



Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Egypt

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10360

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Egypt

Countries

Egypt

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

UNOPS

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Forest, Biodiversity, Species, Threatened Species, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Biomes, Wetlands,

Lakes, Desert, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport, Energy Efficiency, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Pasture Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Agriculture, Income Generating Activities, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Private Sector, Stakeholders, Large corporations, SMEs, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Communications, Behavior change, Education, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Innovation, Knowledge Generation, Targeted Research, Enabling Activities

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date

4/30/2021

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2022

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2025

Duration

48In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

199,131.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	BD 1-1 Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	673,974.00	1,748,000.00
CCM-1-1	CCM 1-1 Promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs for decentralized power with energy storage	GET	905,844.00	2,350,000.00
LD-1-1	LD1-4 Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape	GET	516,301.00	1,339,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			2,096,119.00	5,437,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To build socio-ecological resilience in Greater Cairo, Fayoum, Delta, and Upper Egypt landscapes through community-based activities for global environmental benefits and sustainable development.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection	Investment	<p>Outcome 1.1: Strengthened conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services through participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions</p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Increased adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and mitigation solutions at community level</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1: Community level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity resources and ecosystem services.</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding, and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives</p> <p>Output 1.2.1: Community projects implementing renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biogas digestors, PVs, etc.</p>	GET	1,709,174.00	4,430,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance and strengthened capacities for upscaling	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 2.1: Strengthened community institutions for participatory governance to enhance socio-ecological resilience</p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Upscaling enabled through capacity building and knowledge management</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1: Multi-stakeholder platforms established and strengthened for improved governance of target landscapes.</p> <p>Output 2.2.1: Capacities of CBOs strengthened through skills training, financial management mentoring, and networking with enabling governmental, civil society, and private sector partners.</p> <p>Output 2.2.2: Knowledge from innovative project experience shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network</p>	GET	189,540.00	490,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3: Monitoring and evaluation	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation.	Output 3.1.1: Project implementation effectively monitored and evaluated.	GET	97,590.00	250,000.00
Sub Total (\$)					1,996,304.00	5,170,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
			GET	99,815.00	267,000.00	
			Sub Total(\$)	99,815.00	267,000.00	
Total Project Cost(\$)				2,096,119.00	5,437,000.00	

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Programme	Grant	Investment mobilized	420,000.00
Donor Agency	Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Programme EIECP	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,477,000.00
Civil Society Organization	CSO grantees	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	750,000.00
Civil Society Organization	CSO grantees	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Bioenergy Association for Sustainable Development (BSRDA)	Grant	Investment mobilized	250,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	40,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				5,437,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Other Donor Agency: The OP7 project will engage with the investments under the Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Programme (EIECP), particularly with respect to the promotion of income-generating activities for local communities residing near PA's. UNDP: UNDP will provide co-financing support in relation to investments under the GCF-funded project 'Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in North Coast and Nile Delta', particularly with respect to strengthening resilience of local communities, e.g., through community involvement in wetland restoration, establishment of conservation zones to protect coastal habitats, and raising awareness Civil society: SGP global policy requests grant recipient CSOs to contribute to their projects in cash to the best of their abilities. The National Steering Committee will foster compliance with this policy as appropriate. These contributions will only be confirmed during project implementation as grant projects are approved. Investment mobilized by the CSOs correspond to new and additional funding for the approved interventions. The project will engage with the co-financing partner BSRDA on climate change mitigation (CCM) interventions, including technical assistance for biomass technologies (e.g., biogas, agro-food recycling), capacity building and awareness-raising on biomass technologies, and financing of biomass technologies, including through the Bio-Energy Fund in partnership with the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA). Difference between confirmed co-financing at CEO Endorsement Request and the indicative co-financing in the PIF:

The total confirmed co-financing at the time of submission of the CEO Endorsement Request is USD 5.397 million. The indicative co-financing outlined in the PIF was USD 6.7 million. The largest difference between the indicative contributions at the PIF stage compared to the confirmed figures is associated with the co-financing from CSO grantees. The indicative value of these contributions outlined in the PIF totalled USD 2.4 million, which is more than the GEF grant. The confirmed value of co-financing represents approximately a ratio of 1:1 to the grant portion of the project budget. The confirmed co-financing from investments mobilized under the EIECP and from BSRDA are lower than the indicative amounts included in the PIF. However, the USD 420,000 contribution from UNDP was not included at the PIF stage.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	673,974	64,027
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	905,844	86,055
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	516,301	49,049
Total Grant Resources(\$)					2,096,119.00	199,131.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **false**

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	16,076	1,527
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	21,608	2,053
UNDP	GET	Egypt	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	12,316	1,170
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
11000.00	10000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
11,000.00	3,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	7,000.00		

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)
20000.00	20000.00	0.00	0.00

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)
	19,700.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)
20,000.00	300.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	0	20700	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	6000	1200	0	0

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

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	3,000			
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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 ₂ e (direct)		20,700		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	3,000	1,200		
Anticipated start year of accounting		2021		
Duration of accounting		20		

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 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	5,000	5,000		
Male	5,000	5,000		
Total	10000	10000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Area of land restored (Core Indicator 3): The total estimated area of land restored is broken down by 3,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands restored (Sub-Indicator 3.1) and 7,000 ha of wetlands restored (Sub-Indicator 3.4). Restoration-rehabilitation projects are expected in each of the four landscapes, including interventions on combatting soil salinization, enhancing soil and water conservation, improving soil fertility, restoring degraded agricultural land, combatting desertification, and restoring coastal wetlands. The 10,000-ha overall end target for Core Indicator 3 is slightly lower than the 11,000-ha indicative value outlined in the PIF. Based on stakeholder consultations during the PPG phase and review of achievements during the earlier operational phases, 10,000 ha was agreed by the project development team to be a realistic end target.

Landscapes under improved practices (Core Indicator 4): The total estimated area of landscapes under improved practices in OP7 is 20,000 ha, broken down by 19,700 ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (Sub-Indicator 4.1) and 300 ha landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (Sub-Indicator 4.3). Projects envisaged under the biodiversity focal area include participatory monitoring and management of critical ecosystems, community-supported ecotourism associated with protected areas, and improved agroecological practices benefitting.

Estimated GHG emissions mitigated (Core Indicator 6): Based on experiences during earlier SGP operational phases and potential in the project landscapes identified during PPG consultations, an estimated 20,700 tons of CO₂e (lifetime direct) and 1,200 tons of CO₂e (lifetime indirect) are estimated to be avoided through community RE and EE interventions (Sub-Indicator 6.2: Emissions avoided). - see detailed calculations in Annex 14 to the Project Document.

Direct beneficiaries (Core Indicator 11): The end target is based on experience during earlier operational phases; the project's gender mainstreaming target for the proportion of direct female beneficiaries is 50%. The project will also contribute to achievement of the targets outlined in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ,which is under development at the time of developing the Project Document. The project is aligned with the following draft 2030 Action Targets of the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: ?Target 1. By 2030, [50%] of land and sea areas globally are under spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, retaining most of the existing intact and wilderness areas, and allow to restore [X%] of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial natural ecosystems and connectivity among them. ?Target 7. By 2030, increase contributions to climate change mitigation adaption and disaster risk reduction from nature-based solutions and ecosystems-based approaches, ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity. ?Target 9. By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%]. ?Target 11. By 2030, increase benefits from biodiversity and green/blue spaces for human health and well-being, including the proportion of people with access to such spaces

by at least [100%], especially for urban dwellers. ?Target 13. By 2030, integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts. ?Target 19. By 2030, ensure that quality information, including traditional knowledge, is available to decision makers and public for the effective management of biodiversity through promoting awareness, education and research. ?Target 20. By 2030, ensure equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and ensure rights over relevant resources of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls as well as youth, in accordance with national circumstances. footnote 1: CBD, 17 August 2020. Update of the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1. The term ?post-2020 global biodiversity framework? is used as a placeholder pending decision on the final name at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

There are no significant changes in alignment with the project design of the original PIF. A few of the indicative outcomes and outputs outlined in the PIF were revised and merged through the process of refining the project design during the project preparation phase. These changes are described below in Section 1a.3.

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

Egypt is uniquely positioned midway between Africa and Asia, with its long coasts of the Mediterranean Sea in the north (approximately 970 km) and the Red Sea in the east (approximately 1,100 km). The country covers an area of about one million square kilometres, with arid desert ecosystems covering 92% of the country's surface area. The remaining 8% of the country is arable, in areas restricted to the Nile Valley, the Nile Delta and a few oases scattered in the Western Desert.[1] Given the country's physiography, Egypt's population is unevenly distributed, where 99% of Egyptians live on less than 4% of the land.

Between 1990 and 2015, the population of the country grew by 30 million inhabitants, with an annual growth rate of 2.2%. Population forecasts indicate that growth rates will remain over 2% until 2040, at which time the Egyptian population is estimated to reach 116 million. High population growth rates and densities pose formidable pressure on the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.[2]

Egypt has a rich and diverse biota, supported by a wide range of habitats, including desert ecosystems, mountains, coastal wetlands and mangroves, and coral reefs. Overall, Egyptian biodiversity comprises 800 species of non-flowering plants, 2,302 flowering plants, 111 species of mammals, 480 species of birds, 109 species of reptiles, 9 species of amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish.[3]

Biodiversity and terrestrial and marine ecosystems provide essential services to the following three main economic sectors in the country: agriculture, fisheries-aquaculture, and tourism. In 2017, the agriculture sector represented approximately 12% of Egypt's gross domestic product (GDP) and provided employment to 20.6% of the work force.[4] However, the proportion of sustainably managed production landscapes for agriculture is limited outside protected areas. With the rapid growth in the aquaculture sector, Egypt ranks sixth globally among aquaculture producing countries. Egypt still imports over 311,000 metric tons of fish annually to cover the national demand, while exporting only about 48,000 metric tons. The pond culture is the main culture system, which represents 85% of the

total aquaculture area of 125,000 ha. The vast majority of fish ponds are located close to the Nile Delta lakes, where land is leased to or owned by fish farms and supplied with water from canals draining agricultural systems.

Tourism is one of the most important sectors in Egypt contributing 11.3% of GDP in 2017, with approximately 12% of the total labour force employed in this sector. The country's protected areas support Egypt's rapidly expanding ecotourism industry, with significant potential for poverty reduction in the most marginal rural communities.[5] With the stabilization of the political situation in Egypt, it is expected that foreign tourism will exceed the figure prior to 2010 of 14.7 million tourists. In fact, the tourism sector recorded its highest revenues in 2018-2019; however, these economic gains were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, starting in March 2020 when inflows of foreign tourists were significantly reduced.[6]

With more than 95% of the country's water needs met by the Nile River, Egypt has been susceptible to climate shocks throughout its long history, and several sectors are highly vulnerable to forecasted climate change. The fast-growing population is expected to double its water demand in the coming 30-40 years. Climate change will aggravate water scarcity. In addition, recent tensions between Egypt and Nile Basin countries and the construction of the Renaissance Dam in Ethiopia could affect water quotas and the actual supply that reaches the country. Lower agricultural productivity is affected by increased frequency of droughts and floods. Moreover, the change in the temperature patterns, humidity regimes, and increase in extreme weather events will affect the frequency of the occurrence of pest infestations and plant diseases. Saltwater intrusion into groundwater will cause soil salinization, deterioration of crop quality, loss of productivity, and freshwater fisheries. This will have negative impacts on the Delta's agricultural land, particularly the northern areas bordering the Mediterranean coast. Climate change is also expected to exert multiple threats to coastal zone ecosystems, including seawater intrusion into agricultural lands, erosion from intensified flood and storm surges, and declining fish stocks resulting from changes to seawater temperature and acidity. Bleaching of coral reefs in the Red Sea and potential damage to antiquities will have adverse impacts on the tourism sector. These compounded consequences will have severe socioeconomic impacts, from the destruction of homes and infrastructure on land, loss of lives and migration of affected populations, increase in unemployment, rise in the occurrence of health hazards, and spread of disease and food shortages.

The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) has been operating in Egypt for more than 25 years to strengthen the capacities of local communities to deliver mutually beneficial conservation and socioeconomic outcomes. Over the past two decades, SGP has developed strong multi-stakeholder partnerships with local governments, national agencies and ministries, NGOs, the private sector and others. SGP interventions have been implemented in alignment with government priorities and programmes and have supported Egypt in meeting international commitments. The view of national stakeholders shared during PPG phase consultations is that the SGP is a successful and visible program that continues to generate positive environmental and development benefits, with strong buy-in and ownership at local and national levels.

Starting in the GEF's sixth Operational Phase (OP6), Egypt was included in the Upgraded Country Programmes (UCP) of the SGP. With the aim of achieving impacts at scale and ensuring sustainability of results achieved, the programme level strategy of the UCP is based on a landscape approach,

following the UNDP approach of community-driven planning and management of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS).[7] Expanding upon the achievements initiated during OP6 in the target landscapes of Greater Cairo, Fayoum, and Upper Egypt, the OP7 project also includes the West Delta landscape, an important region of the country including the second largest city of Alexandria, within the Nile Delta and extending along the Mediterranean coast (see country map in *Annex E*).

Greater Cairo Landscape: The Cairo and Giza governorates are included in the Greater Cairo metropolitan area. Cumulatively, there are approximately 20 million inhabitants in these two governorates, comprising roughly 20% of the population of the country. The Greater Cairo region is considered the largest urban area in Africa and the Middle East and is the densest in terms of population per square kilometre. The Cairo Governorate is mostly urban, whereas 40% of the Giza Governorate is rural.[8]

The Greater Cairo metropolitan area dominates the Egyptian economy and hosts the largest concentration of businesses, industries and services. The majority of the population of Greater Cairo works in the service and industrial sectors, with a significant proportion of the working population employed in the informal sector[9]. In terms of agricultural activity, Cairo comprises only 822 feddans (345 ha) of cultivated area and hosts eight local agricultural associations, whereas Giza governorate contains 171,186 feddans (71,898 ha) of cultivated area and includes 26 agricultural associations and cooperatives.[10]

The densely populated and rapidly growing population in the Greater Cairo landscape creates chronic pressure on the local environment and on urban infrastructure. Air pollution is one of the most pressing environmental problems as it impacts public health as well as quality of life and productivity on a daily basis. Major causes of the exceptionally high particulate matter air pollution in Cairo include vehicle exhaust emissions, municipal solid waste burning, burning of fields and agricultural wastes, industrial operations like lead smelting and cement, and desert dust. The air pollution is exacerbated by Cairo's specific topography and climate that create conditions especially favourable to poor air quality. Despite the relatively high rates of solid waste collection in the more affluent districts of Cairo, waste management in the vast informal settlements and rural areas remains a major challenge. The overall waste collection coverage is estimated at 70% and 60% for Cairo and Giza respectively, whereas waste accumulated in open dumps is estimated at a staggering 8 million m³ for the two governorates.[11]

Improving solid waste management is one of the priority objectives indicated in the landscape strategy for Greater Cairo developed under OP6, and one of the awarded SGP-OP6 grants under the CCM focal area was on raising awareness of local communities, e.g., regarding open burning of wastes. This grant complemented the UNDP-GEF full size project *Electronic waste ?Protect Human Health and the Environment from Unintentional Releases of POPS Originating from Incineration and Open Burning of Health Care and Electronic Waste?* (GEF ID 4392). The OP7 project will further advocate for improved management practices, linking up with the green recovery and One Health principles in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OP6 grant projects also covered promotion of energy efficient street lighting and expanding the application of solar energy solutions in public buildings, including youth centres, schools, mosques,

and churches. With respect to the biodiversity focal area, OP6 grants were awarded for increasing awareness and environmental education, supporting sustainable ecotourism activities and development of visitor management programmes for the Wadi Degla and Petrified Forest protected areas.

Wadi Degla was declared a national protected area by Ministerial Decree No. 47 of 1999. The protected area covers approximately 60 km² and is situated at the eastern side of Maadi District, on the east bank of the Nile, roughly 10 km southeast of the centre of Cairo. The protected area harbours globally threatened wildlife, including the dorcas gazelle (*Gazella dorcas* ? VU), and hosts 75 types of native plants and 20 kinds of reptiles. Wadi Degla is part of a limestone plateau, with unique geological formations, including deep canyons. The protected area has important ecological values, supporting conservation of an ecosystem unique to Egypt's northern desert, and providing important habitat such as caves, which are refugia for bats and many bird species, including rock doves and owls. The protected area is divided into zones, including a core area and a managed resource zone, which is considered a buffer zone to protect the core and provide sustainable use opportunities for local communities.

The Petrified Forest protected area contains several unique palaeobotanical sites with high concentrations of permineralized tree trunks. The petrified wood in the Maadi Forest is believed to date back to the Oligocene era and may be attributed to one of the ancient branches of the Nile River.[12]. The protected area, which was designated in 1989, is one of the most important geological heritage sites in Egypt, and one of the few remaining sites within the Greater Cairo area where desert wilderness and some wildlife can still be seen. The protected area is under threat by sprawling urbanization and illegal collection of petrified wood.

The Greater Cairo landscape is complex and expansive, with a number of challenging environmental issues to be further addressed under OP7, including further strengthening participatory conservation, combatting desertification through community solutions, and wider adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

Fayoum landscape: The Fayoum landscape encompasses the Fayoum Governorate, including Fayoum City, and Lake Qarun and the Wadi-El-Rayan protected areas. The Fayoum Governorate is a green natural depression covering an area of 6,068 km² and is situated 90 km southwest of Cairo. The governorate has a population of 3.9 million, 77% of whom live in rural areas. The majority of the population works in agriculture and fishing, the service sector, and construction. The governorate of Fayoum is the ninth poorest in Egypt, with a poverty rate of 35.7%.[13] Poverty is more pronounced in rural areas, and especially in villages that are dependent on agriculture and where irrigation water is scarce.

Fayoum is connected to the Nile river by the Bahr Youssef Canal. Nile sediments make the soils of the depression fertile and sustain the intensive irrigated cultivation on which the population of the governorate mainly depends. The total cultivated area in Fayoum covers 432,513 feddans (181,655 ha), where a variety of crops are grown including fruits such as grapes, figs, and mangoes as well as other traditional crops including wheat, cotton, rice, maize, sugar beets, and sunflowers. Fayoum's agriculture is mainly dependent on the water coming from the Nile through the Bahr Youssef Canal, and is highly vulnerable to any decrease in the canal's water levels and to heat waves. The governorate

hosts a rich community of non-governmental agricultural entities including 35 agrarian reform cooperatives, 169 agricultural credit associations and three water resources cooperative associations.[14]

The cultivated land is classified based on soil fertility and crop productivity as follow: 17% of the total land area is classified as high fertile and high crop productive land in categories I and II, 55% and 23% are classified as medium to low fertility and productivity with categories of III, IV, V, VI. The recently reclaimed land is represented only 5.1% of the total area of the cultivated land. The reasonable low fertility and soil degradation characterized the agricultural land of Fayoum, is the main reason for intensive use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.[15]

There are 128 fish farms in the Fayoum Governorate, covering a cumulative area of approximately 2,750 feddans (1,155 ha). In terms of employment, each feddan of fish farm provides 0.38 job[16]. Therefore, the total number of jobs provided by fish farming in the Fayoum landscape is calculated at 7,237 jobs.

Fayoum is considered one of the most important tourist areas in the country, as it comprises tourism attraction elements, the most significant of which is the meeting between the three agricultural, coastal and desert environments. Pre-historic civilizations, the Pharaonic, Greek, Roman, Coptic and Islamic civilizations emerged there, and the governorate offers many tourist areas such as Ein El Seleen, natural protected areas such as Lake Qarun and Wadi El Rayan, and many monuments such as the Sontert I Obelisk Egypt, Om El Borigat City, Qaroon Palace, Madi monumental city, Coptic monuments such as Virgin Mary Church, El Naqloon Abbey, and Islamic monuments, including the suspended mosque and Qaitabai mosque.

According to the Information and Decision Support Centre in Fayoum Governorate[17], there were 524 apiaries in the governorate, as of 2016. Beekeeping and honey production have garnered increased attention in the country, with market studies showing favourable economic feasibility.[18]

Fayoum faces a number of environmental challenges, many of which are related to water and wastewater. Sewerage network coverage in the governorate is fairly low, falling in the range of 33-55%.[19] Inadequate treatment of agricultural and municipal wastewater result in extensive pollution of drains and waterways in Fayoum, which subsequently impact quality and quantity of water available for aquaculture and agriculture.[20] Fayoum also suffers from widespread poor management of solid waste, starting with collection, transport, recycling, and disposal.

There are two important protected areas in the Fayoum landscape: Lake Qarun and Wadi El Rayan, both Key Biodiversity Areas[21] (KBAs) and national protected areas. Lake Qarun is one of the oldest lakes in Egypt, known to ancient Egyptians as Lake Moeris. It is the third largest lake in the country, 40 km in length, 5.7 km in width, and at 34 m below sea level with depths ranging from 5 m in the east to 12 m in the west. Lake Qarun is the only completely closed lake in Egypt, the drainage water enters the lake through two main drains (El-Wadi and El-Batts drains) holding Fayoum agricultural and domestic pollution. The lake has no outlet and loses water only by evaporation. The lake was historically a fresh water lake, but in time its regime was changed to a drainage reservoir and become a saline lake, having a salinity of approximately 35 g/l. The northern-most shore is composed of

uninhabited desert. The northern shore the lake is an archaeologically sensitive area containing pristine fossils of extinct animals and a petrified forest. It also contains the most complete fossil records of terrestrial primates and marshlands and is of great interest to climatologists. The area is of interest to tourists and researchers, which also imperils its sustainability, due to visitor traffic, pollution, solid waste, and the presence of off-track vehicles. As an important refuge for migratory birds, the lake and surrounding area is a protected area and was designated as a RAMSAR wetland of international importance in 2012.

Lake Qarun was declared a national protected area in 1989. The lacustrine ecology is changing as the salinity of the lake increases, raising concerns that the salinity levels might become too high for many life forms to thrive. Moreover, largely unregulated tourist developments, particularly along the southern shores of the lake, are damaging mudflats, saltmarshes and other water bird habitats. Hunting of water birds also continues to be a threat to the biodiversity of Lake Qarun, partly by recreational hunters, but also by local fish-farmers, an example of typical human-wildlife conflicts at many of Egypt's wetland sites.

The Wadi El Rayan PA, covering more than 175,000 ha is a national protected area, a RAMSAR site, and a World Heritage Site. Wadi El Rayan was originally an arid desert depression located to the south-west of Fayoum, with an average elevation of 43 m below sea-level and a maximum depth of 64 m below sea-level. As of 1973, excess drainage water from Fayoum was diverted into the depression, flooding large parts of it. Two large lakes were formed as a result at different elevations and connected by a swampy channel, creating one of the most important habitats for bird species of national, regional and international importance. The area holds reasonable numbers of wintering birds such as the near-threatened Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) and Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* as well as several threatened species of mammals, including the slender horned gazelle, *Gazella leptoceros*. The lakes and springs play a critical role in the life cycles of a remarkable diversity of species, including 29 fish species, 164 bird species, 24 mammal species, 14 reptile species and 38 plant species. Fishing and agriculture are the major sources of livelihoods for local communities. Potential threats to the site include agricultural and wastewater drainage as well as illegal hunting. Wadi al-Hitan ("Whale Valley"), within the Ramsar Site, was designated as a World Heritage site in 2005 because of "invaluable fossil remains of the earliest, and now extinct, suborder of whales, *Archaeoceti*."

The salt-level in the lake is currently about 2.5 g/l, but it is only a matter of time before it becomes as saline as Lake Qarun. Salinity is expected to remain stable in the first lake, since it is constantly flushed. The greatest threat to the area comes from a land-claim project which aims at cultivating 15,000 feddan (6,300 ha) of desert, right in the centre of Wadi El Rayan Protected Area. Fish-farming, taking place in and around the lakes, is a potential source of water-pollution. In addition there is a possibility that water flow to the lakes will be severely reduced in the future as part of the drainage-water recycling policy the government is applying to conserve water. This would lead to a significant reduction in the size of the second lake or its complete disappearance. The salinity of the second lake is likewise increasing, and this is likely to diminish its importance for water birds. Illegal hunting and especially falcon-catching is also a continued threat. The growing number of fisherfolk and fish-farms is also causing increased disturbance to wintering water birds. The tarmac road, encircling the two lakes of Wadi El Rayan, has made the area more accessible, drastically increasing the opportunities for illegal hunting and habitat destruction.

The Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation programme, one of the OP7 project's co-financing partners, has been working with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) in developing management and infrastructure for the projected areas in Fayoum. There is also a GEF-6 medium sized project under implementation on 'Effective Management of Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qarun Protected Areas' (GEF ID 9671). SGP OP6 grants were awarded for projects on strengthening ecotourism improvement of the waterfall area in the Wadi El Rayan protected area and development of traditional handicrafts and assistance in marketing them to create sustainable jobs, especially for women, and awareness raising of tourists and local communities on biodiversity and the importance of the protected areas. OP6 grants have also been made to reduce GHG emissions through improved management of agricultural wastes, raise awareness regarding energy efficiency, and sustainable transport through a bicycle-sharing scheme at Fayoum University. Threats to the desert and wetland ecosystems in the Fayoum landscape are extensive, and there are pressing needs to further strengthen participatory conservation and restoration models, and facilitate wider adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions. Envisaged interventions under OP7 include community-supported ecotourism, improving agricultural practices to benefit biodiversity, restoring degraded agricultural land and enhancing water conservation, solar PV pumping for irrigation, LED lighting, and composting agricultural wastes for reducing burning and increasing supply of organic fertilizer.

Upper Egypt landscape. The Upper Egypt region consists of the Nile River valley South of the Delta, from Cairo to Lake Nasser. The project landscape focuses on the Qena and Luxor governorates.

