Contractual Services - Design, Build & Equip- 21 Ranger Stations Design: $10,000 per station * 21 = $210,000 (An inflation factor was not added because it is likely a firm will be retained through a competitive process) to do the design and there should be opportunities to lower the price of the design since a standard design can be developed for all 21 ranger stations with a limited number of on-site modifications. Build Current (2025) cost to build 1 ranger station estimated @$35,000. 10% for inflation was added to the $35,000 cost because this will not be performed for 2-3 years depending upon the sequence of PA implementation. This brings budgeted cost to $38,500. per station. $21 stations * $38,500 = $808,500 The budget has also estimated $10,000 for equipment for each station – 21 * $10,000 = $210,000. The equipment will be finalized										

	when the station design is completed. At this time, each station will need items like desk, table, chairs, kitchen equipment, 1 or 2 computer and printer etc. Total cost is $210,000 + $808,500 + 210,000 = $1,228,500 Total: $1,228,500 Contractual Services Removal of up to 8000 Ha of invasive species through mechanical restoration * 165 per HA (includes a 10% inflationary increase – 5% per year for 2 years) Development of burner stations to burn invasive species - $4000 per site * 7 sites Equipment for labourers – shovels, PPE etc. – total of $10,000 Total: $ 1,358,000 Contractual Services 2.2.3.4 Habitat Restoration – Seed and/or forest restoration up to 5000 Ha * $209 per Ha (includes a 10% inflationary increase - 5% per year for 2 years) Total: $1,045,000 Contractual Services 2.2.3.5 Establishment of wildlife corridors (e.g., fencing, signage, markers etc.) estimated 7 corridors across different PAs * $10,000 per corridor = $70,000 Total BN: $4,570,500										

Contractual services- Company	1 Expert Firm to conduct degradation assessments of areas need to be restores – estimated $60,000 1 Expert Firm to develop the business operating and financial models for income generating businesses – estimated $70,000 1 Expert Firm to develop training and provide technical advisory support for nursery operations – estimated $100,000 Total: $230,000 Contractual Services - Design, Build & Equip- 12 nurseries Design: $15,000 per nursery * 12 = $180,000 (A 15% inflation factor was added to the design as it is not likely a standard design can be developed given the diverse geography in each of the sites where these will be located. The 15% inflation factor brings the design cost to $17,250 * 12 = $207,000 Build Current (2025) cost to build 1 ranger station estimated @$48,000. 15% for inflation was added to the $48,000 cost because this will not be performed for 3-4 years depending upon the sequence of PA implementation and restoration schedule. This brings budgeted cost to $55,200 * 12 = $662,400 Total cost is $207,000 + $662,400 = $869,400 Total: $869,400 Contractual Services					2,677,900	2,677,900			2,677,900	UNDP

	3.1.4.4. Habitat Restoration – Seed and/or forest restoration up to 1500 Ha * $219 per Ha = $328,500 (includes 15% inflation increase – 5% per year) Restoration Supplies – soil stabilization, woodland enrichment etc. 7 sites/areas * $50,000 per site = $350,000 Total: $678,500 Contractual Services 3.2.2.5. Seed Capital for 18 sites/business's * $10,000 = $180,000 Equipment for each of these business's 18 sites/business' = $170,000 Total: $350,000 community resources for incentive payments to participate in restoration efforts. Total: $150,000 Contractual service to conduct Specialized gender-based training. total: $400,000 Total BN: $2,677,900										
Contractual Services - Individ	National Legal Consultants 120 days Total * 350/day = $42,000 - This is to support the development of the legal framework between FGS, GMS and Local Communities	42,000					42,000			42,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	National GIS Specialist 21 days Total * $350/day = $7,350 to contribute and support the development of the PA Strategy	7,350					7,350			7,350	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	National Policy Specialist and PA Strategy Development 45 days * $350/day = $15,750 to support the development of the PA strategy	15,750					15,750			15,750	UNDP

Contractual Services - Individ	Finance Specialist 21 days * $350 day = $7,350 to develop the financial management strategy for the Pas	7,350					7,350			7,350	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Gender Specialists $4,756 per month for 72 months = $342,432	342,432					342,432			342,432	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist $4,756 per month for 72 months = $342,432	342,432					342,432			342,432	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Communications Officer $1,925 per month for 72 months = $138,600	138,600					138,600			138,600	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Communications Officer (part time) National $1,925 per month for 44.2 months = $85,085	85,085					85,085			85,085	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Engineer $1,855 per month for 72 months = $133,560	133,560					133,560			133,560	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	3 Project Officers $3,092 total for 72 months = $667,872	667,872					667,872			667,872	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Biodiversity assessment and conservation expert 3,092 per month for 72 months = $222, 624	222,624					222,624			222,624	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	1 National Consultant – GIS Expert 30 days * 350 per day = $10,500 to support the implementation of PA Management Plans				10,500		10,500			10,500	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	National Training Consultant to develop and deliver training meetings for restoration and nursery management 30 days * $350 per day = $10,500					10,500	10,500			10,500	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	National Nursery expert to support the development and operation of the nurseries 60 days * $350 per day = $21,000					21,000	21,000			21,000	UNDP

Contractual Services - Individ	Community Development Specialist to support community activities in the restoration and nursery management – 60 days * $350 per day = $21,000					21,000	21,000			21,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	EISA's for the project – 92 days per year for a Senior National E&S specialist for Monitoring Purposes 92 days per year * $350/day * 6 years = $193,200					193,200	193,200			193,200	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	SESAs for the project – 22 days per year for a Senior National E&S specialist to manage the SESA for the project 22 days * 6 years * $350/day = $46,200					46,200	46,200			46,200	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Knowledge Sharing – Communication Coordinator to create and manage ongoing knowledge sharing with each of the PAs Part time role = 265 days over 6 years for a National Communications Coordinator * 250 per day (to support community lessons learned and knowledge sharing)		66,250				66,250			66,250	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	1 Full Time Project Manager $5,184 per month for 72 months = $373,248								373,248	373,248	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	1 Full Time Project Associate @ $2,022 per month for 72 months = $145,584								145,584	145,584	UNDP
International Consultants	International Consultant – Legal expert to support the develop of legal and regulatory policies and frameworks. This is to support the development of the legal framework	24,000					24,000			24,000	UNDP

	between FGS, GMS and Local Communities (fees: 30 days * 800/day = $24,000.										
International Consultants	International training Consultant 45 days * $800 per day = $36,000 to develop training manuals and materials.		36,000				36,000			36,000	UNDP
International Consultants	International consultants to conduct midterm review and terminal evaluation. Assume no international travel as reviews will be conducted remotely. MTR - $30,000 TE - $30,000						-	60,000		60,000	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Group meeting in FMS and communities for stakeholder engagement and training – 51 days of hotel conference rooms and meals 2000 per day = $102,000 51 days of simultaneous translation $600 per day = $30,600	132,600					132,600			132,600	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Group meetings in FMS and communities for stakeholder engagement and training (GIS) 28 days/$2000 per day of hotel conference rooms and meals for 25 people = $56,000 20 days of simultaneous translation $600 per day = $12,000.		68,000				68,000			68,000	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Group meetings in FMS and communities for stakeholder engagement and training (GIS) 51 days/ $2000 per day of hotel conference rooms and meals for 25 people = $102,000 51 days of simultaneous translation $600 per day = $30,600			132,600			132,600			132,600	UNDP

Training, Workshops, Meetings	Group meetings in FMS and communities for stakeholder engagement and training (GIS) 57 days/ $2000 per day of hotel conference rooms and meals for 25 people = $114,000 57 days of simultaneous translation $600 per day = $34,200				148,200		148,200			148,200	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Group meetings in FMS and communities for stakeholder engagement and training (GIS) 113 days/ $2000 per day of hotel conference rooms and meals for 25 people = $226,000 113 days of simultaneous translation $600 per day = $67,800					293,800	293,800			293,800	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Fees and related expenses to Inception workshop.						-	5,000		5,000	UNDP
Travel	Travel Airfare within Somalia for community engagement, capacity building, training workshops etc. 110 trips @ 400 airfare per trip = $44,000 258 days per diem for travel within Somalia * 173/day = $44,634 33 Local Trips within Somalia * $25.00 per diem per trip = $825.00	89,459					89,459			89,459	UNDP
Travel	Travel Airfare within Somalia for community engagement, capacity building, training workshops etc. 24 trips @ 400 airfare per trip = $9,600 64 days per diem for travel within Somalia * 173/day = $11,072		20,672				20,672			20,672	UNDP
Travel	Travel Airfare within Somalia for community engagement, capacity			159,646			159,646			159,646	UNDP