This landscape comprises the hyper-arid desert of Upper Egypt, where annual rainfall is typically negligible, and irrigation from the Nile River is generally the only water source to sustain permanent agriculture and other forms of primary production. However, over the past years, the Egyptian government has implemented various large-scale water management and diversion schemes to stabilise water delivery for irrigation. The Upper Nile is one of the KBAs designated in Egypt. The river forms an elongate wetland that meanders through the densely populated agricultural landscape of the Nile valley. Since the closure of the Aswan High Dam in 1964, dense swamp vegetation became established in many downstream riverbanks, creating important water bird habitats. About 40% of the arable land in this section of the Nile valley is cultivated with sugarcane; other crops include date-palms, maize, wheat, and alfalfa.

Qena and Luxor governorates together cover an area of 12,525 km². The largely rural governorate of Qena has a total population of 3.4 million inhabitants. The governorate comprises 203,978 feddans (85,671 ha) of cultivated lands and hosts 182 agricultural associations and cooperatives[22]. Luxor has a higher proportion of urban residents and comprises 85,491 feddans (35,906 ha) of cultivated lands and 79 agricultural associations and cooperatives. Qena is the largest producer of sugarcane in Egypt, with a production of 5.8 million tons in 2016/2017; while neighbouring Luxor produced 3 million tons in the same year.[23] In 2012, it was estimated that sugarcane was grown by 309,000 farmers across Egypt, as well as providing employment to a further 30,000 workers at the factories and mills processing the crops. In turn, sugar crops accounted for 7.5% of Egypt's total agricultural area, and 10% of agricultural GDP. In addition to sugarcane, Qena has a competitive edge in agriculture thanks to its microclimate, which enables the cultivation of some typical summer crops like tomatoes during the winter season.[24]

Luxor on the other hand is heavily dependent on tourism with around 70% of its workforce working in the sector. The governorate is home to 1.3 million inhabitants and a myriad of archaeological and historical sites (70% of Egypt's antiquities), making it one of the largest tourist destinations for both domestic and international visitors. Thanks to the global significance of its ancient heritage, Luxor has been the subject of several past and current development efforts aiming to turn the city into an open museum. However, Luxor's heavy dependence on tourism means that a large sector of its population is highly vulnerable to the economic downturns of this volatile sector.

The Upper Egypt governorates lag significantly behind the rest of the country in terms of economic growth, employment generation, connectivity, and access to services. Qena is the third poorest governorate in Upper Egypt with a poverty rate of 57.8%, Luxor is the sixth with a poverty rate of 41.2%.[25] Rural areas of Upper Egypt are found to have the lowest living standards in Egypt as measured by household consumption (2009)[26]. The Upper Egypt landscape has low sewerage coverage in the range of 12-33%.[27] Formal private sector employment in upper Egypt represents only 7-13% of total employment upper Egypt, whereas the informal sector represents an astounding 46-54% of employment and 18-29% of the workforce are employed in the public sector[28].

Upper Egypt is also the most conservative region of the country, with social norms that severely restrict women's mobility, employment, and education. Illiteracy is high, more so among rural residents and women. In Upper Egypt, illiteracy rates are higher than the national average, especially for women. According to CAPMAS statistics, the illiteracy rate is 20.1% nationwide with the rate for men at 14.4% and for women at 26%. [29] In Qena and Luxor, the gender gap is even wider with (37.7%) for females and (20.9%) for males in Qena, and 32.5 % for females and 19.7% for males in Luxor.[30]

Qena is one of the highest priority Egyptian governorates in terms of the need for solid waste management investment, with a collection rate of only 0.08 kg/capita/day[31]. Agricultural waste presents a particular challenge in this landscape, sugar cane straw is especially abundant and amounts to more than 500,000 tons per year in Luxor and more than one million tons per year in Qena[32]. A significant proportion of agricultural waste ends up burned in open fields or dumped into waterways, creating air and water pollution, contributing to soil degradation, poor health and increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Several ongoing efforts address the economic development challenges and infrastructure shortcomings of Upper Egypt governorates, most notably the ongoing World Bank's Upper Egypt Local Development Project, which aims to enhance the business environment and competitiveness as well as to improve infrastructure and service delivery in the governorates of Qena and Sohag. Qena was also selected as one of four pilot Egyptian governorates for the National Solid Waste Management Programme.

Luxor is an obligatory stop for the 'cultural' tourist to Egypt for its incredible wealth of antiquities and the natural beauty of the Theban Mountains and the Nile River. Nile cruises are the most valuable nature-based tourism in this landscape of Luxor and Qena Governorates. Although the landscape possesses the important Dababia protected area, this site has been largely neglected and has not been considered as a tourism destination due to the lack of marketing and awareness. Dababia is listed as a tentative UNESCO World Heritage Site, for its geological significance.

Awarded grants under OP6 included interventions on raising awareness of energy efficiency, promoting solar powered irrigation systems, installing biogas units for cooking energy and production of organic fertilizer, and introducing rooftop solar PV systems. The Upper Egypt landscape is expansive and continued landscape level action is needed on improved agricultural practices through best agroecological management practices, enhancing soil and water conservation through rehabilitation of irrigation canals, expanding application of renewable energy solutions, introducing sustainable transport (e.g., bicycle-sharing), and strengthening beekeeping and honey production practices (please note that this does not include harvesting honey from or otherwise disturbing wild bee colonies).

West Delta landscape. The West Delta landscape for the OP7 project covers the two neighbouring northern governorates of Alexandria and El Beheira. Poverty is less pronounced in these two governorates compared to the governorates of the Upper Egypt and Fayoum landscapes; however, there are deep pockets of poverty in these two governorates, resulting in unequal access to basic services and negative social outcomes for the most vulnerable groups. In Alexandria, 11.6% of the population lives below the poverty line, and in the rural governorate of Beheira, 23.7% live below the poverty line. [33]

The Alexandria Governorate is the second largest urban governorate in the country with a largely (>80%) urban population of 5.4 million inhabitants.[34] It is located in the northern part of Egypt covering 2,818 km² directly on the **Mediterranean Sea**, hosting one of the country's most important harbours. Alexandria is regarded as a commercial and industrial hub whose industrial production represents about 40% of Egypt's total industrial output. Alexandria's industrial and commercial activities include shipping, warehousing, banking, **food processing**, and the production of petrochemicals and cement steel and manufacturing industries (textiles, fertilizers, plastics and chemicals). Industry is Alexandria's main employment sector. A large proportion of Egypt's **foreign trade** passes through Alexandria's two main commercial harbours, Alexandria and Al-Dekhayla, through which most of the country's oil, gas, cotton, fruits, vegetables, perfumes, and a variety of finished goods are exported.

The El Beheira Governorate is located to the east of Alexandria and covers an area of 9,826 km². In contrast to Alexandria, the majority (61-82%) of El Beheira's 6.6 million inhabitants reside in rural areas.[35] El Beheira relies heavily on its agricultural sector as the chief economic activity, and its agricultural output represents a large share of Egypt's agricultural production. The governorate hosts 648,330 feddans (272,299 ha) of cultivated area and is home to 554 agricultural associations and cooperatives. Agriculture primarily depends on flood irrigation from the Al Mahmoudeya Canal and new water projects at Al Nubaria, with only a minority of farmed lands on the North West Coast dependent on rain. Whereas most (77-99%[36]) of the Alexandria Governorate, apart from the peri-urban and informal settlements, is serviced with potable water supply and sewerage, only 12-33% of El Beheira's households are connected to sewerage.

The West Delta landscape comprises large stretches of the Nile delta coastline that is highly prone to flooding due to climate-induced rising sea levels. Sea level rise is anticipated to further exacerbate the currently high shoreline erosion rates, accompanied by soil subsidence at varying rates and rising levels of salinity[37]. Pollution and increased salinity also further limit the availability of safe water supply, which is already in decline. The pollution of the Mahmoudeya Canal poses another threat to the

landscape's scarce water resources and has led to deteriorated quality of potable and irrigation water. The canal's pollution is mainly caused by untreated effluents from villages and towns that lack proper sanitation, in addition to inadequately treated agricultural and industrial wastewater discharged into agricultural drains[38]. In Alexandria, Lake Maryut suffers extensive pollution due to untreated and primary treated municipal sewage and prevalent untreated industrial wastewater discharge.

Limited access to water resources, rising salinity and the anticipated increase in extreme weather events will have direct impacts on the agriculture sector across the landscape. The El Beheira Governorate is particularly vulnerable to detrimental impacts of climate change to its agricultural sector, largely due to poor infrastructure[39], whereas agricultural output from Alexandria is threatened by reduced crop yields and net value.

As is the case across many regions in Egypt, poor solid waste management is a major problem in rural areas of Alexandria and El Beheira governorates, and there are increasing concerns regarding the impacts of marine litter on coastal and marine ecosystems. El Beheira has a waste collection coverage of only 50%, one of the lowest in Egypt, whereas Alexandria fares better in this respect with a collection coverage of 65% (2012 estimates)[40]. This poor collection coverage and the absence of adequate disposal sites lead to the accumulation of an estimated total of 945,000 m³ in open dumps in the two governorates. The West Delta landscape also suffers from significant air pollution, which results from burning of agricultural waste and emissions from the transportation sector.

The biodiversity in both governorates is highly diverse, due to the wider range of habitats, including agriculture and arid habitats, as well as fresh and marine waters habitats. Moreover, the Egyptian northern coastal desert receives the highest rainfall in the country (up to 200 mm annually) and has a fair amount of vegetative cover and the greatest national floral diversity. The influence of coastal rains extends up to 60 km inland. The Mediterranean coast of Egypt is one of the richest areas in biodiversity in the entire country.

The northern coast contains numerous habitats including coastal dunes, tidal flats, sand formations, part of the Sallum Plateau, salt marshes, saline depressions, non-saline depressions, inland ridges, inland plateaus, wadis, cultivated lands, road sides, and summer resorts. The West Delta landscape includes three important coastal lakes and wetlands, namely Lake Burullus, Lake Idku, and Lake Maryut, each of which are designated as KBAs.

Lake Burullus is a large, shallow, fresh-to-brackish coastal lagoon located between the two Nile branches forming the delta. The lake is elongate in shape, extending approximately 54 km east to west. The north shores are dominated by salt marshes and mudflats and the southern shore is bordered by extensive reed-swamps. Lake Burullus is a national protected area and was designated in 1988 as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands. The lake is one of Egypt's most important wetlands for wintering waterfowl, including *Anas penelope*, *Anas chlypeata*, *Aythya nyroca*, *Aythya ferina*, *Fulica atra* and *Tringa totanus*. Because of its relative isolation, Burullus is also an important breeding site for several water birds and wetland species. About 35 species of birds are known to breed, of which the most prominent are *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Porphyrio*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Vanellus spinosus*, *Glareola pratincola*, *Caprimulgus aegyptius*, *Ceryle rudis*, *Centropus senegalensis* and *Acrocephalus*

stentoreus. The endemic delta subspecies of *Calandrella rufescens* (*Calandrella rufescens nicolli*) probably has its largest population in the vicinity of Burullus. With respect to non-bird biodiversity, the Mediterranean shore of the lake is a potential breeding site for endangered marine turtles? *Caretta* (EN), and the reed cat - *Felis chaus* (LC) is known to occur in important numbers[41].

Large swathes of the open-water area of the lake and marsh areas have been lost over the past 40 years due to ongoing drainage and reclamation at the eastern, western, and southern margins. Moreover, landward migration of coastal sandbars at the northern side of the lake is a consequence of severe coastal erosion. The lake receives increasing quantities of agriculture drainage water laden with pesticides and fertilizer, contributing to the eutrophication and pollution of the lake ecosystem. Fisheries have also been impacted from agricultural pollution, fluctuating salinity levels, and expansion of reed-swamps. The high level of fishing activity on the lake, as well as water bird poaching have affected birdlife. There have also been infrastructure threats to the ecosystem, including the highway that runs through the sandbar north of the lake, which has significantly increased accessibility and development pressures.

Lake Idku is a shallow wetland located west of the Rosetta Nile branch, at the western part of the Nile Delta. The lake is situated approximately 30 km east of Alexandria. The area of the lake has decreased from 28,500 feddans (11,970 ha) to about 12,000 feddans (5,040 ha) as a result of agricultural reclamation. The lake can be divided into three well-defined basins: eastern, central, and western. Most of the lake margins are covered with dense growths of emergent plants, including *Typha latifolia* and *Phragmites australis*, which cover about 50% of the lake's area. Saltmarshes and high dunes, as well as some orchards, are found on the sandbar separating the lake from the Mediterranean. Three main drains discharge into the lake, while the Bughaz El Maadia Canal provides a connection with the sea. The water in the lake is mainly fresh but increases in salinity towards the Bughaz and during the summer. The drainage water contains inputs of domestic, industrial, and agricultural wastewater discharged from the El Beheira Governorate and beyond. The lake is surrounded by dense urban, agriculture, and fish farming activities. Lake Idku supports a fishery of modest importance; total fish production of the lake was 6,206 tons in 2009, constituting 3.9% of fish production from the Egyptian lakes or 5.2% from the production of the northern lakes. Lake Idku is facing the same threats as other delta wetlands, including drainage and reclamation, pollution, water bird poaching, and infrastructure encroachment.

Lake Maryut is the westernmost of the northern delta wetlands, forming the southern border of the city of Alexandria. The lake was formerly fairly large, but late in the nineteenth century the western half was cut off by a railway embankment and transformed into an extensive salina, now known as Malahet Maryut, which is seasonally flooded (usually during winter). The remaining part of this lake is made up of several fragments, dissected by roads and embankments. What remains of the lake proper is brackish, receiving agricultural drainage water through several drains (the most important of these is the Qala Drain), as well as large quantities of municipal and industrial effluent from the city of Alexandria. The lake has no direct connection with the Mediterranean, and is maintained at a level of approximately 2.8 m below sea level by a pumping station at El Max. Much of the lake shore is fringed by extensive *Typha/Phragmites* marshes. The lake still supports a fishery, with *Tilapia* sp. making up

most of the production.[42] In recent years, approximately 1,000 feddans (420 ha) were separated from the lake and reclaimed as fish ponds.

Like other delta lakes, Lake Maryut is impacted by anthropogenic pollution, urban encroachment, and solid waste dumping. The lake is eutrophic and considered one of the most polluted wetland ecosystems in the country. The level of disturbance is particularly high because of the close proximity of Alexandria's urban and industrial sprawl.

Wadi El-Natron is another important ecosystem in the landscape, located in the Western (Libyan) Desert adjacent to the Nile Delta (23 m below sea level), approximately 90 km south of Alexandria and 110 km northwest of Cairo. The wadi is about 50 km long, narrow at both ends (2.6 km in the north and 1.24 km in the south) and wider in the middle, about 8 km. The depression contains several alkaline lakes, natron-rich salt deposits, salt marshes, and freshwater marshes.

Threats and root causes:

Over exploitation of biodiversity and **deterioration of habitats** are being caused by a multitude of drivers, including incomplete mainstreaming of biodiversity in production sectors, uncoordinated infrastructure development and urban sprawl, unsustainable agricultural practices, insufficient knowledge sharing, weak and conflicting governance conditions, climate change, and poverty and limited nature-based livelihoods for local communities. Many of these drivers are also increasing the threats associated with **pollution**, of water resources, land, and air. **Invasive species** are increasing in many terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in the country, partly driven by climate change, but also by the lack of knowledge sharing and insufficient monitoring. **Land degradation** and consequential **deterioration of soil resources** are also resulting from poor agricultural practices, climate change, and several of the drivers affecting biodiversity across many landscapes in Egypt.

Long-term vision of the project:

The long-term vision of the project is to generate multiple benefits for biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, and the well-being of local communities through participatory, integrated land and resource management approaches implemented across socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes.

Barriers analysis:

The following barriers are currently impeding the achievement of this vision.

Barrier 1: CBOs have weak organisational capacities to implement initiatives of their own design. CBOs in Greater Cairo, Upper Egypt, West Delta and Fayoum landscapes have weak organisational capacities to plan, manage, and implement initiatives of their own design efficiently and effectively, and suffer from weak adaptive management capacities i.e. to innovate, test alternatives,

monitor and evaluate results, and adjust practices and techniques to meet challenges and lessons learned.

Barrier 2: Limited evidence-based policies for enabling CBOs to manage their own landscapes.

Evidence-based policies are absent that enable CBOs to manage their landscapes adaptively. Integrated landscape approaches were introduced in the Greater Cairo, Upper Egypt, Fayoum, and Delta (East) landscapes under OP6; however, it will take time for local civil society organisations to attain sufficient capacities and experiences in participatory natural resource management.

Barrier 3: CBOs lack strategic vision for ecosystem and natural resource management.

CBOs in rural landscapes, as well as community organizations in urban areas, lack a larger, more long-term vision and strategy for ecosystem and resource management. Traditionally, projects run by CBOs have been rather narrow in scope, based on specific capacities and limited resources available. There have been few real opportunities for CBOs to develop and implement broader, landscape-level visions.

Barrier 4: CBOs rarely coordinate to pursue collective action for landscape management.

CBOs rarely coordinate with other community organizations to pursue collective action for global environmental and landscape management outcomes at scale. CBOs typically have limited opportunities to coordinate across a landscape scale with other CBOs and potentially cooperative stakeholders, including governmental departments, larger NGOs, private sector, or donor-funded initiatives.

Barrier 5: Conventional relationships between communities and government often impede genuine participatory landscape management.

Conventional relationships and interactions between communities and government and non-governmental organizations often hinder the full exercise of community agency in planning and decision making, thereby reducing ownership, commitment, and proactive efforts.

Barrier 6: CBOs lack sufficient financial management skills and financial resources for scaling up successful interventions.

CBOs lack sufficient financial management skills and financial resources to lower the risks associated with innovating land and resource management practices and sustaining or scaling up successful experiences. Fund-raising capacities of CBOs, particularly in the rural landscapes, are generally limited, and considering the large expanses of the target landscapes, cost of travel and limited opportunity for direct interaction constrain collaboration and leveraging economies of scale.

Barrier 7: Knowledge from project experiences is not systematically recorded and disseminated.

Knowledge from project experience with innovation/experimentation is not systematically recorded, analysed or disseminated to policy makers or other communities, organizations and programmes. Resources are allocated on SGP projects for knowledge management, e.g., through development of case studies, but there has been limited consolidation of the experiences gained and lessons learned and used for advocacy purposes for policy reform and upscaling.

These barriers result in poor coordination among stakeholders within the landscape, inadequate skills and capacities, lack of awareness and information, inadequate funding and incentives, and poor implementation of projects and other initiatives.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Baseline scenario

The results achieved during earlier SGP operational phases, and from investments of the Government of Egypt and funding from other donors provide a solid foundation upon which the OP7 project will build. The Government of Egypt is committed to improving biodiversity conservation, restoring degraded lands, and mainstreaming low-emissions development. These environmental objectives are underpinned by the government's priority to increase the well-being of citizens across the country, particularly those in marginalized and under-developed communities. The SGP has a strong track record in Egypt, developing capacities among the civil society sector for genuine participation in sustainable development initiatives throughout the country.

Through the focused investment of GEF resources, together with strong cofinancing, the OP7 project will bring together and build on baseline investments, demonstrating the multiple benefits associated with integrated landscape approaches, where landscape management is based on consensus among multiple stakeholders. Driven by bottom-up approaches in accordance with the SGP mandate of empowering local communities, the project will bring together multiple actors to collectively generate global environmental benefits and strengthen socio-ecological resilience.

Baseline - SGP in Egypt:

The GEF Small Grants Programme has been a fundamental part of the GEF's support to the generation of global environmental benefits and the implementation of the UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, and other multilateral environmental agreements in Egypt since 1992, when the Egypt SGP Country Programme was first established. By supporting community level initiatives in the GEF focal areas, the Country Programme has assisted Egyptian civil society over the years to become more aware of how global environmental problems are manifested locally, how these affect them concretely and what can be done to address them through local sustainable development actions that produce global environmental benefits.

Since 1992, the Egypt SGP Country Programme has supported more than 270 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) with over USD 9 million in grants for more than 350 distinct initiatives. Over the past two decades, the Country Programme has followed a trajectory of greater and greater strategic focus both geographically and thematically, as articulated in successive Country Programme Strategies, guided, reviewed, and approved by the National Steering

Committee (NSC). In the early stages of Country Programme implementation, grants were awarded for a wide variety of community projects. As experience was gained and knowledge acquired regarding efficiency and effectiveness of project interventions and NGO/CBO capacities, the Country Programme Strategy became more focused on specific areas of action, aligning NGO/CBO capabilities and sustainable development objectives with national priorities, global environmental commitments and emerging institutional and organizational capacities. Using the knowledge and experience gained from global and national landscape level initiatives delivered by SGP Country Programmes worldwide ? through COMPACT and COMDEKS initiatives and individual SGP Country Programme approaches - SGP Egypt in OP6 followed a landscape approach focusing on four landscapes: Greater Cairo, Fayoum, Upper Egypt and East Delta. By adopting the landscape approach, the SGP enables local actors to better understand the complex relationship they have with a given environment and how best to effect sustainable impacts on the landscape through their individual and collective efforts.

Several key lines of work that have been developed successfully over the years of Country Programme implementation, and which have continued in OP6, include expanding the use of renewable energy (RE) applications such as biogas digestors for GHG emissions reduction and the production of high-quality organic fertilisers. Based on a PPG survey^[43] of previous SGP grantees, positive feedback was reported with respect to the biogas interventions. The investments were timely considering the increase of energy prices, difficulty of accessing energy in some locations, and also given the co-benefit of generating compost to replace expensive artificial fertilizer. The biogas produced was used for home cooking which saved time and effort the family previously spent to acquire liquified petroleum gas cylinders. Some farmers noted as well improved plant productivity as a result of use of organic compost as fertilizer.

CCM projects have also included solar PV panels for residential homes, energy efficient lighting, solar water heaters, and promotion of sustainable transport through a bicycle-sharing programme. Due to the high cost of the PV panels, the grants were essential for reducing the initial investment of the beneficiaries. During the implementation of the project there has been a rise in the PV panel cost more than initially estimated due to the flotation of the Egyptian Pound. One of the CSO grantees in Luxor used the ?revolving loan? mechanism to finance small-scale PV installations for farmers and ensure continuity of the project through multiple lending. OP6 also included a good example of collaborative effort in Luxor between the CSO grantee, Upper Egypt Electricity Company, local government, and parliament representatives for energy efficient LED lamps. Awareness raising of energy efficiency practices in homes was targeted towards women in Qena and engagement of youth centers and schools. After overcoming skepticism and low awareness, the solar water heater projects have also delivered targeted benefits for women, as the units have replaced the need for expensive liquified petroleum gas cylinders.

In support of this iterative process towards ever greater knowledge and impact, the Egypt Country Programme?s NSC has promoted collaborative arrangements with NGOs and government programmes and institutions to enhance the effectiveness of community-based components in specific initiatives. The SGP Egypt Country Programme has collaborated with government institutions implementing GEF-financed full-sized projects to provide grants to community organizations for interventions aligned with the objectives of the full-sized projects. GEF full-sized projects have included those focused on

sustainable transport, strengthening protected area financing and management systems, medical and E-waste management, climate change adaptation on the North Coast of Egypt, and grid-connected small-scale PV systems. One of the conclusions of a UNDP-GEF joint evaluation carried out in 2007 stated the following: "GEF SGP has built capacities of environmental NGOs and offered them a great opportunity to expand their activities in global environmental issues and seriously contribute to national environmental initiatives. Meanwhile, after the significant contribution of SGP-funded NGOs to achieving GEF Full Size Projects outputs and outcomes - in particular in the areas of energy efficiency and protected area management, - the role of SGP became an integral part in the design of any new UNDP- GEF project in Egypt."^[44] This conclusion was confirmed in the midterm review of the OP6 project which highlighted the fact that partnering with other projects, including GEF-financed ones, is a clear strength of the project.^[45]

Lessons learned from each small grant project and the cumulative knowledge from different lines of work are disseminated through the SGP Country Programme's network of grantees, through supporting NGOs and their networks and to government programs and institutions. For example, the bicycle-sharing programme implemented under OP6 faced multiple challenges, including delays in receiving approvals from the Ministry of Solidarity and overcoming cultural barriers regarding women riding bicycles. After finally realising the sustainable transport programme at the University of Fayoum, there has been high use among female students and the project has prompted interest in replication.

Solar PV street lighting ended unfavourably from poor performance due to limited cleaning and other maintenance of the PV modules. Energy efficient LED lamps, on the other hand, were successful in the residential sector. Upscaling of the biogas digester interventions has faced barriers associated with the reported burdensome bureaucratic process of obtaining loans from the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA). Scaling up the solar heater installations has also been hindered due to the higher upfront cost of the units compared to traditional water heaters. Sustainable utilization of agricultural waste has been promoted under OP6, but there has been reluctance among some farmers who find it easier to burn the wastes, and there was limited available land for compost windrows. These lessons will be addressed in OP7, as a focus of the capacity building and awareness-raising strategies.

SGP Egypt has also had extensive experience delivering biodiversity and land degradation projects. There have been a number of projects implemented in cooperation with protected area management agencies, e.g., promoting environmental education and strengthening community involvement in ecotourism experiences. OP6 projects include interventions on rehabilitating irrigation canals, resulting in improved soil and water conservation. One of the conclusions of the baseline analysis made during the PPG phase pointed out that apart from green energy projects and a few protected area cooperative interventions, there has been a decrease in the number of biodiversity projects awarded during OP5 and OP6 compared to earlier operational phases in the country. The updated landscape strategies under OP7 will emphasize participatory conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The collaborative relationships nurtured by the SGP programme in Egypt for more than 25 years and the landscape-level platforms initiated during the OP6 project help to promote best practice and provide the knowledge and credibility for policy discussions and development. These relationships have led to the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships in specific geographic areas in support of longer

term, multi-project efforts. Under OP6, SGP succeeded in establishing more partnerships with relevant local authorities, governorates, international agencies such as UN Habitat, UN Women, International Labor Organization (ILO), and FAO, in addition to partnering with GEF full-sized projects. These partners have expressed interest in partnering with SGP and continuing to support the program by providing potential grantees with assistance needed, either technical or financial, when possible. As concluded in the midterm review of the OP6 project, the landscape approach is an incremental process, requiring time and proactive effort to bring the key stakeholders together to act collectively.