	building, training workshops etc. 182 trips @ 400 airfare per trip = $72,800 502 days per diem for travel within Somalia * 173/day = $86,846										
Travel	Travel Airfare within Somalia for community engagement, capacity building, training workshops etc. 270 trips @ 400 airfare per trip = $108,000 670 days per diem for travel within Somalia * 173/day = $115,910				223,910		223,910			223,910	UNDP
Travel	Travel Airfare within Somalia for community engagement, capacity building, training workshops etc. 278 trips @ 400 airfare per trip = $111,200 887 days per diem for travel within Somalia * 173/day = $153,451					264,651	264,651			264,651	UNDP
Travel	Travel – 1 trip at the midpoint of the project to each of the PAs for 2 days. The purpose of this trips is for Assurance Purposes. Airfare is 11 trips * 400 = 4,400 Per Diem – 11 Trips for 2 days each * 173 per day= $3,806						-		8,206	8,206	UNDP
Office Supplies	Supplies and other miscellaneous operating needs for the Project Management Office - $6500 per year for 5 years with the 6th year being $6,946.00						-		39,446	39,446	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Communication/ Audi Visual for video clips, Leaflets, printing meeting materials etc. – this material will be directed at community engagement, MOECC and creating awareness	29,350					29,350			29,350	UNDP

Other Operating Costs	Printing and creation of other information to be distributed to community in hardcopy for knowledge sharing and awareness purposes.		9,119				9,119			9,119	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Communication/ Audi Visual for video clips, Leaflets, printing meeting materials etc. – this material will be directed at community engagement, MOECC and creating awareness Audiovisual.		25,000				25,000			25,000	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Communication/ Audi Visual for vid eo clips, Leaflets, printing meeting materials etc. – this material will be directed at community engagement, MOECC and creating awareness Audiovisual.			12,600			12,600			12,600	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Communication/ Audi Visual for video clips, Leaflets, printing meeting materials etc. – this material will be directed at community engagement, MOECC and creating awareness Audiovisual.				31,500		31,500			31,500	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Printing, Translation, Communication and awareness material – brochures, leaflets, video clips, business packages etc to build awareness, knowledge sharing and printing of deliverables (e.g., legal policies etc.) = $18,699					18,699	18,699			18,699	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	Project Management Office - provisioned for Audit Services in years 2 thru 5 * $5000 per year for these services						-		25,000	25,000	UNDP

Grand Total		**2,330,464**	**425,041**	**504,846**	**4,984,610**	**3,546,950**	**11,791,911**	**65,000**	**591,484**	**12,448,395**	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

Comments raised by Country Members

This note provides a consolidated response to the comments raised by Council members during the PIF review stage for the Somalia GEF-8 Biodiversity Project. The responses demonstrate how the concerns have been fully integrated into the final CEO Endorsement Request (CEO ER) and ProDoc. Each response includes specific references to project outputs and sections of the CEO ER/ProDoc, ensuring transparency and traceability.

1. Integrate conflict and climate risks into the theory of change and project logic.	The Theory of Change explicitly incorporates climate change and conflict as core contextual risks. Scenario planning and resilience pathways have been developed to account for plausible futures. Project components include conflict-sensitive planning, especially in Component 1 (legal harmonization) and Component 3 (community-based restoration), and climate resilience interventions such as nature-based solutions and climate-resilient livelihoods.
2. Incorporate customary law and strengthen community co-design and co-implementation.	The project emphasizes co-management in PA governance, reflecting customary and religious law systems. Component 1 includes legal harmonization workshops engaging elders and religious leaders. Co-design and co-implementation feature in PA Management Committees and participatory restoration planning. Community-based monitoring and benefit-sharing models are embedded, with special attention to gender inclusion and local norms.
3. Use STAP's policy coherence framework to guide Component 1.	Component 1 applies a structured policy review aligned with STAP's six-step policy coherence framework, which includes: (1) defining the policy problem; (2) mapping existing policy