Baseline - Government programmes:

Some of the key complementary baseline government programmes are outlined below. The project will foster synergies with these programmes and other initiatives through interaction on multi-stakeholder governance platforms, development of participatory landscape strategies, delivery of capacity building through learning-by-doing approaches and co-financing arrangements on community projects.

Biodiversity

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2015-2030: Mission: "Egypt takes effective and innovative actions to reduce the loss of biodiversity to ensure that by 2030 ecosystems continue to provide their services to all Egyptian and also ensure pressures on biodiversity are reduced; biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed and appropriate policies are effectively implemented in a participatory approach." The NBSAP is underpinned by the following six strategic goals:

- ? **Goal 1:** Conserve and manage terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity to ensure sustainable use and equitable benefits to the people.
- ? **Goal 2:** Sustainable use of natural resources.
- ? **Goal 3:** Access to genetic resources and Benefit sharing (Nagoya protocol, indigenous knowledge and traditions).
- ? **Goal 4:** Improve our understanding of biological diversity and ecosystem functioning in a changing environment.
- ? **Goal 5:** Prepare for climate change and combat desertification
- ? **Goal 6:** Build partnerships and integrate biodiversity into all national development frameworks.

The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP): EEAA and the Prime Minister approved a National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), in 2002. The plan is dealing with all environmental issues related to water, air, soil, waste, biodiversity conservation and biosafety, protection of the marine environment, desertification, global environmental problems such as climate change, economic issues such as environmental accounting, natural resources accounting and economic incentive tools, and finally social issues including minorities, youth, women and old people. The plan identified corrective measures to meet the challenges of biodiversity, included issues related to compliance, strengthening institutional framework, building capacity on biodiversity (e.g. research and monitoring), and preparation of legislation on biodiversity and biotechnology. The plan is designed to be revised and

correctively modified based on the assessment and status of biodiversity assessment and the need to supportive measures.

The National Wetland Strategy (NWLS): The NWLS responds to both the CBD and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The main objectives of the strategy are: (1) Conserve and wisely manage, an ecological basis, wetlands as integral elements of national natural resources; (2) Management, rehabilitation or restoration of a wetland site are implemented with support of governmental agencies and local communities; (3) Create and promote institutional arrangement required for the effective implementation of the planned actions; (4) Ensure community recognition of wetlands as natural assets, and so promote public support to programmes of action for sustainable management of wetlands sites; (5) Identify, on scientific basis, wetlands sited that are ecologically important at local, national and international scales, and ensure their conservation; (6) To survey the wetlands of Egypt, build up a comprehensive inventory of these wetlands and their resources, and to make this information accessible. The NWLS support the existing Protected Areas, and includes 11 programmes: (1) Establishment of the National Council of Wetlands; (2) Survey of wetlands (ecology, hydrology, biodiversity, socio-economic); (3) Selection of sites for wetland nature reserve (national wetland network) and proposals for international (Ramsar) sites; (4) Research programme in selected wetland sites; (5) Formulation of management plans for each site; (6) Public awareness programme; (7) Establishment of national wetland databank; (8) Training and capacity building programme; (9) Inventories of cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge of wetlands in Egypt; (10) Consolidated national laws for wetlands, and means for enforcement; and (11) Financial mechanism to support programmes of action. The Ministry of Planning addressed the NWLS as part of the National Development Plan.

The National Strategy on Ecotourism: The National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan offers a work programme for formulating national policies and strategies for the development of ecotourism in Egypt that takes into accounts various stakeholder. It is based on the NBSAP as well as CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development. Ecotourism is one of the main principles for declaring Protected Areas in Egypt. This ecotourism strategy describes the current situation of ecotourism (positive and negative aspects; links between ecotourism, biodiversity and Protected Areas), main goals, guiding principles, and proposes and national programmes. The National Ecotourism Strategy aims to: establish a world class ecotourism destination: ensure that conservation of Egypt natural heritage is the cornerstone for the ecotourism industry: establish an equilibrium between tourism development needs and natural resources conservation fundamentals; encourage tourism patters which do not degrade the resource base; enhance environmental management of tourism activities; establish procedures for environmental monitoring and evaluation of tourism through enforcement of relevant legislation; promote the use of "clean technologies": enhance public and corporate awareness and undertaking of ecotourism; promote cooperation and networking amongst stakeholders; and maximize benefits to indigenous people from tourism.

Climate Change

Egypt has also shown its commitment towards to the global efforts of combatting climate change and adapting to its consequences by ratifying the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) in 1994, and more recently **the Paris Agreement** in 2017. Egypt was among the

first countries to submit its nationally determined contributions (NDC) in 2017. Moreover, within this context, Egypt has submitted three national communications, and published its first **Biennial Update Report (BUR1)** in December 2019. This commitment is reflected in the many national efforts made during the last decade encouraging low carbon and cleaner infrastructure, industries and increasing the share of renewable energies. Ongoing climate mitigation efforts and future mitigation plans on a national scale are presented in the first BUR and assessed for their mitigation potential in the national **Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS)**[46]. The BUR and LEDS present a number of ongoing and future national projects and programmes, which contribute to lowering GHG emissions across the different economic sectors. The sectors discussed in the LEDS include energy, industry, agriculture, waste management and transport, among others. The most relevant LEDS and BUR focus areas to the SGP fall under the agricultural sector, those include reduction of GHG generated from livestock, generation of energy from agricultural wastes, replacement/rehabilitation of inefficient irrigation pumps, solar PV pumping and composting of agricultural wastes. Other relevant focus areas include conversion of municipal waste to energy, use of solar heat for industrial processes, and sustainable transport ? these focus areas are directly aligned with the viable CCM interventions under the OP7 project.

At the present, Egypt is preparing the **fourth National Communication Report (NC4)** to the UNFCCC that started in March 2019 and expected to conclude by February 2023. The NC4 project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and implemented by the and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Egypt.

Land Degradation and Sustainable Agriculture

The National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Desertification: The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation mandated the Desert Research Centre to be the national coordinator for the Convention, since 2001. The National Action Program is committed with the convention of UNCCD (United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification). The plan includes five major programs for combating desertification in various agricultural/environmental regions which are summarized below:

- i. Evaluating and monitoring desertification; and capacity building programme.
- ii. Pastures improvement programs: Rehabilitating degraded pasture/range lands; Preserving land and water resources; Managing natural grazing lands.
- iii. Sand dunes stabilization programs: Protecting Nasser Lake shores against sand dunes; Stabilizing sand dunes in Siwa Oasis; Stabilizing sand dunes in north Sinai.
- iv. Irrigated agriculture programs: Improving and modernizing irrigation techniques; Integrated management of irrigation projects; Managing and improving lands; Treating soil and water pollution; Treating environmental pollution in Wadi Al-Rayan pan/Depression.
- v. Rain-fed agriculture programs: Planning land usage in the north coast; Improving animal wealth; Improving small ruminant animal's productivity in the north part of Sinai; Limiting soil erosion.

Final Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (2018); Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP): *National objective:* ?LDN is achieved (no net loss) by 2030 as compared to 2015 and an additional 10% of the national territory has improved by 2030 (net gain)?. *Objective at the sub-national scale :* ?LDN is achieved in the land degradation hotspots: Kafr El Sheikh Governorate, Demiat Gov., Rasheed area, El Minia Gov., Sohag Gov., Al Fayoum, Mersa Matrouh Gov. (Fuka ? El Sallum), El Khattara area, El Tina Plain area, El Farafra oasis and North Sinai by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss) and an additional 10% of the degraded hotspot areas has improved (net gain)?; *Specific targets to avoid, minimize and reverse land degradation:* Improve productivity and carbon stocks of 3,342 km² (802,080 feddan) of cultivated areas **by 2030.**; Restore and increase the productivity of 11,666 km² (2,800,000 feddan) of cropland using modern agricultural techniques and SLM practices in the northern areas, western and eastern fringes of reclaimed lands of the Nile Delta and El Tina Plains areas by 2030; Rehabilitate and increase the productivity of 8,000 km² (1,920,000 feddan) of rangeland and rainfed areas using sustainable land management (SLM) practices in the north coastal areas (rangelands and rain-fed farming areas) by 2030; Rehabilitate and increase the productivity of 7,500 km² (1,800,000 feddan) of cropland using SLM practices in the reclaimed areas in western desert fringes of middle and upper Egypt.

Agriculture, forestry and land use (AFOLU) is the second largest source of GHGs emissions after the energy sector, contributing to 15% of Egypt?s total GHG emissions in 2015. Decrease of agricultural waste burning, improved manure management and energy efficiency improvements are some of the measures endorsed by Egypt?s INDC for climate change mitigation in the agriculture sector. Egypt?s third national communication specified a number of programs aimed at reduction of agriculture sector emissions. These include improving agricultural waste management practices, production of bioenergy from agricultural wastes, improving manure management and mitigation of emissions from rice cultivation.

With regards to sustainable agriculture development, the Government of Egypt adopted in 2009 the fourth and most recent **Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy towards 2030 (SADS 2030)**. The main relevant strategic objectives of the SADS 2030 are as follows:

- ? Sustainable use of natural agricultural resources through enhancing water-use efficiency in irrigated agriculture, expansion of reclaimed areas, crop and water productivity, maximizing returns of rain-fed agriculture, and protecting agricultural land from encroachment and degradation of soil fertility.
- ? Increasing agricultural productivity through productivity improvement of field and horticultural crops and resistance to drought, salinity and pests, increase meat and milk yield.
- ? Increasing the competitiveness of agricultural products in local and international markets.
- ? Improving the living standards of the rural inhabitants and reducing poverty rates in the rural areas.

Between 2010 ? 2013, the Bioenergy for Sustainable Rural Development project was implemented under EEAA to advance the use of renewable biomass as an energy resource. The biomass technologies under this project included: anaerobic biomass digesters (dung, household sewage, agricultural residues

and related high-moisture feedstocks); biomass densification (briquetting, palletisation) for rural enterprise and household applications; efficient biomass stoves, furnaces and dryers for rural enterprise, and household applications; and biomass gasification for production of fuel gas for process heat, shaft power, pumping and electricity. SGP Egypt has contributed significant value to community-driven green energy initiatives and will continue under OP7 to advocate for broader application.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment under the auspices of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi launched a three-year campaign since January 2020 with the slogan "Prepare for Green" to spread environmental awareness, change behaviours and urge citizens to participate in preserving the environment and natural resources for future generations. The first theme promoted was "planting trees and green areas" in participation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) and 10,000 trees were planted in the first two weeks of the campaign. In the future the campaign will focus on other topics, such as waste management, rationalizing food consumption, reducing single plastic use and marine litter, mitigating air pollution, and sustaining natural protectorates.

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

Another relevant national strategy for the SGP and climate change mitigation is **Egypt's Integrated Energy Strategy**, which aims to reach the following by 2035:

• Increase the share of generated energy from renewable energy to 42% by 2035, 11.8% (31 GW) of which should be solar PV sourced from utility-scale, grid-connected distributed solar and off-grid installations. An intermediate target of 20% out of the total generated energy in Egypt by 2022, which is equivalent to 1.92 GW on-grid small to medium scale PV by 2022 has been established under the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy (MoERE) **Solar Energy Action Plan 2018/19 -2021/22**.

• Improve energy efficiency (EE) by 18% in terms of production, transmission and utilization to ensure its sustainability and to mitigate the effects of climate change.

In order to enable the transition towards a more diversified energy mix and an increased share of renewables, the Government of Egypt has launched a number substantive **financial and regulatory energy reforms**. The reforms started in 2014, with a stepwise reduction in fuel subsidies and later developed and completed under the IMF supported economic reforms package. The full fuel subsidies removal has been recently extended till 2024/2025. The percentage of fuel subsidies has fallen from 20% of the state budget in 2012/2013 to an estimated 11% in 2017/2018. The reform was completed in Q4 2019. In parallel, the **Renewable Energy Law (No. 203/2014)** and the **new Electricity Law (No. 87/2015)** established several schemes for the private development of renewable energy projects and a fully competitive electricity market (in contrast to the previous single buyer model). Together, these financial and regulatory reforms have incentivised efficient energy consumption and allowed alternative fuels to become economically viable options for industries as is reflected in the growing number of wind and large-scale photo-voltaic and wind energy projects that took place in the last 5 years. In contrast, there has been limited development in small and medium-scale PV (up to 20 MW) with only 120 MW of capacity has been installed by the end of 2017, with on-grid accounting for 30

MW, and the remaining 90 MW for off-grid (MoERE Solar Plan 2021/2022). A current pipeline of an additional 65 MW on-grid PV exists (NREA website).

The removal of state fuel subsidies that started in 2014 resulted in price increases for all electricity consumers (residential, commercial, industries). The electricity price hikes, and a number of successful state-sponsored awareness campaigns have allowed energy efficiency initiatives to be widely accepted by businesses and the general public. Meanwhile, subsidies on diesel have been gradually but not completely removed; phasing out of diesel subsidies is planned to be completed by the end of 2021. Use of diesel is mainly relevant for the agricultural and tourism sectors and is widespread in remote, off-grid areas (e.g. land reclamation projects, remote touristic resorts and remote, off-grid homes). Local farmers are more motivated to consider RE and EE projects as diesel subsidies are becoming phased out ? an opportune entry point for SGP under OP7.

In relation to energy efficiency initiatives, two consecutive GEF-funded flagship programs included a variety of EE measures and projects: ?Energy Efficiency Improvement and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Project? (1998-2010) and ?Improving the Energy Efficiency of Lighting and Building Appliances? (2010-2017). Moreover, the Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE) project implemented by United Nations Industrial Development Program (UNIDO) and the Egyptian Pollution Abatement Project (EPAP) under EEAA with focus on the industrial sector.

Baseline ? GEF financed and other donor projects:

Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Phase III (EIECP III). Phase III of the EIECP, one of the OP7 project?s co-financing partners, is focused on further developing Egypt?s PA system, mainly on strengthening financial. EIECP III is also supporting the management needs of the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), such as information gathering/generation management and analysis. The EIECP has delivered extensive support to the civil society sector, including in collaboration with the SGP. Community interventions have included supporting ecotourism initiatives in Fayoum, delivering capacity buildings to local NGOs and women?s groups, upgrading the waterfall site at Wadi El Rayan, strengthening marketing linkages for local handicrafts, implementing environmental education programmes, etc.

UNDP-supported, GEF and GCF financed projects:

? **Grid Connected Small-Scale Photovoltaic Systems (Egypt PV) Project**[\[47\]](#), **(GEF-financed; January 2017 - December 2021):** The objective of the project is to remove the barriers and catalyze the development of small, decentralized, grid-connected renewable energy (RE) power generation market in Egypt and the solar PV in particular implemented by households and small- and medium-size enterprises. The OP7 project is well positioned to help facilitate adoption and increased awareness of PV investments among local communities in the target landscapes.

? **UNDP GEF Project: Mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the tourism development and operations in threatened ecosystems in Egypt.** This project is designed to mainstream biodiversity into the Egyptian tourism sector. Expanding the participation of local communities in delivering ecotourism experiences is a priority in each of the four target landscapes under OP7.

? **Medical and E-waste Management Project:** the Government of Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Environment in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the technical support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), has succeeded in obtaining a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to implement a five-year project to "Protect human health and the environment from unintentional releases of POPs originating from incineration and open burning of health care- and E-waste". The project addresses national priorities related to dioxins and furans, which have been included in Egypt's 2005 National Implementation Plan (NIP) for fulfilling its commitments to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). This project is implemented by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). These waste management initiatives also have a climate change mitigation dimension, as there is a prevalence of burning wastes in open pits. A small grant was approved under OP6 to raise awareness on sound waste management practices, and the OP7 project will further focus on low emission waste management practices, coupled with green recovery and One Health principles in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

? **Enhancing climate change adaptation in the North coast and Nile Delta Regions in Egypt**[48], **Green Climate Fund (GCF), (May 2018 ? May 2025):** aims to integrate the management of SLR risks into the development of Egypt's Low Elevation Coastal Zone (LECZ) in the Nile Delta by providing coastal defense soft structures along the Egyptian Mediterranean Coast in Beheira Governorate, and the development of an integrated coastal zone management plan for the entire North coast of Egypt. The sea defence system aims to protect local communities living in the low-lying lands from sea surges associated with sea level rise and extreme weather events. The project interventions will also include support to local communities to implement small-scale projects and climate change adaptation activities that can be coordinated with GEF SGP interventions in the same areas. The project has a total budget of USD 105.2 million (grant) and an estimated lifespan of 7 years.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)-GEF, Utilizing Solar Energy for Industrial Process Heat in Egyptian Industry[49] (November 2012 ? January 2021): The main objective of the project is to develop the market environment for the diffusion and local manufacturing of solar energy systems for industrial process heat.

Deutsche Gesellschaft f?r Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH:

? **National Solid Waste Management Programme Egypt (NSWMP):** The NSWMP combines financial cooperation for investment in municipal solid waste management infrastructure and services (KfW/EU component), with technical cooperation addressing the policy, legal and institutional framework and providing capacity building at the national and local levels (GIZ component). The two components combine together to support implementation of the NSWMP by the Egyptian Government. The NSWMP supports WMRA in establishing a sustainable and integrated solid waste management system in four governorates (Kafr El Sheikh- Gharbeya- Assiut- Qena) since 2012 till 2022.

? **Egyptian-German Joint Committee on Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection (JCEE):** developing a climate change mitigation programme, ?Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA), to foster the low-carbon transformation of the Egyptian electricity sector by upscaling small and medium scale solar PV systems in Egypt?s commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors.

? **Policies and Planning Measures to support Giza in developing a zero draft of the Giza Climate Change Strategy (started in 2017):** Increase climate change resilience of informal urban areas in the Greater Cairo Region through a participatory climate change adaptation process. One of the strategic approaches is focusing on policies and plans to support policy-making entities to integrate climate change adaptation into their agendas.

Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF)[50], European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD): The project aims to support Egypt?s green economy transition with EUR 140 million of financing for energy efficiency and small-scale RE investments. It leveraged the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) EGP 200 billion initiative to support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), where the commercial banks were required to allocate 20% of their loan portfolios to SMEs at 5% interest. In November 2019, there was a provision of a senior unsecured loan to National Bank of Egypt (NBE) of up to USD 100 million, of which up to USD 75 million to be provided by EBRD and up to USD 25 million by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) under the GCF-Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) Regional Framework[51]. The proceeds of the loan will be used for financing investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies across the industrial, commercial, transport and agricultural sectors by local private sector SMEs.

Clean Technology Entrepreneurship and Market Creation project, International Finance Corporation (IFC), (January 2019- December 2021): The objective of the project is to unlock clean technology markets in Egypt by supporting entrepreneurs to develop the innovative business models needed to increase market adoption, making available knowledge and data needed for clean tech entrepreneurs to grow, and enabling the partnerships for innovative financial models to be developed. The focus will be on the subsectors with significant potential identified: solar pumping for irrigation (in agriculture) and the utilization of agricultural waste.

Upper Egypt Local Development Program-for-Results, World Bank (September 2016 - December 2021): The objective of this USD\$500 million program is to improve the business environment for private sector development and strengthen local government capacity for quality infrastructure and service delivery in select governorates in Upper Egypt (Qena and Sohag).

The **Bioenergy for Sustainable Rural Development Association (BSRDA)** is a non-governmental organisation established by the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with UNDP by decision of the cabinet of ministers in July 2015. The BSRDA, one of the OP7 project? co-financing partners, operates nationally and receives international funding to finance bioenergy projects and provide technical assistance and capacity building.

In response to the call of the 2030 Agenda for an integrated approach and country demands for coherent and effective UN support, the UN Development Group (UNDG) adopted ?MAPS (mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support)? ? a joint approach to support the implementation and

mainstreaming of the SDGs in national plans, policies, strategies and budgets with the aim to accelerate critical SDG achievement, drawing on skills and expertise held in the UN development system in addressing new and emerging items on the national development agenda. The **MAPS engagement process in Egypt during 2018** worked on providing the Government with integrated support on policy making, implementation and capacity building for SDG implementation. SGP in OP7 will build on the outcomes of the MAPs project in identifying capacity building needs, increase the engagement of NGOs in the implementation of SDS through community-based initiatives linked to updated and localized governmental plans, etc.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project

Project objective: To build socio-ecological resilience in Greater Cairo, Fayoum, Delta, and Upper Egypt landscapes through community-based activities for global environmental benefits and sustainable development.

The project strategy as the GEF alternative aims at removing the barriers outlined above and is broken down into the following five outcomes distributed across three mutually supportive components:

Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services through participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions

Outcome 1.2: Increased adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and mitigation solutions at community level

Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance and strengthened capacities for upscaling

Outcome 2.1: Strengthened community institutions for participatory governance to enhance socio-ecological resilience

Outcome 2.2: Upscaling enabled through capacity building and knowledge management

Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation

Outcome 3.1: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation

Theory of Change:

The proposed GEF alternative to overcoming the barriers hindering achievement of genuine sustainable development in the target landscapes is predicated on a participatory and integrated landscape management approach, as outlined in the project theory of change below and in *Figure 2* of the *Project Document*. As shown in this diagram, the theory of change for the project is broken down into the following three causal pathways.

Causal Pathway 1: Enhancing landscape resilience

Participatory models of conservation and restoration-rehabilitation of ecosystems under the project will feed into the government's commitment and regulatory frameworks, assuming that governance conditions in the target landscapes permit restoration and conservation and local stakeholders are motivated and committed to participate. Over the longer term, ecosystem functions and environmental services will be ensured through conservation and restoration, with co-benefits generated for participating local communities. The effectiveness of these models will depend on enabling policies and incentives that are assumed will adapt to changing circumstances over time. The theory of change is also driven by mainstreaming agroecological practices and other biodiversity-focused approaches into production sectors. Furthermore, there need to be clear linkages between conservation goals and social outcomes, e.g., diversification of livelihoods through sustainable use of natural resources, genuine participatory conservation arrangements that involve local communities in decision-making ? including women and other marginalised groups - and traditional knowledge is respected and protected.

Sustaining and upscaling the low emission RE and EE solutions at the community level are similarly a function of having local capacity developed for operating and maintaining the systems. Moreover, the systems or solutions need to be reliable and affordable. Changing behaviours and preferences is also critical, which takes time and concerted effort. The project will be promoting RE and EE solutions through awareness campaigns, workshops and community meetings. Having accessible incentive mechanisms is also considered an impact driver for achieving upscaling and sustaining low emission energy interventions.

Causal Pathway 2: Mainstreaming the landscape approach

One of the key assumptions outlined in the project theory of change for advancing from project level outcomes to longer-term outcomes and ultimately to durable impacts is that the landscape approach is mainstreamed, e.g., through integrating the landscape strategies and priority action plans into local development mechanisms. Sustaining the multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms is also important in ensuring the landscape strategies are maintained. The project will endeavour to strengthen existing governance platforms (including the ones developed under OP6) rather than establishing new ones, and advocating for broader representation, including women and other marginalized groups. The role of 'change agents' in facilitating the requisite stakeholder engagement is critical. Such change agents could be local government officials, members of local NGOs or CBOs, or other individuals or groups. Identifying and strengthening the capacity of change agents will be a part of the landscape approach in each of the target landscapes.

Further development of enabling partnerships is an important impact driver, supporting upscaling across the project landscapes. Durable partnerships will help ensure alternative livelihood models are sustained, and unsustainable approaches, such as poor agricultural practices and inefficient use of water resources, will be reduced.

Causal Pathway 3: Enabling adaptive management

Achieving durable changes in attitudes and practices depends on ensuring CBOs attain and keep abreast of knowledge and best practices and models. One of the enduring strengths of the SGP is the transfer of knowledge to local communities, including women and marginalized groups. The project will implement an inclusive knowledge management strategy that is also linked with the UCP and SGP knowledge management priorities, facilitating collaborative interactions across local, national, regional, and global levels. The receptiveness of stakeholders to knowledge inputs is an important impact driver in this regard, and it is assumed that human resources and institutional frameworks remain stable. Another important assumption is that the causal linkage on this pathway is achieved in a macro-policy context that remains stable, i.e., committed to sustainably managing the globally significant biodiversity and important natural resources in Egypt. The coordination, collaboration, and knowledge management strengthened by the project will foster systemic change and replication, thus maximising the effectiveness, durability, and scale of socio-ecological resilience.

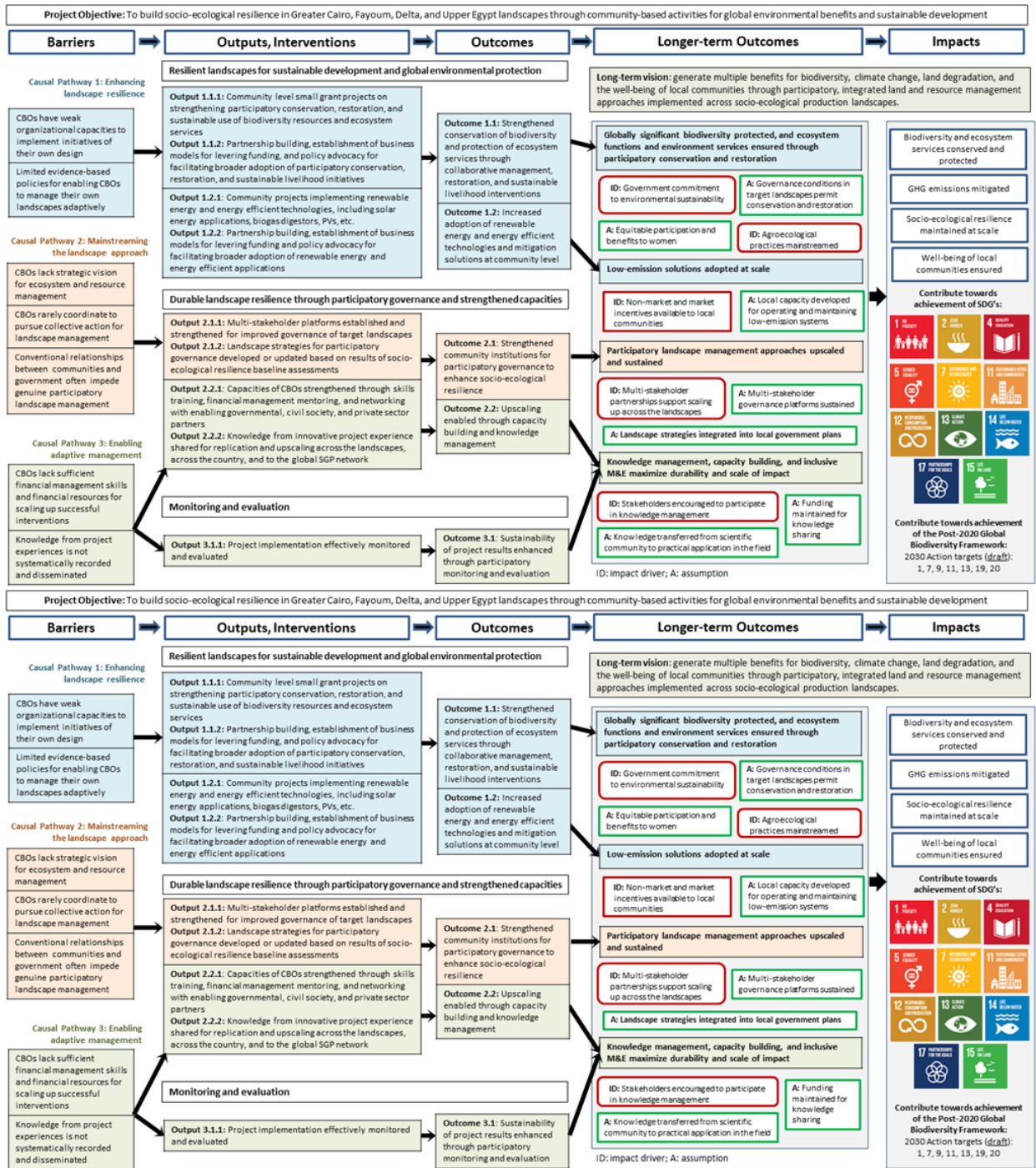


Figure 2 of the Project Document: Theory of Change

Changes in Alignment with the Project Design with the Original PIF

The following adjustments were made to some of the indicative outputs and outcomes outlined in the PIF.

Original PIF	Change at CEO Endorsement
<p>Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Outcome 1.1. Ecosystem services within targeted landscapes are enhanced through multi-functional land-use systems</p> <p>Output 1.1.1. Community level small grant projects in the selected landscapes that conserve biodiversity and enhance ecosystem services</p> <p>Outcome 1.2. The sustainability of production systems in the target landscapes is strengthened through integrated agro-ecological practices</p> <p>Output 1.2.1. Targeted community projects enhancing the sustainability and resilience of production systems, including soil and water conservation practices, and agro-ecological practices and cropping systems.</p> <p>Outcome 1.3. Livelihoods of communities in the target landscapes are made more resilient by developing eco-friendly small-scale community enterprises and improving market access</p> <p>Output 1.3.1. Targeted community projects promoting sustainable livelihoods, green businesses and market access, including ecotourism; solid waste management and conversion; green value-added agro-businesses</p>	<p>Outcome 1.1: Strengthened conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services through participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions</p> <p>Output 1.1.1: Community level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity resources and ecosystem services</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding, and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives</p>
<p><i>The above change was made to consolidate the BD/LD related outputs under a single outcome.</i></p>	

Original PIF	Change at CEO Endorsement
<p>Outcome 1.4: Increased adoption through development, demonstration and financing of renewable and energy efficient technologies and mitigation options at community level</p> <p>Output 1.4.1. Community projects implementing renewable and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biodigestors, PVs, etc.</p> <p>Output 1.4.2. Partnerships and business models established and demonstrating renewable energy and clean energy applications</p>	<p>Outcome 1.2: Increased adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and mitigation solutions at community level</p> <p>Output 1.2.1: Community projects implementing renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biogas digestors, PVs, etc.</p> <p>Output 1.2.2: Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding, and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient applications</p>
<p><i>Minor revisions to some of the phrasing of Outcome 1.2 (PIF 1.4), and outputs 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 (PIF 1.4.1 and 1.4.2)</i></p>	
<p>Component 2.0. Capacity Building, Knowledge Management for Upscaling and Replication</p>	<p>Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance and strengthened capacities for upscaling</p>
<p><i>The phrasing of Component 2 was revised to emphasize the aim to enhance sustainability through participatory governance and upscaling of best practices.</i></p>	
<p>Outcome 2.1: Multistakeholder governance platforms strengthened for improved governance of selected landscapes through effective participatory decision making to achieve landscape resilience</p> <p>Output 2.1.1. Multistakeholder governance platforms in the target landscapes develop and execute multistakeholder landscape agreements and policies</p> <p>Output 2.1.2. Comprehensive socio-ecological</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1: Strengthened community institutions for participatory governance to enhance socio-ecological resilience</p> <p>Output 2.1.1: Multi-stakeholder platforms established and strengthened for improved governance of target landscapes</p> <p>Output 2.1.2: Landscape strategies for participatory governance developed or updated based on results of socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments</p>

Original PIF	Change at CEO Endorsement
<p>baseline assessment conducted through participatory research and planning</p> <p>Output 2.1.3. Landscape strategies updated by multistakeholder groups</p> <p>Output 2.1.4. Typology of community level projects developed and agreed by multistakeholder groups together with eligibility criteria</p> <p>Output 2.1.5. Knowledge from innovative project experience is shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network</p>	<p>Outcome 2.2: Upscaling enabled through capacity building and knowledge management</p> <p>Output 2.2.1: Capacities of CBOs strengthened through skills training, financial management mentoring, and networking with enabling governmental, civil society, and private sector partners</p> <p>Output 2.2.2: Knowledge from innovative project experience shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network</p>
<p><i>Indicative outcome 2.1 2 described in the PIF separated into two outcomes, with Outcome 2.1 focused on participatory governance and Outcome 2.2 on strengthening the enabling environment for upscaling through capacity building and knowledge management</i></p>	
	<p>Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>Outcome 3.1: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>Output 3.1.1: Project implementation effectively monitored and evaluated</p>
<p><i>A separate component (3) was established on monitoring and evaluation. Consistent with the GEF budget template, having a separate component on M&E enables separation of M&E costs. Moreover, the over-arching function of M&E on the project is better represented through having a dedicated component on M&E.</i></p>	

Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection

Under this component, landscape resilience will be strengthened through community-level small grant interventions aimed at achieving the mutually beneficial outcomes of sustainable socioeconomic development and conservation and protection of the ecosystem goods and services that many local communities rely upon. The small grant projects will cover the three GEF focal areas of biodiversity, land degradation and climate change mitigation.

Strengthening the gains achieved under OP6 and on strategic issues will be facilitated through partnership building and policy advocacy. Potential issues include renewable energy and agricultural fertilizer supplied through biogas units, bicycle-sharing programmes at universities and possibly other

institutional settings, participatory conservation initiatives between local communities and protected area management units, composting of agricultural wastes and expanded use of organic fertilisers, and participatory restoration and management of coastal wetland ecosystems.

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services through participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions

The four target landscapes contain a great deal of Egypt's globally significant biodiversity, and many of the local communities in these areas are dependent upon natural resources for sustaining their livelihoods and well-being and are increasingly vulnerable to threats to these natural resources from unsustainable exploitation and the impacts of climate change. One measure of socio-ecological resilience in the target landscapes is the genuine involvement of local communities in collaborative conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions. Such arrangements have been initiated under OP6 in the Greater Cairo, Fayoum, and Upper Egypt landscapes, but capacity limitations of some of the local CBOs are constraining the sustainability of the interventions. Through additional grant support and leveraging of resources and engagement from enabling partners, as well as advocating for policy reform and expanded incentive mechanisms, landscape resilience will continue to be strengthened. For the West Delta landscape, a number of opportunities have been identified during the project preparation phase and globally significant ecosystems have garnered commitment from local and national government agencies and ministries, as well as other donors.

Output 1.1.1: Community level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity resources and ecosystem services

Indicative types of community projects aimed at strengthening participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihoods include participatory management of natural resources, environmental education, ecotourism, etc.; applying integrated agroecological practices and systems, including improved soil and water conservation practices; restoring degraded agricultural lands and coastal ecosystems and building capacity of CBOs (including women and other marginalized groups); and combatting desertification. The actual interventions will be developed by local CBOs, based on the baseline assessments of the target landscapes and in line with the priorities outlined in the landscape strategies. Capacity building activities will be coordinated with the Nature Conservation Sector at the Ministry of Environment, and the project will also facilitate exchanges among CBOs across the target landscapes to ensure sharing of experiences, knowledge, and lessons, as well as fostering partnership building.

In line with green recovery efforts regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the project will be in a good position to promote sustainable natural resource management, including limiting encroachment into critical ecosystems, building capacity of farmers to enable aggregation of produce and linkages to market opportunities, encouraging indigenous crops and traditional practices to enhance sustainable land management and food security, and promoting the increased role of digital technology in the field of biodiversity.

Indicative activities under Output 1.1.1 include:

1.1.1.1.	In accordance with the priority actions identified in the landscape strategies produced under Component 2, identify participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions.
1.1.1.2.	Provide capacity building to CBOs (including women and other marginalised groups) on conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihoods, assisting in the formulation of grant proposals.
1.1.1.3.	Award and implement community level conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood projects, with an emphasis on ones run by women and other marginalised groups.
1.1.1.4.	Assist the CBO grantees in monitoring and evaluating the results of the participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions.

Output 1.1.2: Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding, and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives

Activities under this output include identifying and building partnerships with enabling stakeholders, evaluating portfolio level results and preparing policy briefs to further incentivise participatory approaches in conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives. Strategic grants are envisaged to be awarded to qualified NGOs to facilitate partnerships, to deliver capacity building to local CBOs, and to advocate for strengthening the policy and incentive frameworks for ensuring sustained impacts at landscape scale.

Indicative activities under Output 1.1.2 include:

1.1.2.1.	Through support from strategic partners, facilitate CBOs/NGOs in identifying potential partnerships to broaden the adoption of participatory conservation and restoration initiatives, and establish business models for leveraging funding.
1.1.2.2.	Based on evaluations of portfolio results and lessons, prepare policy briefs to advance the enabling environment for incentivising community collaborative management of protected areas, restoration of agricultural lands and coastal ecosystems, etc.
1.1.2.3.	Advocate for policy reform through liaising with key stakeholders and convening stakeholder workshops, inviting local and national government officials, civil society, private sector, and research-academic institutes.

Outcome 1.2: Increased adoption of renewable and energy efficient technologies and mitigation solutions at community level

The SGP has provided significant innovation and demonstrated practical community-level applications of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficient (EE) solutions. Energy use in the selected landscapes remains largely inefficient or dependent on scarce or relatively expensive sources. This outcome will target community projects that demonstrate and/or disseminate renewable energy or energy efficiency

applications that have been solidly tested during previous phases of the SGP in Egypt (e.g. efficient lighting, bicycle transport systems, biogas) or which may benefit from demonstrations to enhance awareness or generate evidence for application.

Output 1.2.1: Community projects implementing renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biogas digestors, PVs, etc.

Indicative types of community CCM projects under this output include solar PV systems for surface and groundwater pumping for irrigation, solar PV for lighting (residential, schools, commercial establishments), biogas for cooking and use of the digestate to replace chemical fertilizers, composting of agricultural residues, LED lamps replacing incandescent lamps, and bicycle-sharing programmes. As for the BD and LD activities under Output 1.1, actual CCM interventions will be developed by local CBOs, based on the baseline assessments of the target landscapes and in line with the priorities outlined in the landscape strategies.

Project interventions will be aligned with the COVID-19 recovery efforts in the project landscapes, e.g., exploring RE options for health facilities, enhancing energy access, etc.

Indicative activities under Output 1.1.2 include:

1.2.1.1.	In accordance with the priority actions identified in the landscape strategies produced under Component 2, identify RE and EE technologies and applications in the target landscapes.
1.2.1.2.	Provide capacity building to CBOs (including women and other marginalised groups) on RE and EE technologies and applications, assisting in the formulation of project proposals.
1.2.1.3.	Award and implement community level RE and EE projects, with an emphasis on ones run by women and other marginalised groups.
1.2.1.4.	Support the CBO grantees in monitoring and evaluating the results of the community RE and EE interventions.

Output 1.2.2: Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient applications

In conjunction with the activities under Output 1.2.1, strategic support will be delivered to CBOs and landscape stakeholders for building and strengthening partnerships and advocating advances to policy, financing, and incentive frameworks. For example, the business models developed for financing community biogas installations will be further strengthened, incentive mechanisms for establishing bicycle-sharing programmes at universities or other institutional settings will be evaluated and promoted, and innovative approaches and policy reform for incentivising composting of agricultural wastes and application of organic fertilisers will be considered.

Indicative activities under Output 1.2.2 include:

1.2.2.1.	Through support from strategic partners, facilitate CBOs/NGOs in identifying potential partnerships to broaden the adoption of RE and EE applications at the community level, and establish business models for leveraging funding.
1.2.2.2.	Based on evaluations of portfolio results and lessons, prepare policy briefs to advance the enabling environment for incentivising community climate change interventions, including but not limited to biogas digesters, bicycle-sharing programmes, etc.
1.2.2.3.	Advocate for policy reform through liaising with key stakeholders and convening stakeholder workshops, inviting local and national government officials, civil society, private sector, and research-academic institutes.

Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance and strengthened capacities for upscaling

Component 2 focuses on facilitating participatory, multi-stakeholder governance across the target landscapes. This process will include strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms instituted under OP6 and establish a platform for the West Delta landscape, carrying out updated participatory baseline assessments, and developing and renewing landscape strategies that outline priority issues and actions to focus on. Ensuring the durability of the landscape structures established will be facilitated through capacity building, including strengthening the financial management skills of CBOs and increasing their awareness and facilitating linkages with enabling partners.

Codifying best practices and lessons learned into informative and accessible knowledge products is important in ensuring the initiatives will be upscaled and replicated across the target landscapes and in other parts of the country. Under this component, knowledge products, including case studies, brochures, tool kits, documentary films, websites will be produced and disseminated.

Outcome 2.1: Strengthened community institutions for participatory governance to enhance socio-ecological resilience

The landscape approach requires engagement by multiple stakeholders, with cross-sectoral representation from government, civil society, private sector, and academia-research. Multi-stakeholder collaboration will help leverage resources and facilitate impact at scale, and further strengthen mainstreaming of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives into local planning frameworks.

Output 2.1.1: Multi-stakeholder platforms established and strengthened for improved governance of target landscapes

Building upon the achievements made and lessons learned under OP6, the multi-stakeholder platforms will be strengthened in the Greater Cairo, Fayoum, and Upper Egypt landscapes, and a new platform will be established in the West Delta landscape, with representation of local government units, local community organizations, national agencies, NGOs, the private sector and other relevant actors. Landscape strategies, developed based on participatory baseline assessments, will provide roadmaps for achieving enhanced socio-ecological resilience in the target landscapes. Building capacity of the

landscape governance mechanisms will also contribute towards COVID-19 recovery efforts, e.g., providing practical platforms for increasing awareness and outreach, particularly for lesser developed communities that are vulnerable to the health and safety and economic impacts of the pandemic and similar social disruptions. To ensure the durability of the landscape approach, the project will facilitate mainstreaming the multi-stakeholder platforms into local governance structures.

Indicative activities under Output 2.1.1 include:

2.1.1.1.	Continue the multi-stakeholder platforms for the Greater Cairo, Fayoum, and Upper Egypt landscapes, and strengthen the platforms according to the OP7 strategic directions and lessons from OP6, by identifying gaps, current needs, and opportunities for improving participation and representation, updating terms of reference for the platforms, indicating proposed members, roles and responsibilities, promoting equitable representation and participation by women.
2.1.1.2.	Engaging with key stakeholders in the West Delta landscape, identify the key partners and prepare terms of reference for a multi-stakeholder platform.
2.1.1.3.	Led by the multi-stakeholder platforms, convene regular strategic planning workshops, capacity building sessions, awareness campaigns.
2.1.1.4.	Sensitise and build capacity of stakeholders on gender mainstreaming.
2.1.1.5.	Advocate and assist local government units in mainstreaming the multi-stakeholder platforms into local governance structures.

Output 2.1.2: Landscape strategies for participatory governance developed or updated based on results of socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments

Building upon the work completed under OP6 and the information gathered during the project preparation phase for OP7, baseline assessments will be updated for the Greater Cairo, Fayoum, and Upper Egypt landscapes and carried out for the first time in the West Delta landscape. The assessments will include participatory stakeholder mapping, discussions of socio-ecological resilience, scoring of resilience, deliberation of key issues in the landscapes and discussions of potential actions. A wide range of local stakeholders, including farmers/fishers, local government officials and community leaders will be invited to participate in the assessments. The types of information to gather during the baseline assessment consultations include:

- ? Community priorities, key environmental threats, socioeconomic conditions.
- ? Existing and planned projects and programmes in the target landscapes, and opportunities for collaboration.
- ? Capacities of the CBOs and other stakeholders.
- ? Potential local champions who could represent the interests of the communities and help facilitate the project interventions.

A central feature of the project is the strengthening and development of landscape strategies aimed at enhancing the socio-ecological resilience of the target landscapes based on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, energy, and ecosystem services. The results of the baseline assessments

will be used to develop updated strategies for the Greater Cairo, Fayoum, and Upper Egypt landscapes and a new landscape strategy for the West Delta landscape. The strategies will provide an outline of the biodiversity values and socioeconomic conditions, present the expected goals and outcomes, describe stakeholder roles and responsibilities and present priority community-based actions, including those associated with response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic. The multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms will provide an interface for mainstreaming the priority actions identified in the landscape strategies into local development plans.

Indicative activities under Output 2.1.2 include:

2.1.2.1.	Deliver training to the selected NGOs on the socio-ecological resilience assessment process.
2.1.2.2.	Carry out participatory baseline assessments of socio-ecological resilience for each of the target landscapes, ensuring equitable participation of women and other marginalized groups.
2.1.2.3.	Prepare baseline assessment reports for the target landscapes, including updated information on priority areas, with the aid of landscape maps, for biodiversity conservation, rehabilitation of degraded land, priorities for renewable and clean energy among local communities, opportunities for introducing or enhancing alternative livelihoods for local people, updating the landscape level stakeholder analyses, and incorporating gender-responsive processes.
2.1.2.4.	Prepare updated or new landscape strategies for the target landscapes (separate documents for each landscape), using the results of the baseline assessments and follow-up consultations with local stakeholders (government officials, NGOs/CBOs, women groups, and private sector), indicating typology of community level projects agreed upon by the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, and including a gender mainstreaming and social inclusion action plan for ensuring representation and participation of women and other marginalised groups.
2.1.2.5.	Present the landscape strategies and action plans to the multi-stakeholder platforms and the SGP National Steering Committee for endorsement.
2.1.2.6.	Identify and train local champions in the target landscapes, with emphasis on inclusion of women and youth, to help facilitate the implementation of the landscape strategies.
2.1.2.7.	Prepare and disseminate information on the landscape strategies to stakeholders within the target landscapes, through print media, social media and local media outlets, taking into consideration interests and culturally appropriate communication approaches for women and other marginalised groups.
2.1.2.8.	Engage with local government officials and other key landscape partners, requesting the local government entities to validate and or endorse the landscape strategies, and advocating for mainstreaming the priority actions of the landscape strategies into local development planning and budgeting frameworks.

Outcome 2.2: Upscaling enabled through capacity building and knowledge management

The durability of the interventions implemented on the project will largely depend on building capacities of the CBOs/NGOs in the target landscapes, as well as generating and sharing knowledge on best practices and lessons learned.

Output 2.2.1: Capacities of CBOs strengthened through skills training, financial management mentoring, and networking with enabling governmental, civil society, and private sector partners

Under this output, training will be delivered to CBOs on financial management and business development. Building capacities of women micro-entrepreneurs and training on accessing digital financial services will also contribute towards the COVID-19 recovery efforts in lesser developed communities. Partners involved in grant funding and microlending will be invited to participate in the training sessions, describing opportunities and terms and conditions for accessing available schemes. A business development consultant will support the trainings and also help facilitate linkages with enabling partners from local and national governmental agencies, civil society, and private sector.

Synergies with complementary government programs, private sector initiatives and other schemes will be facilitated through delivering training to CBOs to increase their understanding and awareness of such programs. Moreover, leading research technical institutes and civil society partners will be engaged to provide technical guidance and capacity building to CBO partners.

Indicative activities under Output 2.2.1 include:

2.2.1.1.	Build understanding of CBOs (including women and other marginalised groups) to enable their participation in government programmes and schemes, as well as other initiatives sponsored by private sector or other stakeholders.
2.2.1.2.	Provide training to CBOs on financial management and access to microcredit opportunities, specifically targeting women and other marginalised groups.
2.2.1.3.	Engage with research and academic institutes, delivering skills training to CBOs on innovative approaches and techniques.
2.2.1.4.	Organize partnership building workshops, linking enabling stakeholders with CBOs in the target landscapes.

Output 2.2.2: Knowledge from innovative project experience shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network

Recording and disseminating the knowledge gained through the implementation of the community small grants is an important aspect of the SGP, as the GEF funding is primarily intended to catalyse investments for upscaling and replication. Under this output, CBOs will be trained on collecting, recording and documenting knowledge and experiences on community development initiatives. Resources are allocated for development of case studies and other knowledge products and disseminating them among relevant stakeholder groups, using print media, social media, radio, or other communication approaches. At least one of the knowledge products is envisaged to highlight women's role in ensuring social and ecological resilience.

Indicative activities under Output 2.2.2 include:

2.2.2.1.	Update the SGP knowledge management strategy for Egypt and develop a communications strategy.
2.2.2.2.	Train CBOs (including women and other marginalised groups) on collecting and documenting information gained through implementation of community projects.

2.2.2.3.	Distil information from the individual case studies produced by the grantees in Component 1 into consolidated knowledge products highlighting best practices on adaptive management for landscape resilience, including at least one case study highlighting the role of women.
2.2.2.4.	Disseminate the case studies and other knowledge products among relevant stakeholder groups through appropriate communication techniques, including print media, social media and other local media outlets, and stakeholder gatherings.
2.2.2.5.	Participate in one SGP-UCP global workshop for sharing experiences and best practices, learning approaches implemented in other countries that could be replicated in Egypt and fostering international and regional partnerships.

Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation

The activities under this output are designed to put in place enabling procedures and protocols to facilitate effective monitoring & evaluation (M&E), as outlined in *Section VI: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan* of the Project Document.

Outcome 3.1: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation

Outcome 3.1 focuses on delivering participatory and timely M&E feedback, consolidating inputs from the individual grantees and evaluating progress towards achievement of the overall project objective. The findings of the M&E activities will inform adaptive management measures, aimed at ensuring the durability of project results.

Output 3.1.1: Project implementation and results effectively monitored and evaluated

The project inception workshop is a critical M&E milestone on the implementation timeline, providing an opportunity to validate the project document, confirming governance implementation arrangements, including agreements with responsible parties; assessing changes in relevant circumstances and making adjustments to the project results framework accordingly; verifying stakeholder roles and responsibilities; updating the project risk assessment and agreeing to mitigation measures and responsibilities; and agreeing to the multi-year work plan. An inception workshop report will be prepared and disseminated among the NSC members.

The SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) will be the main platform for high-level and strategic decisions (see *Section VII: Governance and Management Arrangements* of the Project Document).

The CMPU will oversee monitoring achievement of the performance metrics included in the project results framework, with direct input from the CBO grantees from M&E feedback from the individual projects. In addition, carrying out M&E of the implementation of the project safeguard plans, specifically the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan, is included among the activities under this output.

According to GEF requirements, two independent evaluations will be carried out on the project: a midterm review and a terminal evaluation. At least one month before the midterm review (MTR) and terminal evaluation (TE), the project will contract a local institute, local consultant or other service provider to carry out assessments of the GEF core indicators and other results requiring verification/analysis.

This output also includes preparation and initial implementation of a sustainability plan for the project, providing guidance on ensuring the durability of the multi-stakeholder platforms, e.g., through advocating for ?champions? in the project landscapes, facilitating mainstreaming of the landscape strategies into local planning and budgetary frameworks, promoting continued collective action among CBOs through participation on the multi-stakeholder platforms and networking with other enabling partners, and identifying follow-up funding continued implementation of the knowledge management strategy and action plan, as a key component of the landscape strategies.