	objectives and instruments; (3) identifying conflicts, gaps, and synergies; (4) prioritizing issues based on impact and feasibility; (5) designing integrated solutions and policy responses; and (6) monitoring and adjusting based on feedback. The project uses this framework to systematically identify inconsistencies between federal and member state policies, and between statutory and customary laws related to land use, biodiversity, and PA governance. The project also applies the eight-step policy cycle at the national level—ranging from agenda setting through evaluation—to align interventions with broader policy reform processes. Specific activities under Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.4 include multi-stakeholder policy dialogues, harmonization workshops, and legal mapping exercises to ensure coherence in environmental governance.
4. Include socioecological descriptions of proposed protected areas.	The CEO Endorsement document includes ecological, social, and cultural profiles for each of the 11 proposed PAs (terrestrial, marine, and mixed). This includes biodiversity values, land tenure, livelihoods, conflict history, and gender dynamics. These baselines justify the site selection and tailored co-management interventions.
5. Improve land potential assessments under Component 3, using ILUP and LDN tools.	The project integrates Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) principles and relevant tools for land potential assessment and monitoring. Component 3 includes pre-restoration degradation mapping and suitability analysis, guiding interventions such as agroforestry, rotational grazing, and assisted natural regeneration. ILUP will frame restoration priorities within each landscape.
6. Link adaptive management and learning in Component 4 with ToC assumptions.	Component 4 will track assumptions embedded in the Theory of Change. A learning and adaptive management loop has been established, with periodic reviews feeding lessons into planning cycles. Component 4 also includes evaluations at Mid Term (MTR) and at the end of the project (Terminal Evaluation).
7. Integrate gender considerations across all components, not just the gender section.	Gender is embedded throughout the rationale, outputs, and activities. Component-specific gender actions (e.g., women-led ranger units, female inclusion in governance bodies, gender-sensitive value chains) are described. The Gender Action Plan is aligned with the UNDP

	Gender Equality Strategy and tracks participation, benefit-sharing, and decision-making metrics.
8. Encourage innovative approaches to address land degradation drivers like deforestation, considering socio-cultural context and appropriate technologies.	The project introduces innovative approaches to address deforestation and land degradation through context-specific solutions. These include integrating traditional practices with modern restoration methods and promoting incentive-based mechanisms. Restoration designs in Component 3 reflect local cultural practices and include flexible models adapted to dryland conditions. Innovation is also supported through potential partnerships with Somali universities and NGOs to test and scale locally appropriate technologies in restoration and sustainable land management.
9. Conduct literature review to strengthen scientific foundation.	The ProDoc and CEO Endorsement leverage recent peer-reviewed research and national assessments (e.g., Somalia's LDN TSP, doctoral theses, and published articles on post-conflict governance and land degradation). In addition, the project completed two baseline desk reviews which include a baseline biodiversity review and Sustainable Land Management.

Council Member & Comment	Project Response	Reference in ProDoc / CEO ER
United States (Luyi Cheng, July 12, 2024) The United States appreciates the opportunity to review this project. We note that while the project includes bottom-up approaches and community involvement to establish a robust regulatory framework, we would like to better understand plans to lay the groundwork for cooperative processes in advance of this step.	The project embeds cooperative, participatory processes prior to legal/regulatory steps. Output 1.1.1 starts with bottom-up gap assessments, ecological and governance analyses, and community consultations at FGS, FMS, and local levels. Cooperative bodies like Protected Area Management Committees (PAMCs) and Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) are established before regulatory adoption, ensuring trust and consensus precede statutory reforms.	ProDoc Outputs 1.1.1–1.1.3; CEO ER Project Description, "Project Components"
Germany (Annette Windmeisser, June 28, 2024) Germany welcomes the project's participatory and gender-sensitive approach and emphasizes the need for constant civil society participation across all	**Civil society participation**: A Stakeholder Engagement Plan ensures structured participation at all stages (design, implementation, monitoring).	ProDoc Stakeholder Engagement; Outputs 2.1.2, 2.2.1–2.2.3; CEO ER Risks to Achieving Outcomes