Indicative activities under Output 3.1.1 include:

3.1.1.1.	Organise the project inception workshop, including review of multi-year work plan, project results framework, gender analysis and gender action plan, stakeholder engagement plan, social and environmental screening procedure, etc., and prepare an inception report to provide guidance for initiating the implementation of the project.
3.1.1.2.	Organise NSC meetings, providing strategic guidance to the country programme management unit and approving project grants.
3.1.1.3.	Monitor and evaluate the project progress, risks and results, facilitating adaptive management, ensuring gender mainstreaming objectives are achieved, preparing project progress reports and organizing periodic financial auditing services.
3.1.1.4.	Monitor the implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan.
3.1.1.5.	Monitor the implementation of the gender action plan, with the support of a Gender-Safeguards Consultant.
3.1.1.6.	Assess midterm achievement of GEF core indicator targets and other project results.
3.1.1.7.	Procure and support an independent midterm review of the project, according to UNDP and GEF guidelines.
3.1.1.8.	Assess end-of-project achievement of GEF core indicator targets and other project results.
3.1.1.9.	Procure and support an independent terminal evaluation of the project, according to UNDP and GEF guidelines.
3.1.1.10.	Prepare and initiate the implementation of a project sustainability plan.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies

The project is aligned with the following GEF-7 focal area objectives:

- ? **BD-1-1:** Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors.
- ? **CCM-1-1:** Promote innovation and technology transfer for sustainable energy breakthroughs for decentralized power with energy usage.

? **LD-1-4:** Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF TF and co-financing

The Government of Egypt implements a number of sectoral initiatives that pursue specific objectives in regard to rural energy, irrigation and water management, protected area management, agricultural production and other priorities. Genuine involvement of local communities in decision-making processes and management of natural resources is limited, however. For instance, limited involvement of communities in management of protected areas tends to lead to a decoupling of conservation objectives from sustainable development priorities. Moreover, many investments in energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) adoption have been focused on large-scale investments that require significant capital outlays, but there is a lack of capacity and awareness on community-scale EE and RE approaches. Energy efficiency is often not a major concern for many consumers because energy costs are not high relative to cost of many other goods and services. Because energy costs are typically low on an individual basis, it is common for consumers to ignore them in face of information gathering and transaction costs. However, the potential energy savings and GHG emissions avoided can be significant when summed across multiple consumers.

Based on baseline analyses and stakeholder consultations conducted during the PPG phase of the OP7 project, as documented in *Annex 11 to the Project Document (Baseline Report on Climate Change Mitigation Measures)* and in *Annex 14 to the Project Document (Estimations of GEF 7 Core Indicator end targets)*; provisional CCM interventions include off-grid solar PV systems for surface water and/or groundwater pumping for irrigation, on-grid solar PV systems for lighting for residential, schools, or commercial units; biogas for cooking and generation of digestate to reduce artificial fertilizer use; composting of agricultural residues; energy efficient LED lamps, replacing incandescent units; and transport modal shifts, reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The Bio Energy Association for Sustainable Development (BSRDA) has committed to USD 250,000 in co-financing, for providing technical assistance, facilitating green entrepreneurship, financing of biomass technologies, and raising awareness (see *Annex 18: BSRDA co-financing letter*).

The GEF alternative aims to integrate biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and climate change mitigation with genuine participatory management of protected and production landscapes, including agricultural systems, alternative income generation schemes, ecotourism operations, fishing practices, etc. Global environmental benefits will be generated by achieving a widely shared sustainable natural resource management approach that ensures optimal functionality of ecosystems and the resulting goods and services they produce, while maintaining their health and integrity over time.

Apart from the SGP, there are no other small grants programmes in Egypt aimed at building the capacities of rural and urban communities to plan and manage their landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental benefits. SGP, over the past two decades, and specifically during OP6, has developed strong multi-stakeholder partnerships with local governments, national agencies and Ministries, NGOs, international agencies, the private sector and others in the target

landscapes. These partnerships and long-standing collaborative arrangements around sectoral initiatives in the rural and urban landscapes constitute a dynamic baseline of programmes and relationships on which further GEF investment will be built.

6) *Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)*

The global environmental benefits generated by the SGP Egypt Upgraded Country Programme (UCP) are estimated based on the expected aggregated benefits created by individual interventions implemented under the proposed participatory and integrated landscape approach. GEF support will be catalytic in mobilizing action at local levels to innovate new strategies and technologies to improve the management of vulnerable natural resources and ecosystems. More importantly, the programme will enhance the capacity of stakeholders in different sectors and at different levels (NGOs, CBOs, etc.) to promote participatory resource management and clean energy access. The lessons learned from the community and landscape level initiatives will be analysed by multi-stakeholder groups at landscape and regional levels for potential policy inputs and disseminated to other landscapes and communities where they will be upscaled, mainstreamed and replicated, as well as integrated into other local and national level programs.

With respect to biodiversity, the project will seek to promote the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biodiversity in part by strengthening biodiversity-based livelihoods. Indicative community projects include the following:

- ? Participatory conservation arrangements between local communities and protected areas (e.g., community patrol).
- ? Participatory monitoring and management of Lake Burullus, Lake Idku, and Lake Maryut ecosystems.
- ? Community-supported ecotourism in the Wadi El-Rayan and Wadi Degla landscapes, e.g., including, but not limited to (a) promoting citizen science initiatives connected with ecotourism activities, thus providing direct support to the monitoring of globally significant biodiversity, as well as increasing the awareness of biodiversity values; (b) reducing damage to critical habitats by tourists through increasing awareness, e.g., through training of community biodiversity guides; (c) facilitating establishment of community-level business models that involve CBOs producing handicrafts for tourists that provides alternative livelihood options for local communities and reduces pressure associated with unsustainable activities in habitats of globally significant biodiversity.
- ? Sustainable landscape management (multi-focal BD+LD intervention) through improved agroecological practices (beekeeping). Through promotion of agroecological practices, including diversifying on-farm production, pollination by bees can help facilitate diversity and provide improved and expanded habitats for fauna and flora, thus generating biodiversity benefits.
- ? Sustainable landscape management (multi-focal BD+LD intervention) through improved agricultural practices (agriculture waste to animal feed and organic fertilizer). Increased utilization of organic fertilizers ? and an associated decrease in chemical fertilizers ? improve the diversity and integrity of soil biodiversity. The myriad of organisms that make up soil

biodiversity contribute to a wide range of essential ecosystem services, such as nutrient cycling, regulating soil organic matter, soil carbon sequestration, etc. Through adoption of good agroecological practices, not only will the functioning of ecosystems be enhanced, but habitats for flora and fauna will be improved, generating biodiversity benefits.

With respect to land degradation, the project will address erosion, degraded agricultural land, desertification and deforestation through:

- ? Combatting soil salinization. Applying more efficient irrigation regime, improved organic fertilisation, and more suitable cultivated crops.
- ? Enhancing soil and water conservation. Rehabilitate irrigation canals, e.g., by lining, reducing soil water content and improving soil fertility. Improve soil fertility. Replace chemical fertilisers with organic fertilisers, improving soil fertility and reducing salt content of soils. These interventions are envisaged to be multi-focal activities (LD+CCM), e.g., involving compositing of agricultural waste.
- ? Enhancing water conservation. Clearing of irrigation canals of aquatic invasive alien species (IAS), e.g., water hyacinth will result conservation of irrigation water, improvements in irrigation processes, and enhanced soil fertility.
- ? Combatting desertification. Sand fixation and wind breaks through construction of fencing-barriers made of woody plants cultivated with irrigation from recycled-reused wastewater.
- ? Restoring degraded agricultural land. Constructing water wells, enabling improved economic productivity. These interventions are envisaged to be multi-focal area activities (LD+CCM), e.g., linking with solar PV systems for groundwater pumping for irrigation.
- ? Restoring coastal wetlands. Ecological restoration through planting and/or rehabilitation of salt-resistant vegetation, possibly linked with the GCF project in the West Delta.

With respect to climate change, indicative community projects include the following:

- ? Solar PV systems for surface and groundwater pumping for irrigation.
- ? Solar PV for lighting (residential ? schools ? commercial).
- ? Biogas for cooking and digestate to replace artificial fertilizer.
- ? Composting of agricultural residues.
- ? LED lamps replacing incandescent lamps.
- ? Bicycle sharing programme(s), as part of community level climate change mitigation actions, particularly within the urban parts of the project landscapes.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

Innovativeness: The SGP Egypt Country Programme in OP7 proposes to deepen participatory, multi-stakeholder, landscape planning and management in rural and urban areas with the aim of enhancing

social and ecological resilience through community-based, community-driven projects to conserve biodiversity, optimize ecosystem services, manage land – particularly agro-ecosystems – and water sustainably, and mitigate climate change. This adaptive landscape planning and management process continues to be innovative in the context of the three rural landscapes as well as the urban landscape given that the participants become more and more familiar with global environmental issues, landscape management and socio-ecological resilience. This process is adaptive in that it incorporates new information, experience and lessons but also evolves together with the organizational capacities of communities in the landscapes. Given the systemic complexity of the socio-ecological environment in these four landscapes, stakeholders continue to strengthen their abilities to analyse trends in land and resource use as well as their consequences, to plan strategically at landscape level but also at community level and to adapt through learning-by-doing to new circumstances, information and resources. This project will particularly continue to support innovation in developing and applying practical solutions to issues of gender equality in terms of access to resources and project benefits.

Using the knowledge and experience gained from SGP experience at global and national levels, this project will continue working in the three of the four landscapes identified in OP6, but with a more concentrated focus. In addition, the West Delta has been added as a fourth landscape under OP7, building upon achievements and lessons from the landscape approach for the East Delta during OP6.

SGP activities will build on experience and lessons learned from previous SGP operational phases in Egypt and will continue to assist community organizations to carry out and coordinate projects in pursuit of outcomes they have identified in landscape plans and strategies. This will build community ownership of individual initiatives as well as landscape management overall. Coordinated community projects in the landscape will generate ecological, economic and social synergies that will produce greater and potentially longer-lasting global environmental benefits, as well as increased social capital and local sustainable development benefits. The capacities of CBOs will be strengthened through a learning-by-doing approach in which the project itself is a vehicle for acquiring practical knowledge and organizational skills in a longer-term adaptive management process. The project will also take OP6 experience into full consideration and identify / implement a number of potential upscaling opportunities during this project's lifetime.

The project landscapes for the Egypt OP7 project are expansive and complex, e.g., including both rural and urban environments. The concept of integrated landscape management was introduced under OP6 in three of the four OP7 landscapes, namely Greater Cairo, Fayoum, and Upper Egypt. Building upon the foundational work undertaken in OP6, the OP7 project provides an opportunity to strengthen the enabling environment for integrated landscape approaches, including enhancing stakeholder involvement, engaging local communities in decision-making associated with natural resource management, and mainstreaming priority issues into local planning and governance frameworks.

The indicative small grant projects described for the OP7 project emphasize multi-focal area interventions, particularly associated with sustainable management of agroecological systems across the project landscapes. For example, applying efficient irrigation practices on lands where organic fertilizers have reduced the dependency on chemical fertilizer and water is supplied through solar PV pumps will provide innovative and scale-able best practices for replicating within the limited arable land in the country.

Engaging local communities in the protection of coastal ecosystems through partnership with the GCF project provide innovation opportunities, by complementing hard measures of coastal zone protection with community-driven protection and restoration of wetlands and other coastal ecosystems.

Participatory conservation and community ecotourism interventions will consider promotion of citizen science activities, facilitating youth and tech-savvy community members to engage with ongoing biodiversity monitoring and assessments.

Sustainability: To ensure sustainability of community-based landscape management initiatives, the SGP Egypt Country Program will actively develop and maintain broad-based relationships and partnerships that promote collaboration. The sustainability of landscape management processes and community initiatives is predicated on the principle ? based on SGP experience - that global environmental benefits can be generated and maintained through community-based sustainable development projects. Previous phases of the SGP Egypt Country Programme have identified and promoted clear win-win opportunities with community initiatives and clusters of initiatives in areas such as rural energy (biogas, solar energy), sustainable transport, energy efficiency, sustainable use of biodiversity (medicinal plants, ecotourism) and water resource management (efficient irrigation). Sustainability of landscape planning and management processes will be enhanced through the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships, involving local government, national agencies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector and others at the landscape level and the adoption of multi-stakeholder partnership agreements to pursue specific landscape level outcomes. NGO networks will be called upon for their support to community projects and landscape planning processes, and technical assistance will be engaged through government, NGOs, universities, academic institutes and other institutions. Community ownership is a critical factor contributing to the sustainability of project benefits. SGP Egypt will involve all community members (men, women, youth and elders) in all stages of the grant project cycle: design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

GEF SGP Egypt has been working extensively for more than two decades in providing technical support and facilitating funding for communities for the sustainable use of resources, biodiversity conservation and mitigation of climate change. The growing network of voluntary support, as a result of cooperation with more than 280 NGOs and CBOs, has made it possible for SGP Egypt to reach out to more vulnerable groups efficiently, particularly addressing gender concerns. Sustainability will be maintained further by aligning the program with government policies, building the capacities of community, and engaging the private sector, universities, and research institutes in providing services (including financial services, if available).

Sustainability of landscape planning and management processes will be enhanced through the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships, involving local government, national agencies and institutions, NGOs, the private sector, universities, research institutions and others at the landscape level and the adoption of multi-stakeholder partnership agreements to pursue specific landscape level outcomes. NGO networks will be called upon for their support to community projects and landscape planning processes.

Financial dimension of sustainability: The majority of the community projects are envisaged to include livelihood related activities, such as capacity building, skills development, market linkages, etc.

Experience gained through the SGP interventions will strengthen the capabilities of CBOs to develop proposals and raise funds. The 1:1 co-financing requirement for each of the community projects will help promote enabling partnerships with governmental, civil society, donor, and private sector stakeholders. Moreover, the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms will provide direct linkages with local government development planning mechanisms and opportunities for funding upscaling and replication.

Socioeconomic dimension of sustainability: The landscape approach integrated into the project strategy is predicated on strengthening socio-ecological resilience. Involving multiple stakeholders in the landscapes-seascape in identifying priority issues and developing strategies for addressing these increases the overall social capital of the local communities. Contributing towards the COVID-19 recovery efforts, the project interventions, such as diversifying local food production, strengthens the resilience of the local communities.

Institutional framework and governance dimension of sustainability: Building capacities of local governance mechanisms and involving multiple stakeholders in the landscape platforms will enhance the likelihood that project results will be sustained after GEF funding ceases. Representatives of local government entities are important members of the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, helping to foster linkages with complementary government programmes and to identify incentives for upscaling project interventions. These institutional level stakeholders will also have the opportunity to participate in capacity building activities under the project, providing them with an expanded knowledge base of innovative approaches and a broadened network of stakeholder alliances, including with civil society, private sector, and other governmental partners, both at the national level and with counterparts in the other project landscapes. Mainstreaming the priority actions outlined in landscape strategies into local development planning frameworks will further strengthen the durability of the institutional framework and governance dimensions requisite for effective landscape management approaches.

Environmental dimension of sustainability: A substantial number of envisaged projects involve activities that conserve biodiversity and protect and restore ecosystem services, e.g., improved sustainable land management, collaborative community management of natural resources, adopting sustainable agricultural practices, restoration-rehabilitation of degraded agricultural land and coastal ecosystems. As outlined in the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (*Annex 5* to the Project Document), biodiversity conservation, land degradation, and climate change mitigation grants will be primarily carried out in partnership with expert organizations, e.g., conservation agencies, NGOs, and local government entities, thus building capacities and partnerships will help ensure sustainability of the implemented interventions.

Moreover, the overall strategy is focused on enhancing the socio-ecological resilience of local communities. These efforts will strengthen coping capacities in response to long-term climate change and associated increased risks associated with climate and disaster hazards. For instance, climate-smart agricultural practices will enhance resilience. And the grant proposals will be required to include provisions for managing climate and geophysical hazards, which will help build capacities of local CBOs and ensure more durable landscape management practices.

Potential for Scaling Up: An essential output of this project is the upscaling of successful initiatives that have been piloted successfully during previous phases of the SGP Egypt Country Programme. The premise of upscaling in this context is that community adopters of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices and systems from previous SGP phases have been slowly acquiring critical mass to reach a tipping point of adoption by rural and urban constituencies of adaptive practice and innovation. The principle of scaling up is that the communities adopt, or replicate lessons learned from successful experiences in their own initiatives.

SGP Egypt will work closely with its partners to ensure that promising innovations, successful pilots, and best practices are replicated and scaled up through joint or coordinated planning, financing, and implementation. A multi-stakeholder partnership strategy will be developed to meet these principles.

SGP Egypt will build on the multi-stakeholder partnerships established during OP6 in the selected rural and urban landscapes and will analyse the prospective critical mass of community adopters required to reach the tipping points in each of the landscapes for specific technologies, practices or systems and design and implement a program of action to reach it. Resources will be made available through the SGP strategic grant modality to finance key elements of the upscaling initiative to reduce the risk to other donors and investors. The multi-stakeholder partnerships will keep identifying potential upscaling opportunities, analyse and plan upscaling processes, engage revolving fund mechanisms to finance upscaling components, design and implement the upscaling programme, and evaluate its performance and impacts for lessons learned for adaptive management, policy discussion and potential extension of the model to other areas of the country.

Multi-stakeholder partnership mechanisms for this project will take into account the following elements: (1) understanding the potential core values of each actor and their resources, such as specific technologies, practices or systems; (2) identifying potential scaling up opportunities, analysing and planning the scaling up process; and (3) implementing the scaling up program and evaluating its performance and impacts as a lesson learned or case study for adaptive management, policy discussion and potential replication of the model in other areas of the country. The scaling-up and replication strategy will be conducted by SGP Egypt through advocacy and publication of best practices targeted to relevant stakeholders.

Resources have been allocated in the OP7 budget for SGP strategic grants, primarily to help facilitate upscaling. According to SGP Operational Guidelines (see *Annex 17* to the Project Document) funding can be awarded up to USD 150,000 in value per grant. Envisaged support to be rendered through strategic grants include mainstreaming of the landscape approach among key landscape stakeholders, advocating for policy reform and incentive mechanisms that would strengthen the enabling environment for participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives. Separate calls for proposals will be formulated for the strategic grants, in consultation with the NSC and landscape level stakeholders.

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- [22] Annual bulletin of the agricultural sector cooperative activity 2016/2017
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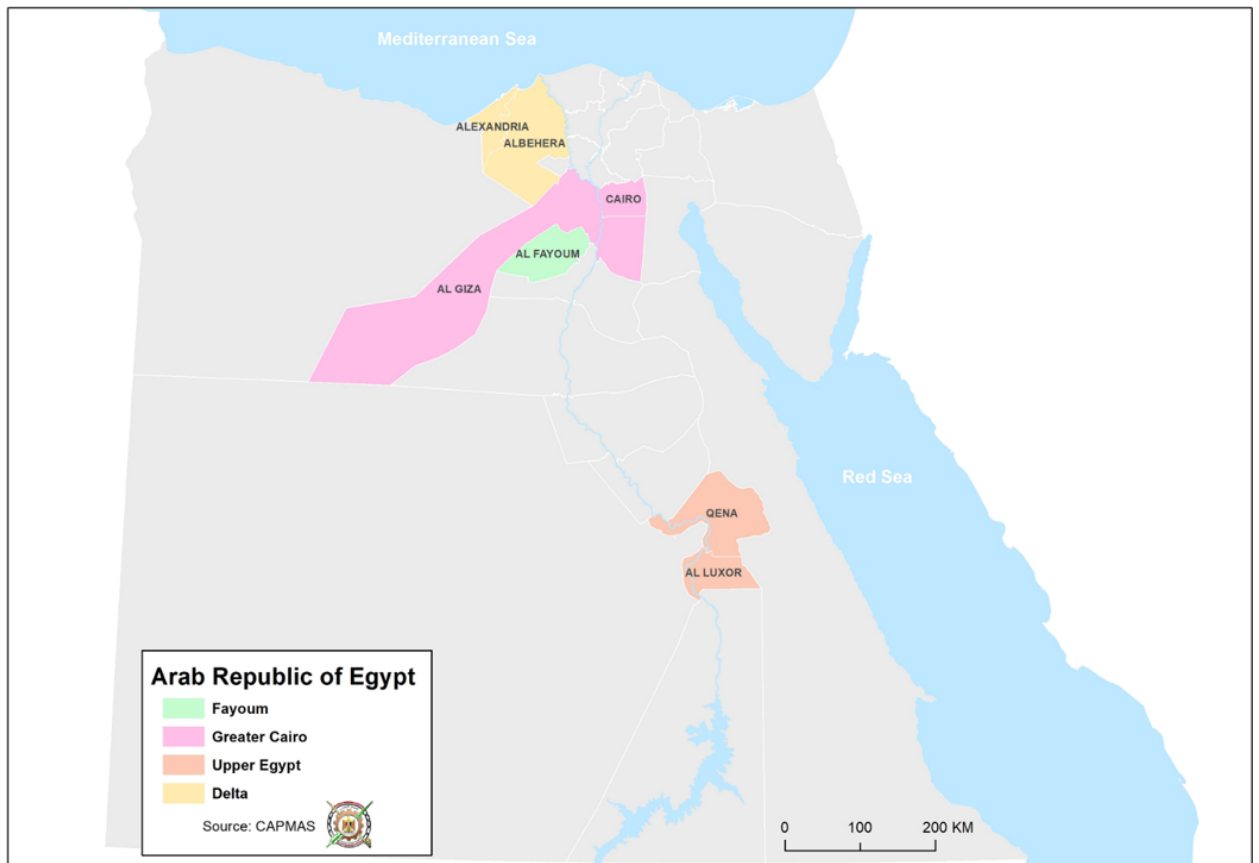
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1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



Country map showing target landscapesLandscape

	Governorate	Midpoint geocoordinates	
		Latitude	Longitude
Greater Cairo	Cairo	29.95 N	31.54 E
	Giza	28.77 N	29.23 E
West Delta	Alexandria	30.88 N	29.74 E
	Beheira	30.85 N	30.34 E
Fayoum	Fayoum	29.36 N	30.62 E
Upper Egypt	Luxor	25.39 N	32.49 E
	Qena	26.23 N	32.99 E

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Please see Annex 8 of the project document for full stakeholder engagement plan.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Please see Annex 8.

A stakeholder analysis was undertaken during project preparation to identify key stakeholders, consult with them regarding their interests in the project and define their roles and responsibilities during

project implementation. Based on these analyses, a *Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 8 to the Project Document)* has been developed to guide the implementation team. A list of key project stakeholders and their envisaged role on the project is provided below in *Table 5 of the Project Document*.

Safeguards have been designed for implementing adaptive stakeholder engagement measures if the COVID-19 pandemic is prolonged or recurrent during the project implementation phase (see *Annex 13: COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework*). Local NGO partners have important roles in facilitating integrated landscape approaches, such as the participatory baseline assessments, development of landscape strategies, and convening multi-stakeholder landscape platforms. The Country Programme Management team will provide strategic guidance to the local partners through a variety of in-person and virtual techniques accordingly. Travel to and within the project landscapes will be made consistent with the requisite protocols according to relevant national, state, and UNDP directives.

Table 5 of the Project Document: Key project stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities

Key stakeholders	Planned involvement on the project
Community-based Organisations (CBOs)	Responsibilities include effective implementation of SGP projects, skills-building, and use of easy-to-handle technologies, including training and documentation of experiences. They also are the primary agents for accessing markets and micro-finance. CBOs participate in landscape planning and analysis of lessons learned, dissemination of knowledge gained through peer-to-peer exchanges, etc. Signatories to community level partnership agreements.
Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)	NGOs lead and facilitate participatory baseline assessments and landscape planning processes; partners in multi-stakeholder partnerships for each landscape; are signatories to community level partnership agreements; provide technical assistance to community organizations for implementation of their projects; and are potential participants on policy platforms. Potential NGO stakeholders will include those with experience in the specific areas of action for socio-ecological resilient landscape management, including gender mainstreaming. NGOs will be engaged through strategic grant modalities, participation on multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, etc.
Local government units (LGUs)	Local government units (LGUs), including governorate administrations in the four landscapes and lower tier administrative divisions. LGUs will be key partners on the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms and will be closely involved in the development of the landscape strategies and implementation of the project interventions.

Key stakeholders	Planned involvement on the project
Ministry of Environment, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)	<p>? The Ministry of Environment is responsible for defining environmental policies, setting priorities and implementing initiatives within a context of sustainable development. The EEAA represents the executive arm of the Ministry with a mission to formulate environmental policies; prepare, implement, and oversee environmental protection plans and environmental development projects; and promote and uphold environmental relations between other countries and international / regional organizations (EEAA 2020). EEAA is focal agency to the CBD and other multi-lateral environmental agreements.</p> <p>? The Ministry will be represented on the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC). And the project will engage with the EEAA in advancing the involvement of local communities in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>? <u>Climate Change Central Department (CCCD)</u>. CCCD is the technical secretariat of the NCCC and the focal point for the UNFCCC. The CCCD have an important role in supervising the preparation of climate change reports and promoting new policies related to climate change. CCCD is the coordinating entity in the national Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) institutional setup, and will be involved on the project, e.g., on the NSC or Technical Advisory Group.</p> <p>? <u>Waste Management Regulatory Authority (WMRA)</u>. Established in 2015 under EEAA to mitigate the impacts of the growing waste challenges faced by Egypt. WMRA's main mission is to: i) politicize, strategize, regulate, plan, and monitor the overall waste management processes at both central and local level, to improve their management in an environmentally safe manner; ii) strengthen cooperation between Egypt, other States, and development partners, relevant international and regional organizations in arena of waste, and financial institutions; iii) recommend the legal actions necessary to be taken for accession of the international and regional conventions on wastes and communicate their environmental and socio-economic benefits; and iv) create the enabling environment to attract and promote investments in environmentally sound waste management. The WMRA will be engaged in the project as a data source on agricultural waste and strategic plans for utilization.</p>
Ministry of Local Development (MLD)	<p>? The Ministry of Local Development (MLD) was established in 1999 with the mandate to initiate sustainable projects across all 27 Egyptian governorates. The MLD will be represented on the NSC and will provide guidance on mainstreaming the landscape strategies into local development planning frameworks, e.g., in the context of the National Project for the Development of Egyptian Villages.</p>
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MoALR)	<p>? The MoALR has responsibility for agricultural and fishery policy and legislation, strategic planning, extension, and supporting research, education, and training in both agriculture and fishery sectors. The project will engage with the MoALR project interventions involving agro-ecological practices, good agricultural practices such as use of organic fertilisers, apiculture, and restoration-rehabilitation of degraded agricultural land and coastal ecosystems.</p>

Key stakeholders	Planned involvement on the project
General Authority for Fisheries Resources Development (GAFRD)	<p>? Law No 124/1983 on fishing, aquatic life and the regulation of fish farms is the main body of legislation on fisheries. The Act contains a number of provisions on aquaculture. The Act is administered by the General Authority for Fisheries Resources Development (GAFRD), established by Presidential Decree No 190/1983, falling under the Ministry of Agriculture. The project will engage with the GARFRD on interventions involving aquaculture, coastal and marine resource management, etc.</p>
Desert Research Centre (DRC)	<p>? The DRC is an entity of the MoALR established in 2001 to be the national coordinator for the implementation of Egypt's National Action Program to combat desertification, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD).</p> <p>The project will engage with the DRC on project interventions on restoration-rehabilitation of degraded agricultural land and coastal ecosystems.</p>
Climate Change Information Centre & Renewable Energy (CCICRE)	<p>The CCICRE is an entity of the MoALR and established with the mandate to be the ?hub? for national agricultural information, ideas, knowledge and studies covering environmental and socio-economics issues for agricultural activities. The main objective of CCICRE is enhancing the GHG inventory data sources & capacity building to build sustainable inventory systems and climate change mitigation actions for agriculture and strengthen and promote reforms in policies and investments that indirectly reduce vulnerability to climate change (e.g. improved water demand management, agriculture diversification supply chain development), or that promote reduction of GHG emissions.</p>
New and Renewable Energy Authority (NREA), Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy (MoERE)	<p>The MoERE aims to set and implement policies and plans of electricity energy generation, transmission and distribution by optimizing the use of available energy sources including the expansion of new and renewable energy, setting up electricity tariffs, and avail national statistics on the sector. The NREA is the national focal point for expanding efforts to develop and introduce renewable energy technologies (i.e. solar, biogas, wind) to Egypt on a commercial scale together with implementation of related energy efficiency and conservation programs. The NREA will be represented on the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC), providing strategic insight on RE/EE interventions and promoting linkages with governmental programmes.</p>
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI)	<p>MWRI is the ministerial body in charge of managing the water resources of Egypt mainly the Nile, and for monitoring all water resources in the country. The ministry also manages irrigation projects in Egypt, such as the Aswan Dam and Al-Salam Canal. The project will engage with the MWRI on project interventions involving rehabilitation of irrigation canals and promotion of efficient irrigation technologies.</p>
National Council for Women in Egypt (NCW)	<p>The NCW is responsible for drafting and implementing a national plan on the advancement of women in Egypt. The NCW has a technical secretariat based in Cairo, specialised committees on education, youth, civil society, rural women, disabilities, environment, among others, and has 27 branches among the governorates in the country. The NCW will be represented on the NSC, and the project will engage with the NCW in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, through awareness campaigns and skills training.</p>

Key stakeholders	Planned involvement on the project
Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS)	<p>The MoSS is responsible for providing social safety for vulnerable groups in Egypt.</p> <p>The MoSS will be engaged on the project, in providing information on available financial support to vulnerable groups, facilitating CBOs/NGOs in obtaining the required authorisations to participate in government grant and subsidy programmes.</p>
Ministry of Tourism	<p>The Ministry of Tourism is responsible for tourism development in Egypt. The project will engage with ministry in expanding involvement of local communities in eco-tourism initiatives and providing linkages with government programmes and private sector operators.</p>
Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Phase III (EIECP III)	<p>The EIECP III is one of the co-financing partners on the project. The OP7 project will engage with the EIECP III in regard to further developing the protected area (PA) system in Egypt, particularly with respect to the promotion of income-generating activities for local communities residing near PA's.</p>
Green Climate Fund (GCF) CCA project in the North Coast and Nile Delta Regions	<p>The OP7 project will engage with the GCF project, particularly in the West Delta landscape, on strengthening resilience of local communities, e.g., through community involvement in wetland restoration, establishment of conservation zones to protect coastal habitats, and raising awareness.</p>
Bio-Energy Association for Sustainable Development (BSRDA)	<p>The BSRDA is one of the co-financing partners on the project. The project will engage with the BSRDA on climate change mitigation (CCM) interventions, including technical assistance for biomass technologies (e.g., biogas, agro-food recycling), capacity building and awareness-raising on biomass technologies, and financing of biomass technologies, including through the Bio-Energy Fund in partnership with the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA).</p>
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA)	<p>The MSMEDA provides financial assistance to MSME for community development projects, including environmental protection. The project will engage with MSMEDA (including their microfinance sector and gender unit) as a potential co-financing partner to local CBOs/NGOs for projects implemented in the four target districts and for upscaling innovative approaches across the landscapes and other regions of the country.</p>
Agricultural Credit and Development Bank (ACDB)	<p>The ACDB is a long-standing institution providing financing for farmers, for equipment and raw materials. The bank has a social mission to support the agriculture welfare, particularly for small farmers. The project will work with the ACDB on interventions involving local farmers, e.g., land reclamation, irrigation improvements, agro-ecological farming practices, etc., advocating for co-financing support to local CBOs/NGOs and for upscaling innovative approaches.</p>
Universities, research institutions	<p>Fayoum University was involved in a bicycle-share project implemented under SGP OP6, and the OP7 strategy involves advocating for broader replication of similar initiatives at other universities. Academic and research institutions could also be engaged in delivering capacity building services and providing technical assistance.</p>

Key stakeholders	Planned involvement on the project
Private sector enterprises, chambers of commerce and industry	Private sector engagement will be facilitated during project implementation for leveraging resources and strengthening partnerships for increased livelihood opportunities for local communities. The SGP will also explore possible linkages with private sector corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives for wider resource mobilisation for grantee partners and for upscaling or replicating best practices.
UNDP	UNDP, as the GEF implementing agency, will oversee the successful implementation of the project, providing quality assurance. UNDP is a senior member of the National Steering Committee, delivering strategic guidance and ensuring alignment with the UNDP Country Programme objectives in Egypt. The SGP UCP Global Coordinator will provide regular strategic guidance to the CPMU, sharing lessons learned and best practices.
Other GEF and donor projects and initiatives	Synergies and complementary opportunities will be advocated among other GEF and donor financed projects and initiatives.

South-south cooperation (SSTrC): The project will also link up with the South-South Community Innovation Exchange Platform launched by SGP Global during its Sixth Operational Phase (OP6). During OP7 this tool will be used to share information and to replicate the knowledge and innovation created, promoted, and/or tested by civil society and communities on the ground that could fill critical gaps in national action plans and produce timely and significant results. The goal of the South-south cooperation initiative is to support communities in mobilising and taking advantage of development solutions and technical expertise available in the South. In this regard, learning opportunities and technology transfer from peer countries will be further explored during project implementation.

The project will facilitate dissemination through global ongoing South-South and global platforms, such as the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform and PANORAMA[1]¹. Considering the mature UNDP country programme in Egypt and the long-standing experience of SGP in the country, Egypt is in a unique position to share experiences and lessons to younger, less experienced programmes in the region. To bring the voice of Egypt to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation in specific events where UNDP could support engagement with the global development discourse on socio-ecological resilience at the landscape level. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for regional cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity and community-level clean energy solutions in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in Egypt.

[1] <https://panorama.solutions/en>

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain) Yes

Participants in the multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

SGP Egypt has been a highly recognized pioneer in mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in every step of its program cycle. During the project preparation phase of OP7, a *Gender Analysis and Action Plan* (see *Annex 9* to the Project Document) were prepared, building upon the experiences and lessons of implementation the gender action plan developed for OP6.

The gender action plan for the project was developed taking into consideration Egypt's national priorities as reflected in the 2014 Constitution, the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt 2030; and the Egypt 2030 Women's Strategy, as well as Egypt's global environment commitments. The plan is also consistent with the SGP OP7 Technical Guidance Note on Gender, the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-202, and the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and the GEF-7 approach on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, and learning from experiences of other organizations, a strategy for acknowledging gender differences and determining key actions to promote women's role in implementation of programs and projects was drafted during the project preparation phase.

The 2014 Constitution includes a number of articles that recognize the right of its citizens to a healthy and sustainable environment and the state's role to protect natural resources for future generations (Articles 29, 30, 32, 44, 45, 46). The SDS has a pillar dedicated to the Environment and one to Energy

with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are relevant to the thematic areas of concern of the project, which are air quality, land degradation, water pollution, solid waste disposal, and securing energy resources. The National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women 2030 has a Protection Pillar under which there are several intervention areas including one concerned with strengthening the ability of women to cope with environmental risks due to climate change and unsustainable consumption. This intervention area includes a number of indicative actions such as awareness raising, trainings, and access to funding for environmentally friendly technologies.

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) produced by UNDP is a composite measure reflecting inequality between women and men in reproductive health, empowerment, and labour market participation. Out of 162 countries included in the GII for the year 2019, Egypt ranked high at 116 with a GII value of 0.450. The Gender Gap Index (GGI) developed by the World Economic Forum examines the gap between men and women in four categories: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival; and political empowerment. In 2020, Egypt ranked 134 out of 153 countries with a Gender Gap Index score of 0.629.

The National Strategy for the Empowerment of Women and the SDS aim to raise the participation rate of women in the labour force to 35%. However, the repercussions of COVID-19 are standing in the way of the GOE efforts to boost female labour participation. It is expected that informality and unpaid care work will increase following the COVID-19 outbreak with steeper gender gaps in livelihoods. Unpaid family care work is currently quantified at EGP 167 million yearly according to the Ministry of Planning.

A more detailed description of the gender situation in Egypt, along with separate discussions for each of the four target landscapes, are presented in the gender analysis presented in *Annex 9* to the Project Document. The gender action plan for the project recognizes the differences between labour, knowledge, needs, and priorities of men and women, and calls for:

- a. Consultation with women groups on needs and requirements associated with project interventions.
 - b. Promotion of equitable representation of women and men in project activities and groups established and/or strengthened, including the landscape level multi-stakeholder governance platforms.
 - c. Development of strategic and planning documents in consultation with women.
 - d. Targeted budgeting of activities promoting active involvement of women and monitoring and evaluation of such activities.
 - e. Participation, training and skills building of women identified and budgeted in relevant project outcomes.
 - f. Encouragement of women participation in the recruitment of project implementation staff, including consultancies and other service providers.
 - g. When applicable, equal payment of women and men.
- Specific gender equality and mainstreaming actions include ensuring equitable representation of women in project decision-making bodies; ensuring equitable proportion of benefits realized from the project will be delivered to women; ensuring gender considerations are integrated into landscape

strategies; promoting gender awareness throughout the project implementation phase and promoting equal opportunity for employment for positions within the project management office, consultancies and other service providers.

The CPMU will work with the gender focal point on the NSC to help ensure gender sensitivity in all projects for approval, and to identify lessons learned and knowledge attained for adaptive management and gender-specific policy recommendations.

The project will track the following gender indicators, enabling assessment of progress towards the GEF Gender Policy and to the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy (2018-2021):

- ? Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated)
- ? Number of women-led projects supported
- ? Number of projects that contributing to equal access to and control of natural resources of women and men
- ? Number of projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance
- ? Number of projects that target socioeconomic benefits and services for women

These indicators are incorporated into the project results framework and the monitoring plan (see *Annex 4* to the Project Document). Progress will be monitored and evaluated during project implementation, with results reported in project progress reports, and adaptive management measures implemented as needed. Resources have been allocated in the implementation budget for of a Gender-Safeguards Consultant, to support development of landscape strategies, guidance in the preparation of proposals for community grants and monitoring and evaluation of implementation of community projects and achievement of the gender mainstreaming targets outlined in the Gender Action Plan.

During implementation, qualitative assessments will be conducted on the gender-specific benefits that can be directly associated to each grant project. These assessments will be incorporated in periodic M&E progress reports as well as in Midterm Review and in the Terminal Evaluation. The gender responsiveness of knowledge products generated through SGP initiatives will also be a key criterion in their design and development, and dissemination strategies will be adopted that ensure that project information reaches as many women as possible.

Please see *Annex 9* to the Project Document for the full *Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan*.

[1] UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021

[2] Egypt 2030 Women's Strategy, March 2017

[3] Gender Inequality Index (GII)

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-5-gender-inequality-index-gii>

[4] World Economic Forum The Global Gender Gap Report 2020 Country Profiles.

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf

[5] Ibid

[6] *Women's Political Participation in Egypt Barriers, opportunities, and gender sensitivity of select political institutions*, 2018

[7] NCW, *Egypt's Rapid Response to Women's Situation During Covid-19 Outbreak*, 2020.

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The private sector will be engaged in multiple ways in this project. For example, private sector partners will have an important role in regard to establishing and strengthening marketing links, business planning, consumption, distribution and packaging for value chains of agrobiodiversity produced goods, as well as establishment and/or strengthening of local business ecotourism business models. Private sector enterprises will also be engaged in the development and upscaling of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) interventions, providing training and potential linkages to technological solutions, distribution channels, financing access, etc.

As part of the project efforts to facilitate establishment of business models for leveraging funding, local and national financial institutions will be engaged, including but not limited to the Commercial International Bank, Banque Misr, Ahly National Bank, and Alexandria Bank.

The SGP will also explore possible linkages with business associations and with private sector corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, e.g., the Egyptian CSR Forum, for wider resource mobilization for grantee partners and for upscaling or replicating best practices.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

The key risks that could threaten the achievement of results through the chosen strategy are described in the risk register in *Annex 6* to the Project Document, along with proposed mitigation measures and recommended risk owners who would be responsible to manage the risks during the project implementation phase. A few of the identified risks are operational, including the low level of technical and management capacity of some CBOs to implement grant projects, the inexperience of CBOs in coordinating with different levels of government or other stakeholders (e.g., in the West Delta landscape), and potential implementation considerations associated with security threats. These risks will be mitigated through capacity building and qualified guidance delivered by the NSC, the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), the SGP Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU), the UNDP, the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, and other partners engaged through strategic grant modalities.

The social and environmental risks that were assessed as part of the social and environmental screening procedure (see *Annex 5* to the Project Document ? and copied below) are also consolidated into the risk register. The overall risk-rating for the project is ?Moderate?. Seven (7) of the identified eight (8) social and environmental project risks described through the SESP have been assessed as Moderate and one was rated as Low. To meet the SES requirements, the following safeguard plans have been prepared: (i) *Stakeholder Engagement Plan* (see *Annex 8* to the Project Document); (ii) *Gender Analysis and Action Plan* (see *Annex 9* to the Project Document); (iii) *Climate and Disaster Screening* (see *Annex 12* to the Project Document); and (iv) *COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework* (see *Annex 13* to the Project Document).

The project will institute adaptive management measures, building upon SGP's unique position in facilitating socio-ecological resilience and delivering global environmental benefits through community-driven initiatives. The project design is predicated on enhancing socio-ecological resilience. Facilitated by multi-stakeholder collaborative processes, the project strategy promotes landscape approaches for achieving sustainable management of natural resources. Bringing together cross-sectoral and multiple stakeholders into participatory processes will help enhance the knowledge of the risks associated with zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 and how landscape management approaches can help mitigate the risks and build social and ecological resilience of local communities. The project will also promote on-farm diversification and improved agro-ecological farming practices, which will contribute to increased food and income security of local communities, strengthening their coping capacities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other socioeconomic disruptions.

Risks associated with biodiversity conservation and natural resource management, climate change, and community health, safety, and working conditions will be addressed through application of UNDP social and environmental standards, mitigation measures and proactive stakeholder engagement during project implementation. Specific management measures are captured in the project design, including a Risk Register which captures all project risks, including the ones identified in the SESP, identifies risk management measures and risk owners. Standard M&E and adaptive management procedures will be applied during project implementation.

The risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, which coincided with the project preparation phase, are relevant with respect to operational, financial, and community safety aspects. A World Bank macro poverty outlook warns that in case of a prolonged disruption of the economy because of the repercussions of Covid-19, Egypt might experience a new wave of inflation that will impede the government's fiscal ability to invest in people. The underperformance of key sectors of the economy is expected to lead to higher unemployment especially among youth and women, and accordingly to increased poverty.

Safeguards have been designed for implementing adaptive stakeholder engagement measures if the COVID-19 pandemic is prolonged or recurrent during the project implementation phase (see *Annex 13: COVID-19 Analysis and Action Framework* to the Project Document). For example, virtual meetings will be held where feasible, and as needed, developing Internet skills of women and disabled people and facilitating Internet access through local NGOs, etc. SGP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be reviewed and updated to address risk of virus exposure. Hazard assessments will be required for project proposals involving gatherings of multiple people, and mitigation measures will be implemented accordingly, e.g., ensuring physical distancing, providing personal protective equipment, avoiding non-essential travel, delivering training on risks and recognition of symptoms, etc.

As outlined in the climate risk screening (see *Annex 12* to the Project Document), hazard levels associated with flooding, water scarcity, extreme weather conditions are high in some of the project landscapes and potential short-term incidents and long-term consequences would likely affect vulnerable communities the most, such as the poor, the elderly, women, and children. In severe cases leading to physical destruction, loss of lives, and migration, it would have impactful effect on the livelihoods and access to education for project beneficiaries. Risks associated with damage from potential hazards are relevant for some of the climate change mitigation interventions in rural areas, such as solar-powered agricultural pumping, biogas digesters, and agricultural waste composting installation. There are also risks to restoration-rehabilitation of degraded lands and coastal ecosystems, specifically in the Delta region, due to land subsidence. In addition to adaptation measures to be implemented by the government of Egypt (i.e. construct break walls and other structures to protect from sea level rise and extreme weather events and early warning systems), these project risks could be mitigated by proper siting, selection of durable materials, installation of equipment on impermeable layers/platform, and use of protective structures.

Community-based organisations will be required to assess in project proposal documents the risks of climate and geophysical hazards on proposed infrastructure and assets and describe what measures are proposed to reduce and manage the risks. Climate and geophysical hazards will also be addressed in the project SESP, which will be reviewed annually. Moreover, the design and implementation of project interventions will be guided the CPMU and the NSC and supported by the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms.

Extracted from Project Document Annex 5: UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

Risk Description	Impact and Probability (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, High)	Comments	Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.
<p>Risk 1: Vulnerable or marginalized groups, might be excluded from fully participating in decisions regarding priority actions on lands claimed by them and including utilization of natural resources and potential conflicts with protected area authorities; and there may be a heightened risk of vulnerability due to a prolonged or recurrent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic or similar crisis.</p> <p>Principle 1, Q4.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Vulnerable groups in the project landscapes utilizing natural resources unsustainably might be excluded (or unwilling) from participating in the landscape approaches on the project.</p> <p>There have been extensive restrictions on travel, gatherings, and other activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>The multi-stakeholder platforms that will be established in the project landscapes are planned to have equitable representation of vulnerable groups and women.</p> <p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, adaptive measures will be implemented as needed to facilitate engagement of vulnerable groups, e.g., training local facilitators who are located in the local communities and able to deliver capacity building support. The landscape strategies will address environmental carrying capacity and will include COVID-19 provisions relevant to the local circumstances, and specific adaptive measures at the individual project level will be required to be elaborated in grant proposals.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 2: Project activities and approaches might not fully incorporate or reflect views of women and girls and ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement and benefit; and there is a risk that a prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic would exacerbate gender inequality and possibly also increase gender-based violence.</p> <p>Principle 2, Q2.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>According to the Gender Inequality Index (GII, 2018) for Egypt reported in the 2019 UNDP Human Development Report is 0.45, ranking it 102 out of 162 countries. Gender inequalities prevail in many spheres in Egypt such as division of labour, social mobility, participation in the workforce, access to economic opportunities, and participation in the decision-making processes.</p>	<p>This risk was assessed during the PPG phase in the gender analysis and will be managed through the gender action plan, which are both annexed to the project document and integrated into the overall project management systems. The gender analysis and gender action plan will be regularly reviewed and updated to account for gender differentiated impacts, e.g., regarding the impacts and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Women groups and other marginalized groups will be targeted during project implementation for equitable participation and benefit. The project decision-making structures, including the multi-stakeholder platforms in the project landscapes will have equitable representation by women.</p> <p>Resources have been allocated in the implementation budget for a Gender-Safeguards Consultant, who will facilitate fulfilment of gender mainstreaming objectives, and provide training to project team members and partners. Moreover, one of the NSC members will be assigned the role of gender focal point, providing strategic oversight to the project on gender issues.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 3: Poorly designed or executed project activities could damage critical ecosystems, e.g., through the introduction of invasive alien species during restoration-rehabilitation activities.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 1, Q1.1, Q1.2, Q1.5 and Q1.6.</p>	<p>I = 4 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>There are critical ecosystems situated within some of the project landscapes, including Lake Burullus, Lake Idku, Lake Maryut, Lake Qarun Protected Area, Wadi El Rayan Protected Area, and the Upper Nile. These sites are classified as global key biodiversity areas (KBAs).</p> <p>The project aims to restore or rehabilitate 5,000 ha degraded land and improve landscape management across 25,000 ha.</p>	<p>Biodiversity conservation related community grants will be primarily carried out in partnership with expert organizations, e.g., conservation agencies, protected area management administrations, NGOs or local governments. Specific activities will be designed through collaborative arrangements with these organizations. Utilization of natural resources will be carried out sustainably and according to relevant regulations. Restoration-rehabilitation activities will be carried out in accordance with management plans developed through participatory processes. No invasive alien species will be used; preference will be given to native species. And project interventions will not entail unsustainable exploitation of high conservation value ecosystems.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 4: Climatic unpredictability, periodic droughts, changes in rainfall distribution, altered frequency of extreme weather events, rising temperatures may affect project results, including agroecological practices, rehabilitation of degraded terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, etc.; and a potential economic downturn as a result of a prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic (or similar) may increase the vulnerability and coping capacities of local communities.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 2, Q2.2.</p>	<p>I = 3 P =3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The ecosystems in the project landscapes are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>The landscape approach implemented under the project will promote socio-ecological resilience. The landscape strategies will include priority actions to achieve enhanced resilience, based upon the circumstances in the landscapes and capacities of the local communities. The strategies will also address potential increased vulnerability related to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>CBOs will be required to include an assessment in the project proposal documents on the risks of climate and geophysical hazards on proposed infrastructure and assets, and describe what measures are proposed to reduce and manage the risks. Climate and geophysical hazards will also be addressed in the project social and environmental screening procedure (SESP), which will be reviewed annually. Moreover, the design and implementation of project interventions will be guided by the Country Programme management Team and the NSC and supported by the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 5: Local community members involved in project activities may be at a heightened risk of COVID-19 virus exposure, e.g., stakeholder meetings, workshops and trade fairs, community field work, etc.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 3, Q3.6.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 5</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The landscape approach promoted on the project is predicated on participatory processes, including multi-stakeholder meetings, community field work, showcasing products and services in workshops and trade fairs, learning exchanges, seminars, etc.</p>	<p>Adaptive management measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of virus exposure during a prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic, or similar crisis. For example, virtual meetings will be held where feasible, and as needed, developing Internet skills of women and disable people and facilitating Internet access through local NGOs, etc. SGP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be reviewed and updated to address risk of virus exposure. Hazard assessments will be required for project proposals involving gatherings of multiple people, and mitigation measures will be implemented accordingly, e.g., ensuring physical distancing, providing personal protective equipment, avoiding non-essential travel, delivering training on risks and recognition of symptoms, etc.</p> <p>The project Communications Strategy will include specific considerations for communication, public awareness and exchange of information under these circumstances. As COVID-19 is an evolving situation and could potentially exacerbate other vulnerabilities and risks, it will be important to remain abreast of the situation during project implementation and regularly review the risk and update mitigation measures as needed.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 6: Project interventions involving solid waste management and biogas units may pose health risks to local beneficiaries.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 3, Q3.6.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>There is a risk of exposure to pathogens through improper handling of solid wastes and livestock manure used as feedstock for the biogas digestors, and use of biogas residuals (e.g., for fertilizer).</p>	<p>There is already a current practice through the use of animal manure as natural fertilizer on agricultural lands, which biogas technology would replace. And waste management projects will be implemented with experienced organisations.</p> <p>Risk mitigation will involve promotion of best practices and raising awareness of local people.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 7: Project interventions may adversely impact to sites, structures, or objects with historical or cultural values.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 4, Q4.1.</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Egypt is rich in sites having historical, archaeological, and paleontological significance, with new discoveries unearthed regularly.</p> <p>Such potential sites could be found among the project landscapes, including Fayoum and Upper Egypt.</p>	<p>SGP interventions will respect historical sites and the interventions will focus on reducing pollution, improving waste management, and limiting off-track tourism, which currently threaten and endanger historical zones.</p> <p>The SGP project proposal template will be amended with a specific requirement regarding cultural heritage, which will be aligned with / based on the requirements of SES Standard 4. For any intrusive activity requiring notification to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and/or other competent authority, the grantees will be required to make such notification in advance. In the possible case of chance finds, Article 24 of Egyptian Law No. 117 of 1983, as amended by Law No. 3 of 2010 Promulgating the Antiquities Protection Law, stipulates the required legal procedures, as follows:</p> <p>?Whoever accidentally finds a movable antiquity or part or parts of an immovable monument, must give notice of such to the nearest administrative power within 48 (forty-eight) hours as of time of finding the same. Moreover, he must take good care of such antiquity till handing it over to the competent authority otherwise he is considered possessor of antiquity without license, and the authority referred to must immediately notify the Council (now Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities) of such. The antiquity becomes the property the State and the Council (now Ministry of</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 8: Project interventions, e.g., involving the installation and use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, may result in release of pollutants to the environment and in the generation of hazardous waste.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 7, Q7.2.</p>	<p>I = 2</p> <p>P = 2</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Unsafe handling and disposal of batteries from solar systems and LED lamps may release harmful pollutants to the environment. Envisaged climate change mitigation interventions include solar photovoltaic lighting and pumping, as well as LED lighting.</p> <p>Potential environmental impacts would likely be limited in terms of magnitude and can be easily avoided and managed. Projects are assessed by the National Coordinator and the NSC as part of proposal development, and actions to mitigate risk are incorporated into each proposal prior to approval. Moreover, resources are allocated for recruiting an NGO strategic partner</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

[60] Egypt's Economic Update ? April 2020

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/egypt/publication/economic-update-april-2020>

[61] Ibid

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Institutional arrangements

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**.