project stages. Participation strengthens social accountability mechanisms and is thus a powerful tool against corruption. Germany further recommends keeping a focus on community-led management, to ensure ownership and long-term uptake and continuation of conservation of terrestrial, coastal and marine areas. Germany welcomes the consultations with NGOs and IP&LCs but would like to see more planned engagement throughout the project including in planned activities. Further, it recommends to plan sufficient time and a variety of engagement formats to structure this process and inclusive as possible. Considering the capacity gap of Somalia's governance institutions to implement effective measures for environmental protection, a high level of public sector corruption in the country and the overall fragile context, Germany recommends assessing corruption risks and specific mitigation measures in the project risk section. Germany recommends including anti-corruption as a module into the capacity-building program for the MOECC and its state-level counterparts.	**Community-led management:** PAMCs and LMMAs, and community-led nurseries are central under Components 2 & 3. Structured engagement formats: multi-stakeholder consultations, regional validation workshops, and gender/youth sessions are planned under Output 2.1.2. **Corruption risk mitigation**: The Risk Register includes corruption risks; mitigation measures include transparent benefit-sharing, participatory monitoring, and UNDP fiduciary oversight. An anti-corruption training module is embedded in MoECC/FMS capacity-building (Output 1.1.4).	
Canada (Barbara Curran, July 17, 2024)	The project integrates OECMs by recognizing	ProDoc Output 1.1.3; Annex C Results Framework; CEO

The project might want to consider Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures as the path to recognize and improve conservation and management measures where agencies, partners and communities already engage in sustainable activities that also generate long-term biodiversity conservation benefits effectively.	customary conservation systems (Xeer), religiously protected sites, and community-managed rangelands/marine areas. These are incorporated into the National PA Strategy (Output 1.1.3) and through LMMAs/community-conserved areas, ensuring Somalia's contributions to Kunming-Montreal Target 3 (30x30) go beyond gazetted PAs.	ER Alignment with Country Priorities

The responsibilities of the Project steering committee are as follows:

Consensus decision making

- The Project Board/Steering Committee provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints and overseeing the project's implementation.
- Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
- The Project Board/Steering Committee is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
- In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board/Steering Committee decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
- In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the Board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

Oversee project execution:

- Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
- Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
- Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP Somalia Country Office (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);

- Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
- Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
- Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

Risk Management:

- Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
- Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
- Address project-level grievances.

Co-ordination:

- Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the Project Board/Steering Committee: The composition of the Project Board/Steering Committee must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

- **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board/Steering Committee. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation. The Project Executive is the Resident Representative of UNDP, Somalia.
- **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board/Steering Committee. The Beneficiary representative is: the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change including women and local community groups. The GEF Operational Focal Point will be co-opted into this Project Board/Steering Committee to represent the government's interest in the GEF-financed part of the operation. The UNDP Country Office (UNDP Resident Representative) will also ensure that all necessary information and updates are shared with the GEF OFP via other means, including exchange of letters and reports outside of Project Board/Steering Committee meetings.
- **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner is the various ministries from Somalia.

B. Project Assurance

Project assurance is the responsibility of each Project steering committee member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board/Steering Committee (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board/Steering Committee cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is: Portfolio Manager of Resilience and Climate Change, UNDP, Somalia (UNDP CO EFP).

Additional project and quality assurance will be provided by the RBAS Chief of Country Support and Oversight as well as by the Bureau for Management Services regarding operational (legal, financial and procurement) matters.

C. Project Management – Execution of the Project

The project management unit is headed by a senior Project Manager (to be recruited) who is provided with the delegation of authority regarding the management and implementation of the project from the Somalia Resident Representative, who has the fiduciary accountability for the project. The Project Manager is the senior-most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers. The Project Manager will be supported by the M&E officer, project officer, finance and administrative assistant.

The project team receives directions from the Project Board/Steering Committee and provides updates and reports to the Project Board/Steering Committee in the pursuit of project objectives, timeframes, and partnerships.

A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is the Project Manager (to be recruited).