The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

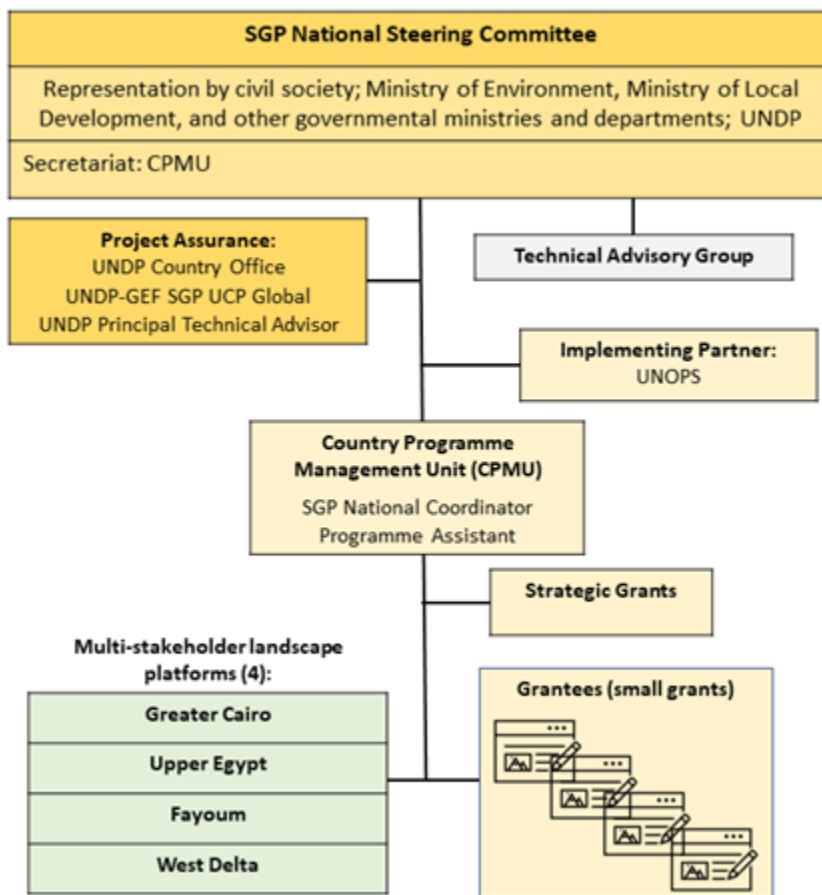
- ? Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- ? Risk management as outlined in this Project Document.
- ? 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.
- ? Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

Project beneficiary Groups: CBOs, CSOs and NGOs in the target landscapes: These stakeholders, with support of the multi-stakeholder governance platforms in each of the four landscapes, as well as technical

and strategic assistance from the SGP, will design and implement the projects to generate global environmental benefits and community livelihood benefits.

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is responsible for delivering GEF project cycle management services comprising project approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight, and project completion and evaluation. UNDP is also responsible for the Project Assurance role of the SGP National Steering Committee.

Project organisation structure: The roles and responsibilities of the various parties to the project are illustrated in the organogram shown below in *Figure 3 of the Project Document* and described in the SGP Operational Guidelines (see *Annex 17 to the Project Document*).



Project Document Figure 3: Project organization

Project Board: The Project Board (called **SGP National Steering Committee, NSC**) is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, NSC decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. Establishment and operations of SGP National Steering Committees

are carried out in accordance with the SGP Operational Guidelines (see *Annex 17 to the Project Document*).

In case consensus cannot be reached within the NSC, the UNDP Resident Representative (or their designate) will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

Specific responsibilities of the NSC include:

- ? Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints.
- ? Address project issues as raised by the project manager (also called SGP National Coordinator).
- ? Provide guidance on new project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
- ? Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
- ? Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF.
 - ? Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
 - ? Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.
 - ? Track and monitor co-financing for this project.
 - ? Review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year.
 - ? Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report.
 - ? Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.
 - ? Provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans.
- ? Address project-level grievances.
- ? Approve the project Inception Report, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses.
- ? Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.
- ? Ensure highest levels of transparency and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

Project Assurance: UNDP performs the quality assurance role and supports the NSC and Country Programme Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate project management milestones are managed and completed, and conflict of interest issues are monitored and addressed. The SGP-NSC cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the SGP National Coordinator. UNDP provides a three ? tier oversight services involving the UNDP Country Offices and UNDP at regional and headquarters levels. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

Project extensions: The UNDP Resident Representative and the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator must approve all project extensions. All extensions incur costs, and the GEF project budget cannot be increased. A single extension may be granted on an exceptional basis only if the following conditions are met: one extension only for a project for a maximum of six months; the project management costs during the extension period must remain within the originally approved amount, and any increase in PMC costs will be covered by non-GEF resources; the UNDP Country Office oversight costs in excess of the CO's Agency fee specified in the DOA during the extension period must be covered by non-GEF resources.

UNDP will provide overall Programme oversight and take responsibility for standard GEF project cycle management services beyond assistance and oversight of project design and negotiation, including project monitoring, periodic evaluations, troubleshooting, and reporting to the GEF. UNDP will also provide high level technical and managerial support from the UNDP GEF Global Coordinator for the SGP Upgrading Country Programmes, who is responsible for project oversight for all SGP Upgraded Country Programme projects. The SGP Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) will monitor Upgraded Country Programmes for compliance with GEF SGP core policies and procedures.

In accordance with the global **SGP Operational Guidelines** (see **Annex 17**) that will guide overall project implementation in Egypt, and in keeping with past best practice, the UNDP Resident Representative will appoint the **National Steering Committee** (NSC) members. The NSC, composed of government and non-government organizations with a non-government majority, a UNDP representative, and individuals with expertise in the GEF Focal Areas, is responsible for grant selection and approval and for determining the overall strategy of the SGP in the country. NSC members serve without remuneration and rotate periodically in accordance with its rules of procedure. The Government is usually represented by the GEF Operational Focal Point or by another high-level representative of relevant ministries or institutions. The NSC assesses the performance of the SGP National Coordinator with input from the UNDP RR, the SGP UCP Global Coordinator, and UNOPS. The NSC also contributes to bridging community-level experiences with national policymaking.

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) In accordance with the global SGP Operational Guidelines (see *Annex 17 to the Project Document*), the NSC may also establish a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with a pool of voluntary experts on call to serve as a technical sub-committee, for review of proposals and in relation to specific areas of programming and partnership development. The TAG can also be tasked by the NSC to provide specific technical guidance in specialised areas of work, such as carbon measurement, payments for ecosystem services, marketing and certification of products, transboundary diagnostic analysis, and other relevant fields. In addition, the TAG may also be formed in response to donor and co-financing requirements mobilised for the SGP country programme. The TAG will provide technical guidance with regards to project selection and the quality of project proposals, prior to final review and approval by the

NSC. In such cases, minutes from TAG meetings will be a pre-requisite and fully report on the review process and recommendations made to the NSC. In certain cases, and depending on the area of technical specialization required, the NSC may decide to invite other organisations or individual experts to assist in project review.

The UNDP Country Office is the business unit in UNDP for the SGP project and is responsible for ensuring the project meets its objective and delivers on its targets. The Country Office will make available its expertise in various environment and development fields as shown below. It will also provide other types of support at the local level such as infrastructure and financial management services, as required. UNDP will be represented in the NSC and will actively participate in grant monitoring activities. The CO will participate in NSC meetings, promoting synergies with other relevant Programmes, and support the design and implementation of the SGP strategy, among other things.

The Country Programme Management Unit (CPMU) composed of an SGP National Coordinator and a Programme Assistant, appointed by the Implementing Partner, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Programme. This includes supporting NSC strategic work and grant selection by developing technical papers, undertaking ex-ante technical reviews of project proposals; taking responsibility for monitoring the grant portfolio and for providing technical assistance to grantees during project design and implementation; mobilizing cash and in-kind resources; preparing reports for UNDP, GEF and other donors; implementing a capacity development Programme for communities, CBOs and NGOs, as well as a communications and knowledge management strategy to ensure adequate visibility of GEF investments, and disseminating good practices and lessons learnt. The terms of reference for the members of the CPMU are included in the overview of technical consultancies/subcontracts in *Annex 7 to the Project Document*.

Grants will be selected by the NSC from proposals submitted by CBOs and NGOs through calls for proposals in specific thematic and geographic areas relevant to the SGP Country Programme strategy, as embodied in this document. Although government organizations cannot receive SGP grants, every effort will be made to coordinate grant implementation with relevant line ministries, decentralized institutions, universities and local government authorities to ensure their support, create opportunities for co-financing, and provide feedback on policy implementation on the ground. Contributions from and cooperation with the private sector will also be sought.

UNOPS will provide Country Programme implementation services, including human resources management, budgeting, accounting, grant disbursement, auditing, and procurement. UNOPS is responsible for SGP's financial management and provides monthly financial reports to UNDP. The UNOPS SGP Standard Operating Procedures guide the financial and administrative management of the project. UNOPS will provide a certified expenditure report as of 31 December of each year of implementation.

A key service of UNOPS is the contracting of SGP staff as needed and required by the Programme, and once contracted, UNOPS provides guidance and supervision, together with the UNDP CO acting on behalf of UNOPS, to the SGP country staff in their administrative and finance related work. UNOPS also provides other important services (as specified in the GEF Council document C.36/4) that include (1) oversight and quality assurance: (i) coordinate with the Upgrading Country Programme (UCP) Global Coordinator on annual work plan activities and (ii) undertake trouble-shooting and problem-solving

missions; (2) project financial management: (i) review and authorize operating budgets; (ii) review and authorize disbursement, (iii) monitor and oversee all financial transactions, (iv) prepare semi-annual and annual financial progress reports and (v) prepare periodic status reports on grant allocations and expenditures; (3) project procurement management: (i) undertake procurement activities and (ii) management of contracts; (4) project assets management: (i) maintain an inventory of all capitalized assets; (5) project risks management: (i) prepare and implement an annual audit plan and (ii) follow up on all audit recommendations; and (6) Grants management: (i) administer all grants, (ii) financial grant monitoring and (iii) legal advice.

Under its legal advice role, UNOPS takes the lead in investigations of UNOPS-contracted SGP staff. UNOPS services also include transactional services: (1) personnel administration, benefits and entitlements of project personnel contracted by UNOPS; (2) processing payroll of project personnel contracted by UNOPS, (3) input transaction instruction and automated processing of project personnel official mission travel and DSA; (4) input transaction instruction and automated processing of financial transactions such as Purchase Order, Receipts, Payment Vouchers and Vendor Approval and (5) procurement in UN Web Buy.

UNOPS will continue with a number of areas for enhancing execution services started during the fifth Operational Phase, including: inclusion of co-financing below \$500,000; technical assistance to high risk/low performing countries; developing a risk-based management approach; strengthening the central structure to make it more suitable for an expanded Programme; resolving grant disbursement delays; enhancing country Programme oversight; improving monitoring & evaluation; increasing the audit volume and quality assurance work; and optimizing Programme cost-effectiveness. To facilitate global coherence in execution of services, guidance and operating procedures, UNOPS through a central management team and NSC, coordinates primarily with UNDP/GEF HQ respectively.

UNOPS will not make any financial commitments or incur any expenses that would exceed the budget for implementing the project as set forth in this Project Document. UNOPS shall regularly consult with UNDP concerning the status and use of funds and shall promptly advise UNDP any time when UNOPS is aware that the budget to carry out these services is insufficient to fully implement the project in the manner set out in the Project Document. UNDP shall have no obligation to provide UNOPS with any funds or to make any reimbursement for expenses incurred by UNOPS in excess of the total budget as set forth in the Project Document.

UNOPS will submit a cumulative financial report each quarter (31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December). The report will be submitted to UNDP through the ATLAS Project Delivery Report (PDR) system and follow the established ATLAS formats and PDR timelines. The level of detail in relation to the reporting requirement is indicated in the Project Document budget which will be translated into the ATLAS budgets. UNDP will include the expenditure reported by UNOPS in its reconciliation of the project financial report.

Upon completion or termination of activities, UNOPS shall furnish a financial closure report, including a list of non-expendable equipment purchased by UNOPS, and all relevant audited or certified financial statements and records related to such activities, as appropriate, pursuant to its Financial Regulations and Rules.

Title to any equipment and supplies that may be furnished by UNDP or procured through UNDP funds shall rest with UNDP until such time as ownership thereof is transferred. Equipment and supplies that may be furnished by UNDP or procured through UNDP funds will be disposed as agreed, in writing, between UNDP and UNOPS. UNDP shall provide UNOPS with instructions on the disposal of such equipment and supplies within 90 days of the end of the Project.

The arrangements described in this Project Document will remain in effect until the end of the project, or until terminated in writing (with 30 days' notice) by either party. The schedule of activities specified in the Project Document remains in effect based on continued performance by UNOPS unless it receives written indication to the contrary from UNDP. The arrangements described in this Agreement, including the structure of implementation and responsibility for results, shall be revisited on an annual basis and may result in the amendment of this Project Document.

If this Agreement is terminated or suspended, UNDP shall reimburse UNOPS for all costs directly incurred by UNOPS in the amounts specified in the project budget or as otherwise agreed in writing by UNDP and UNOPS.

All further correspondence regarding this Agreement, other than signed letters of agreement or amendments thereto should be addressed to the UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator and the UNDP Resident Coordinator.

UNOPS shall keep UNDP fully informed of all actions undertaken by them in carrying out this Agreement.

Any changes to the Project Document that would affect the work being performed by UNOPS shall be recommended only after consultation between the parties. Any amendment to this Project Document shall be affected by mutual agreement, in writing.

If UNOPS is prevented by force majeure from fulfilling its obligations under this Agreement, it shall not be deemed in breach of such obligations. UNOPS shall use all reasonable efforts to mitigate the consequences of force majeure. Force majeure is defined as natural catastrophes such as but not limited to earthquakes, floods, cyclonic or volcanic activity; war (whether declared or not), invasion, rebellion, terrorism, revolution, insurrection, civil war, riot, radiation or contaminations by radioactivity; other acts of a similar nature or force.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, UNOPS shall in no event be liable as a result or consequence of any act or omission on the part of UNDP, the government and/or any provincial and/or municipal authorities, including its agents, servants and employees.

UNDP and UNOPS shall use their best efforts to promptly settle through direct negotiations any dispute, controversy or claim which is not settled within sixty (60) days from the date either party has notified the other party of the dispute, controversy or claim and of measures which should be taken to rectify it, shall be referred to the UNDP Administrator and the UNOPS Executive Director for resolution.

This project will be implemented by UNOPS in accordance with UNOPS' Financial Rules and Regulations provided these do not contravene the principles established in UNDP's Financial Regulations and Rules.

UNOPS as the Implementing Partner shall comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations security management system

Planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives

The project strategy has a strong emphasis on building upon baseline activities implemented by project partners, as well as on establishing new and strengthening existing partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved. The project will collaborate with and build on the lessons of a range of related initiatives. The National Steering Committee (NSC) has consistently promoted the collaboration of the Country Programme with GEF and government financed projects and programmes for many years. SGP Egypt has provided technical assistance to community components of selected GEF full-sized projects to increase the efficiency of uptake by community stakeholders of project-promoted technologies and practices. Members of the NSC endorse collaborative arrangements and partnerships to maximize the efficiency of the GEF SGP investment, as well, with SGP-sponsored technologies, and ensure that experience and lessons learned are disseminated and absorbed by government programmes and institutions.

Some of the key related initiatives where partnerships will be fostered are listed below and intersections with project outputs are shown in in *Table 4* of the Project Document.

- ? *UNDP-GEF Project: Grid Connected Small Scale PV Systems (Egypt PV)* that is implemented with the Industrial Modernisation Centre (IMC). The project is promoting different applications for small scale photovoltaic systems. It can support development of a business model for farmers and Water Users Associations to expand the application of PV water pumping in rural Egypt.
- ? *GCF-UNDP funded project: Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in North Coast of Egypt Project (ECCADP)* that is implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation aiming to develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan for the North Coast of Egypt. The construction work is associated with community development activities including small scale income generation and job creation initiatives for local fishermen and farmers communities.
- ? *UNDP GEF Project: Mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the tourism development and operations in threatened ecosystems in Egypt.* This project is designed to mainstream biodiversity into the Egyptian tourism sector. It comes at a critical time in Egypt's recent history with the political changes that are currently underway to make government institutions more accountable and to develop the economy, both of which are resulting in considerable changes in the way that both tourism and biodiversity resources may be managed in the future.
- ? *UNDP GEF Medical and E-waste Management Project:* aims to ?Protect human health and the environment from unintentional releases of POPs originating from incineration and open burning of health care- and E-waste?. The SGP has promoted the low-emissions dimension of improved waste management practices.
- ? The objective of the UNEP-IUCN-GEF Project: *Effective Management of Wadi El Rayan and Qarun Protected Areas* is to improve the management effectiveness of the Wadi El Rayan and Lake Qarun protected areas through community involvement and capacity building. This project is directly complementary to the OP7 project and synergies will be explored during the further development of the Fayoum landscape strategy.

- ? The GEF-EBRD programme in Egypt is providing loans for energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy investments. Potential synergies with the OP7 project include knowledge sharing, upscaling, and possible cofinancing of CCM interventions.
- ? There are also potential synergies with the *Clean Technology Entrepreneurship and Market Creation project* (IFC-MSMEDA), particularly with respect to boosting farmer's access to finance for solar irrigation technologies.

Project Document Table 5: Intersection of related initiatives with project outputs

Other Initiatives	Main Partner(s)	Intersections with project outputs
Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Phase III (EIECP III)	Ministry of Environment, UNDP	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.2.2
UNDP-GEF Project: Grid Connected Small Scale PV Systems (Egypt PV)	Industrial Modernisation Centre	1.2.1, 1.2.2, 2.1.1, 2.2.2
GCF-UNDP funded project: Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in North Coast of Egypt Project (ECCADP)	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.2.2
UNDP GEF Project: Mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the tourism development and operations in threatened ecosystems in Egypt	Ministry of Tourism	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.2.2
UNEP-IUCN-GEF Project: Effective Management of Wadi El Rayan and Qarun Protected Areas	EEAA	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.2.2
UNDP GEF Medical and E-waste Management Project	Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 2.2.2
Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF), European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	National Bank of Egypt, local financial institutions	1.2.1, 1.2.2, 2.1.1, 2.2.2
Clean Technology Entrepreneurship and Market Creation project, International Finance Corporation (IFC)	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (MSMEDA)	1.2.1, 1.2.2, 2.1.1, 2.2.2

[62] GEF/C.54/05/Rev.01 *GEF Small Grants Programme: Implementation Arrangements for GEF-7*, approved by GEF Council.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC
- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD
- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury
- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC
- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC
- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC
- Others

The Egypt SGP Country Programme will continue to support national priorities under OP7 and work in full partnership with all relevant government programmes and strategies, including the 2015-2030 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (**NBSAP**), particularly Goal 1 (Conserve and manage terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity to ensure sustainable use and equitable benefits to the people, Goal 2 (sustainable use of natural resources), Goal 5 (prepare for climate change and combat desertification), and Goal 6 (build partnerships and integrate biodiversity into all national development frameworks).

The project will also contribute to achievement of the targets outlined in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which is under development at the time of developing the Project Document. The project is aligned with the following draft 2030 Action Targets of the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

- ? **Target 1.** By 2030, [50%] of land and sea areas globally are under spatial planning addressing land/sea use change, retaining most of the existing intact and wilderness areas, and allow to restore [X%] of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial natural ecosystems and connectivity among them.
- ? **Target 7.** By 2030, increase contributions to climate change mitigation adaptation and disaster risk reduction from nature-based solutions and ecosystems-based approaches, ensuring resilience and minimizing any negative impacts on biodiversity.
- ? **Target 9.** By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%].
- ? **Target 11.** By 2030, increase benefits from biodiversity and green/blue spaces for human health and well-being, including the proportion of people with access to such spaces by at least [100%], especially for urban dwellers.
- ? **Target 13.** By 2030, integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts at all levels, ensuring that biodiversity values are mainstreamed across all sectors and integrated into assessments of environmental impacts.
- ? **Target 19.** By 2030, ensure that quality information, including traditional knowledge, is available to decision makers and public for the effective management of biodiversity through promoting awareness, education and research.
- ? **Target 20.** By 2030, ensure equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and ensure rights over relevant resources of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls as well as youth, in accordance with national circumstances

The project is aligned with the national Low Emission Development Strategy (**LEDS**), in particular with respect to priorities aimed at reducing GHG emissions in the agricultural sector, and also sustainable transport; the National Action Plan (**NAP**) to Combat Desertification, particularly regarding capacity building, rehabilitating degraded agricultural lands, stabilizing sand dunes, and improving irrigation practices; the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (**LDN TSP**) ? the Fayoum Governorate is one of the country?s LDN hotspots; the National Wetland Strategy, especially Objective 2 (management, rehabilitation or restoration of wetland sites are implemented with support of governmental agencies and local communities; the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy (**SADS 2030**), specifically related to enhancing water-use efficiency; Egypt?s Integrated Energy Strategy, which includes objectives to increase share of generated energy from renewable energy to 42% by 2035 and improving energy efficiency by 18%; and the National Water Resources Plan (**NWRP 2017-2037**), particularly with respect to controlling pollution, increasing irrigation efficiency, capacity building, and increasing awareness.

The OP7 project is also aligned with the **National Project for the Development of Egyptian Villages**, launched by the Egyptian President in 2020 and led by the Ministry of Local Development. The national project aims to strengthen development of 1,000 villages in the country within the framework of

sustainable development principles.

[63] CBD, 17 August 2020. Update of the Zero Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1. The term 'post-2020 global biodiversity framework' is used as a placeholder pending decision on the final name at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

Resources have been allocated in the OP7 project budget to further develop the Knowledge Management Strategy for SGP in Egypt, and to develop a Communications Strategy. It will be important to address issues associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the knowledge management and communications strategies, e.g., including specific considerations for communication, public awareness and exchange of information under these circumstances. As COVID-19 is an evolving situation and could potentially exacerbate other vulnerabilities and risks, it will be important to remain abreast of the situation during project implementation and regularly review the risk and update mitigation measures as needed.

Each SGP grant project is designed to contribute towards the following results: global environmental and local sustainable development benefits; strengthened organizational capacities from learning by doing; and knowledge from evaluation of the innovation experience.

At the broader landscape level, the SGP Egypt Country Programme has been producing case studies of the landscape planning and management experience. These case studies highlight the processes of stakeholder participation, as well as the progress toward the targets selected during landscape planning. The results of these studies will be published and disseminated throughout landscapes through print and digital media and SGP's institutional partners, NGOs, SGP-supported CSO networks, universities and others.

As in previous phases, potential 'strategic projects', in line with SGP's global guidelines are being developed. In OP6, a strategic project was funded to mainstream biodiversity at the national level and support civil society engagement in CBD COP14 and afterwards. This strategic project produced a case study which highlighted the participatory approach, as well as successful implementation towards achieving national targets. Strategic projects will continue bringing broader adoption of specific successful SGP-supported technologies, practices or systems to a tipping point in each landscape through engagement of potential financial partners, policy makers and their national/subnational advisors and institutions, as well as the private sector.

In the case of knowledge management, each grant project has as a primary product a case study, and each grant a summary of lessons learned based on evaluation of implementation results and their contributions to GEB, local development objectives and landscape level outcomes, including the development of social capital. This knowledge is being systematized and codified for dissemination at the landscape level through policy dialogue platforms, community landscape management networks and multi-stakeholder

partnerships, and knowledge fairs and other exchanges. The individual grant project case studies are anticipated at project design and based on a participatory methodology, so that the production of the case studies strengthens the community organization's capacities for reflection and action through learning-by-doing.

In OP6, a stand-alone Capacity Development project supported the production of case studies and disseminated them at national and local levels through different knowledge channels. It produced factsheets, newsletters, knowledge management and audio-visual materials. These knowledge products along with the individual case studies make up a 'living' knowledge platform, which will be further strengthened and expanded during OP7.

The knowledge obtained from project experiences and lessons learned will be socialized through SGP's well-established national network of stakeholders and SGP's global platform, and it will be used in upscaling successful initiatives. The increased capacity of community-level stakeholders to generate, access and use information and knowledge is expected to increase the sustainability of project activities beyond the life of the grant funding. Knowledge sharing and replication will help ensure that the impacts of the project are sustained and expanded, generating additional environmental benefits over the longer-term.

At the global level, the SGP innovation library will continue to be updated with knowledge products from the experience of the SGP Upgrading Country Program.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project's monitoring and evaluation plan is described under Outcome 3.1 of the project strategy, as well as in Section VII Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of the Project Document. The project monitoring plan is outlined in Annex 4 to the Project Document. And the M&E budget is summarized below in Table 7 of the Project Document.

Project document Table 7: Monitoring and evaluation plan and budget

GEF M&E requirements	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop	16,440	Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
Inception Report	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project.
M&E of GEF core indicators and project results framework	12,070	Annually and at mid-point and closure.

GEF M&E requirements	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	None	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring of gender action plan, SESP, stakeholder engagement plan	30,920	On-going
Supervision missions	None	Annually
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	19,080	September 2023
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	19,080	September 2025
TOTAL indicative COST	97,590	4.7% of total GEF grant

Certain adaptive management measures are envisaged during project implementation in case of a prolonged or recurrent pandemic. Through implementation of possible adaptive management measures, project implementation is expected to be carried out without major impacts to the budget over the four-year duration. For example, local NGO partners have important roles in facilitating integrated landscape approaches, such as the participatory baseline assessments, development of landscape strategies, convening multi-stakeholder landscape platforms, and carrying out site-level monitoring and evaluation tasks. CPMU will provide strategic guidance to the local partners through a variety of in-person and virtual techniques accordingly.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)?

The project will generate socioeconomic benefits for an estimated cumulative total of 10,000 direct project beneficiaries, of whom 5,000 are female. Women play a particularly important role in the project landscapes, considering their tasks and responsibilities for management of agroecological systems in rural areas and marketing agricultural products and services. Socioeconomic benefits include:



- ? Sustainable livelihood benefits generated as a result of application of regenerative agricultural practices, insertion into sustainable agrobiodiversity chains, and diversified farming systems.
- ? Improved access to RE-EE technology.





- ? Increased socio-economic resilience of local communities through implementation of participatory landscape management.
- ? Protection of traditional knowledge.
- ? Increased social capital through expanded association of local people, and inclusive participation of local communities in conservation and restoration of local ecosystems.

Adopting the integrated, socio-ecological resilience landscape approach on the project will help ensure the socioeconomic benefits are coupled with achievement of global environmental benefits. Facilitated through multi-stakeholder, participatory processes, collective action initiated at the community level will lead to conservation of biodiversity resources at scale. And protection and restoration of critical ecosystems at landscape dimensions will provide increased resilience to the impacts of climate change, providing a buffer against extreme weather events, floods, and droughts.

The project is relevant with respect to several of the **sustainable development goals (SDGs)**, most notably SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as outlined below in *Table 2 of the Project Document*.

Table 2 of the Project Document: Project contributions towards Sustainable Development Goals

SDG	Project Contribution:
	10,000 estimated direct beneficiaries, participating and benefitting in interventions on strengthening access to natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services. (aligned with SDG 1.1) Landscape strategies provide pro-poor and gender-sensitive frameworks for accelerating development in poverty-stricken areas. (aligned with SDG 1.b)
	Project will promote sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production and help maintain ecosystems and strengthen resilience to climate change. (aligned with SDG 2.4)
	The SGP has a strong emphasis on facilitating capacity development of local communities, including youth, women, disabled persons and other vulnerable groups. Building technical and vocational skills and promoting awareness through environmental education initiatives are integrated into the project strategy. (aligned with SDG 4.4)
	50% of the envisaged direct beneficiaries are estimated to be female (5,000 individuals). Women empowerment is expected to be strengthened through increased autonomy on agricultural production systems and energy use, enhanced decision-making regarding credit, increased leadership through active participation in women's groups, and reduction in workload. (aligned with SDG 5.a)
	Local communities have increased access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, through increased access to renewable energy and broader adoption of energy efficient solutions. (aligned with SDG 7.1)
	The landscape strategies will provide integrated frameworks towards social inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and resilience to disasters. (aligned with SDG 11.b)
	An estimated 20,000 ha of landscapes will be brought under improved management practices, through implementation of sustainable land management, participatory management of natural resources, and participatory restoration-rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems. (aligned with SDG 12.2)

	<p>Climate change measures will be integrated into the landscape strategies and implemented across the target landscapes. (aligned with SDG 13.2) Local communities will have increased awareness of climate change mitigation through learning-by-doing capacity building and training delivered through partnerships with expert organizations and interactions with the NGOs, local, state and national government and the private sector. (aligned with SDG 13.3)</p>
	<p>Community projects planned in the West Delta landscape to protect and sustainable manage marine and coastal ecosystems. Interventions are also envisaged to include participatory restoration and management of coastal wetlands. (aligned with SDG 14.2 and 14.b)</p>
	<p>The project aims to improve management practices across 20,000 ha (aligned with SDG 15.2) and facilitate restoration-rehabilitation of 10,000 ha of degraded ecosystems (aligned with SDG 15.3). Biodiversity values will be integrated into the landscape strategies (aligned with 15.9), and co-financing from government, private sector and civil society will be mobilised to support conservation and restoration interventions (aligned with SDG 15.b).</p>
	<p>Enhancing South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to best management approaches, specifically participatory models strengthening socio-ecological resilience of production landscapes (aligned with SDG 17.6).</p>

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 1: Vulnerable or marginalized groups, might be excluded from fully participating in decisions regarding priority actions on lands claimed by them and including utilization of natural resources and potential conflicts with protected area authorities; and there may be a heightened risk of vulnerability due to a prolonged or recurrent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic or similar crisis.</p> <p>Principle 1, Q4.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Vulnerable groups in the project landscapes utilizing natural resources unsustainably might be excluded (or unwilling) from participating in the landscape approaches on the project.</p> <p>There have been extensive restrictions on travel, gatherings, and other activities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>The multi-stakeholder platforms that will be established in the project landscapes are planned to have equitable representation of vulnerable groups and women.</p> <p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, adaptive measures will be implemented as needed to facilitate engagement of vulnerable groups, e.g., training local facilitators who are located in the local communities and able to deliver capacity building support. The landscape strategies will address environmental carrying capacity and will include COVID-19 provisions relevant to the local circumstances, and specific adaptive measures at the individual project level will be required to be elaborated in grant proposals.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 2: Project activities and approaches might not fully incorporate or reflect views of women and girls and ensure equitable opportunities for their involvement and benefit; and there is a risk that a prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic would exacerbate gender inequality and possibly also increase gender-based violence.</p> <p>Principle 2, Q2.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>According to the Gender Inequality Index (GII, 2018) for Egypt reported in the 2019 UNDP Human Development Report is 0.45, ranking it 102 out of 162 countries. Gender inequalities prevail in many spheres in Egypt such as division of labour, social mobility, participation in the workforce, access to economic opportunities, and participation in the decision-making processes.</p>	<p>This risk was assessed during the PPG phase in the gender analysis and will be managed through the gender action plan, which are both annexed to the project document and integrated into the overall project management systems. The gender analysis and gender action plan will be regularly reviewed and updated to account for gender differentiated impacts, e.g., regarding the impacts and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Women groups and other marginalized groups will be targeted during project implementation for equitable participation and benefit. The project decision-making structures, including the multi-stakeholder platforms in the project landscapes will have equitable representation by women.</p> <p>Resources have been allocated in the implementation budget for a Gender-Safeguards Consultant, who will facilitate fulfilment of gender mainstreaming objectives, and provide training to project team members and partners. Moreover, one of the NSC members will be assigned the role of gender focal point, providing strategic oversight to the project on gender issues.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 3: Poorly designed or executed project activities could damage critical ecosystems, e.g., through the introduction of invasive alien species during restoration-rehabilitation activities.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 1, Q1.1, Q1.2, Q1.5 and Q1.6.</p>	<p>I = 4 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>There are critical ecosystems situated within some of the project landscapes, including Lake Burullus, Lake Idku, Lake Maryut, Lake Qarun Protected Area, Wadi El Rayan Protected Area, and the Upper Nile. These sites are classified as global key biodiversity areas (KBAs).</p> <p>The project aims to restore or rehabilitate 5,000 ha degraded land and improve landscape management across 25,000 ha.</p>	<p>Biodiversity conservation related community grants will be primarily carried out in partnership with expert organizations, e.g., conservation agencies, protected area management administrations, NGOs or local governments. Specific activities will be designed through collaborative arrangements with these organizations. Utilization of natural resources will be carried out sustainably and according to relevant regulations. Restoration-rehabilitation activities will be carried out in accordance with management plans developed through participatory processes. No invasive alien species will be used; preference will be given to native species. And project interventions will not entail unsustainable exploitation of high conservation value ecosystems.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 4: Climatic unpredictability, periodic droughts, changes in rainfall distribution, altered frequency of extreme weather events, rising temperatures may affect project results, including agroecological practices, rehabilitation of degraded terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, etc.; and a potential economic downturn as a result of a prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic (or similar) may increase the vulnerability and coping capacities of local communities.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 2, Q2.2.</p>	<p>I = 3 P =3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The ecosystems in the project landscapes are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>The landscape approach implemented under the project will promote socio-ecological resilience. The landscape strategies will include priority actions to achieve enhanced resilience, based upon the circumstances in the landscapes and capacities of the local communities. The strategies will also address potential increased vulnerability related to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>CBOs will be required to include an assessment in the project proposal documents on the risks of climate and geophysical hazards on proposed infrastructure and assets, and describe what measures are proposed to reduce and manage the risks. Climate and geophysical hazards will also be addressed in the project social and environmental screening procedure (SESP), which will be reviewed annually. Moreover, the design and implementation of project interventions will be guided by the Country Programme management Team and the NSC and supported by the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 5: Local community members involved in project activities may be at a heightened risk of COVID-19 virus exposure, e.g., stakeholder meetings, workshops and trade fairs, community field work, etc.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 3, Q3.6.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 5</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The landscape approach promoted on the project is predicated on participatory processes, including multi-stakeholder meetings, community field work, showcasing products and services in workshops and trade fairs, learning exchanges, seminars, etc.</p>	<p>Adaptive management measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of virus exposure during a prolonged or recurrent COVID-19 pandemic, or similar crisis. For example, virtual meetings will be held where feasible, and as needed, developing Internet skills of women and disable people and facilitating Internet access through local NGOs, etc. SGP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be reviewed and updated to address risk of virus exposure. Hazard assessments will be required for project proposals involving gatherings of multiple people, and mitigation measures will be implemented accordingly, e.g., ensuring physical distancing, providing personal protective equipment, avoiding non-essential travel, delivering training on risks and recognition of symptoms, etc.</p> <p>The project Communications Strategy will include specific considerations for communication, public awareness and exchange of information under these circumstances. As COVID-19 is an evolving situation and could potentially exacerbate other vulnerabilities and risks, it will be important to remain abreast of the situation during project implementation and regularly review the risk and update mitigation measures as needed.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 6: Project interventions involving solid waste management and biogas units may pose health risks to local beneficiaries.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 3, Q3.6.</p>	<p>I = 3 P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>There is a risk of exposure to pathogens through improper handling of solid wastes and livestock manure used as feedstock for the biogas digestors, and use of biogas residuals (e.g., for fertilizer).</p>	<p>There is already a current practice through the use of animal manure as natural fertilizer on agricultural lands, which biogas technology would replace. And waste management projects will be implemented with experienced organisations.</p> <p>Risk mitigation will involve promotion of best practices and raising awareness of local people.</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 7: Project interventions may adversely impact to sites, structures, or objects with historical or cultural values.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 4, Q4.1.</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>P = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Egypt is rich in sites having historical, archaeological, and paleontological significance, with new discoveries unearthed regularly.</p> <p>Such potential sites could be found among the project landscapes, including Fayoum and Upper Egypt.</p>	<p>SGP interventions will respect historical sites and the interventions will focus on reducing pollution, improving waste management, and limiting off-track tourism, which currently threaten and endanger historical zones.</p> <p>The SGP project proposal template will be amended with a specific requirement regarding cultural heritage, which will be aligned with / based on the requirements of SES Standard 4. For any intrusive activity requiring notification to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and/or other competent authority, the grantees will be required to make such notification in advance. In the possible case of chance finds, Article 24 of Egyptian Law No. 117 of 1983, as amended by Law No. 3 of 2010 Promulgating the Antiquities Protection Law, stipulates the required legal procedures, as follows:</p> <p>?Whoever accidentally finds a movable antiquity or part or parts of an immovable monument, must give notice of such to the nearest administrative power within 48 (forty-eight) hours as of time of finding the same. Moreover, he must take good care of such antiquity till handing it over to the competent authority otherwise he is considered possessor of antiquity without license, and the authority referred to must immediately notify the Council (now Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities) of such. The antiquity becomes</p>

<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
<p>Risk 8: Project interventions, e.g., involving the installation and use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, may result in release of pollutants to the environment and in the generation of hazardous waste.</p> <p>Principle 3, Standard 7, Q7.2.</p>	<p>I = 2</p> <p>P = 2</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Unsafe handling and disposal of batteries from solar systems and LED lamps may release harmful pollutants to the environment. Envisaged climate change mitigation interventions include solar photovoltaic lighting and pumping, as well as LED lighting.</p> <p>Potential environmental impacts would likely be limited in terms of magnitude and can be easily avoided and managed. Projects are assessed by the National Coordinator and the NSC as part of proposal development, and actions to mitigate risk are incorporated into each proposal prior to approval. Moreover, resources are allocated for recruiting an NGO strategic partner</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
6449_Annex 5_SESP_08Feb2021	CEO Endorsement ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

The project results framework can be found **on page 61** in *Section V of the Project Document*. It is also pasted below.

<p>This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, SDG 17</p>
<p>This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): UNDAF 2018-2022 Outcome area 3: Resource efficiency, environmental protection and green growth: By 2022 Egypt's natural resources, including urban environments, are managed in an equitable, sustainable and productive manner to increase incomes, reduce food insecurity and mitigate environmental hazards (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 15). UNDP Egypt Country Programme Document 2018-2022 Output 2.1. Expanded use of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions; Output 2.4. Community livelihoods enhanced around protected areas. UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021: Signature Solution #4 (Sustainable Planet), Output 1.4.1. Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains; Signature Solution #5 (Energy), Output 1.5.1. Solutions adopted to achieve universal access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy.</p>

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
<p>Project Objective: To build socio-ecological resilience in Greater Cairo, Fayoum, Delta, and Upper Egypt landscapes through community-</p>	<p>Mandatory Indicator (GEF-7 Core Indicator 3): Area of land restored (hectares)</p> <p>SDG 15.3;</p>	<p>As reported in the 2020 PIR, five (5) projects awarded under OP6 in the land degradation focal area</p>	<p>5,000 ha included among the approved projects by midterm, and end target validated through updated landscape strategies</p>	<p>10,000 ha</p>

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
based activities for global environmental benefits and sustainable development	<p>Mandatory Indicator (GEF-7 Core Indicator 4): Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (hectares)</p> <p>SDG 2.4; SDG 11.b; SDG 12.2; SDG 14.2; SDG 15.2; SDG 15.9; SDG 15.b;</p>	As reported in the 2020 PIR, 28 projects were awarded under OP6 for interventions focused on sustainable natural resource management, representing an approximate cumulative area of 35,000 ha	10,000 ha included among the approved projects by midterm, and end target validated through updated landscape strategies	20,000 ha
	<p>Mandatory Indicator (GEF-7 Core Indicator 6): Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (million metric tons of CO₂e)</p> <p>SDG 7.1; SDG 13.2; SDG 13.3;</p>	36,600 tCO ₂ e (lifetime direct) GHG emissions mitigated estimated for the CCM projects awarded under OP6	10,000 tCO ₂ e (direct lifetime) GHG emissions mitigated among the projects approved by midterm, and end targets validated through updated landscape strategies	20,700 tCO ₂ e (direct lifetime) 1,200 tCO ₂ e (indirect lifetime)
	<p>Mandatory Indicator (GEF-7 Core Indicator 11): #direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as a co-benefit of GEF investment (individual people)</p> <p>SDG 1.4; SDG 1.b; SDG 4.4; SDG 5.a; SDG 7.1;</p>	Based on experiences during earlier operational phases, approx. 300 direct beneficiaries have benefitted per project awarded	5,000 direct beneficiaries (of whom 2,500 are female) identified in the projects awarded by midterm	10,000 (of whom 5,000 are female)
Component 1: Resilient landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection				

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Outcome 1.1: Strengthened conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services through participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood interventions	Indicator 5: Participatory management of critical ecosystems , as indicated by the number of partnerships between CBOs and protected area administrations strengthened and/or newly established SDG 14.2; SDG 15.9;	The SGP in Egypt has funded several projects focused on strengthening collaboration between local communities and protected areas.	3 of the awarded projects by midterm involve collaborative interventions between local communities and protected areas	3 participatory management partnerships agreed between local communities and protected area administrations
	Indicator 6: Strengthened agroecological systems , as indicated by the number of households (gender disaggregated) gaining livelihood co-benefits from improved agroecological practices SDG 1.4; SDG 2.4;	Many of the livelihood benefits generated on SGP projects during earlier phases have involved the agricultural sector	Among the awarded projects by midterm, 250 households identified in the project proposals as benefitting from improved agroecological practices	500 households (50% female HH members) gaining livelihood co-benefits from improved agroecological practices
	Indicator 7: Strengthening gender quality and women's empowerment in control of natural resources , as indicated by the number of projects that are contributing to equal access to and control of natural resources by women and men SDG 5.a;	The gender action plan developed under OP6 provided a strategic framework for strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment	4 of the awarded projects by midterm contribute to equal access to and control of natural resources of women and men	8 projects
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1	<p>Output 1.1.1: Community level small grant projects on strengthening participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity resources and ecosystem services</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of participatory conservation, restoration, and sustainable livelihood initiatives</p>			

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Outcome 1.2: Increased adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and mitigation solutions at community level	Indicator 8: Livelihood cobenefits and strengthened resilience through low carbon agricultural practices , as indicated by (a) the amount of compost produced that displaces chemical fertilizer use and improves soil fertility (tons), and (b) the number of households benefitting from biogas cooking energy and digestate-sourced fertilizer (number of households, gender disaggregated) SDG 5.a; SDG 7.1;	Biogas projects have been implemented under OP6 and earlier SGP phases and improving management of agricultural waste is included among the priority actions in the landscape strategies	(a) 2,500 tons identified in projects approved by midterm (b) 40 households (50% female HH members) identified in projects approved by midterm	(a) 5,000 tons (b) 80 households (50% female HH members)
	Indicator 9: Strengthened resilience and increased energy security , as indicated by the number of solar PV agricultural pumping systems replacing diesel-powered units SDG 7.1;	One of the projects approved under OP6 was on solar PV for agricultural pumping, and this technology is promoted in the national Low Emission Development Strategy.	2 projects approved by midterm	3 projects implemented
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2	Output 1.2.1: Community projects implementing renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, including solar energy applications, biogas digestors, PVs, etc. Output 1.2.2: Partnership building, establishment of business models for leveraging funding and policy advocacy for facilitating broader adoption of renewable energy and energy efficient applications			
Component 2: Durable landscape resilience through participatory governance and strengthened capacities for upscaling				

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Outcome 2.1: Strengthened community institutions for participatory governance to enhance socio-ecological resilience	Indicator 10: Participatory landscape management , as indicated by the number of landscape strategies developed or strengthened through participatory consultation and based on the socio-ecological resilience landscape baseline assessments endorsed by multi-stakeholder landscape platforms SDG 1.b; SDG 11.b; SDG 15.9;	Landscape strategies developed for Upper Egypt, Fayoum, Delta (East) and Greater Cairo landscapes under OP6	4 landscape strategies developed or strengthened	4 landscape strategies developed or strengthened endorsed by multi-stakeholder landscape platforms
	Indicator 11: Empowering women in natural resource governance , as indicated by the number of projects that improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance SDG 5.a;	Multi-stakeholder landscape governance platforms initiated under OP6, with the aim of equitable participation by women	4 of the approved projects include measures aimed at improving participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance	8 projects implemented that improve participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance
	Indicator 12: Strengthening socioeconomic benefits for women , as indicated by the number of projects that target socioeconomic benefits and services for women SDG 5.a;	The landscape approach strategy, first implemented under OP6, is based on enhancing socio-ecological resilience, which includes strengthening socioeconomic benefits and services for women	5 of the approved projects address strengthening socioeconomic benefits and services for women	10 projects completed that strengthening socioeconomic benefits and services for women

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	<p>Indicator 13: Landscape priority actions mainstreamed into local planning instruments, as indicated by the uptake priority actions outlined in the landscape strategies into local development plans</p> <p>SDG 1.b; SDG 11.b; SDG 15.9;</p>	Local government units have leading roles on the multi-stakeholder landscape platforms established under OP6	Priority actions described in the endorsed landscape strategies	4 local development plans contain at least one priority action from the landscape strategies
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	<p>Output 2.1.1: Multi-stakeholder platforms established and strengthened for improved governance of target landscapes</p> <p>Output 2.1.2: Landscape strategies for participatory governance developed or updated based on results of socio-ecological resilience baseline assessments</p>			
Outcome 2.2: Upscaling enabled through capacity building and knowledge management	<p>Indicator 14: Knowledge shared, as indicated by the number of project and portfolio experiences and lessons systematised and codified into case studies produced and disseminated, and cumulative number of views of the case studies from the SGP website</p> <p>SDG 17.6;</p>	Knowledge management is one of the hallmarks of SGP, with each approved project required to develop a case study to document best practices and lessons.	Case studies from completed projects under preparation, and SGP website tracking views.	15 case studies disseminated, with 500 cumulative views of the case studies on the SGP website
	<p>Indicator 15: Mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment, number of women-led projects supported</p> <p>SDG 5.a;</p>	Gender mainstreaming is a work in progress in Egypt	4 of the approved projects by midterm are led by women	8 of the implemented projects are led by women

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	<p>Indicator 16: Upscaling initiated, as indicated by the number of instances of scaling up or replicating best project practices and/or the number of policy advances approved by local or central government entities</p> <p>SDG 15.9;</p>	Upscaling is enhanced under the socio-ecological resilience landscape approach, with engagement of multiple stakeholders and collective action to achieve impact at scale	2 policy briefs prepared and disseminated	2 cases of scaling up or replicating, and/or number of policy advances approved
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2	<p>Output 2.2.1: Capacities of CBOs strengthened through skills training, financial management mentoring, and networking with enabling governmental, civil society, and private sector partners</p> <p>Output 2.2.2: Knowledge from innovative project experience shared for replication and upscaling across the landscapes, across the country, and to the global SGP network</p>			
Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation				
Outcome 3.1: Sustainability of project results enhanced through participatory monitoring and evaluation				
Output 3.1.1: Project implementation and results effectively monitored and evaluated				

ANNEX B: 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).

Comment	Response	Project Document Reference
GEF Council Member comments to the PIF:		
Germany		

Comment	Response	Project Document Reference
<p>To ensure the long-term success and durability of the project activities, Germany recommends including a dedicated strategy for knowledge management and follow-up financing into the theory of change. Especially the maintenance of the governance platforms needs to be planned beyond the duration of the project.</p>	<p>The Country Programme Management Unit has developed a knowledge management strategy during OP6. Resources have been allocated under the OP7 project design for updating the knowledge management strategy and for creating a communications strategy (Output 2.2.2). The budget plan includes recruitment of a part-time Knowledge Management Consultant to support the team in updating and developing these strategies. Follow-up financing is indicated in theory of change and will be addressed in the project sustainability plan developed under Output 3.1.1. And advocating for mainstreaming the governance platforms into local governance structures is an integral part of Output 2.1.1 and will also be incorporated into the project sustainability plan.</p>	<p>Project Document, Section III (Strategy), Theory of Change; Section IV (Results and Partnerships), Component 2</p>
<p>Germany recommends clarifying how the project contributes to strengthening mainstreaming of SGP aspects into policies and government agencies. The project intends to result in the adoption of successful SGP-supported technologies and practices or systems by policy makers and government agencies. However, the various activities planned under the project so far do not seem to adequately address this issue.</p>	<p>At the landscape level, the project will engage with local government officials and other key landscape partners, advocating for mainstreaming the priority actions of the landscape strategies into local development planning and budgeting frameworks. Moreover, resources are allocated for strategic grants, to help facilitate durable impacts at scale. The strategic grants are envisaged to be awarded to experienced NGOs for delivering technical and strategic support, guiding local stakeholders in the implementation of landscape approaches and delivering advocacy for policy reform and upscaling. Potential priority issues addressed through strategic grants include but are not limited to upscaling of the bicycle-sharing programme at universities (and other institutional settings); refining the business model for biogas installations; enabling participatory conservation initiatives involving local communities and protected areas.</p>	<p>Project Document, Section IV (Results and Partnerships)</p>
<p>Canada</p>		

Comment	Response	Project Document Reference
<p>This project is very timely due to the fact that the Egyptian government is cognizant of the need for a sustainable change in the country's energy mix towards renewable energy to both address these challenges and move to a more environmentally sustainable and diverse renewable energy sector.</p>	<p>The OP7 project has a strong focus on implementing community-level renewable energy solutions, including solar PV systems for surface and groundwater pumping for irrigation, solar PV for lighting, and biogas for cooking and digestate to reduce dependence on artificial fertilizer.</p>	<p>Project Document, Section IV (Results and Partnerships); Annex 14 to the Project Document (Estimations of GEF-7 Core Indicator end targets)</p>
<p>Scaling up private sector/community based climate finance is an urgent priority to rapidly put Egypt a mitigation path leading to climate-resilient development, through an innovative combination of financial support, capacity building and technology transfer and supported by a deep level of country ownership.</p>	<p>The OP7 project strategy was formulated to build upon the advances made during OP6 and further broaden stakeholder engagement. The Bio Energy Association for Sustainable Development (BSRDA) has committed co-financing contributions in the form of technical assistance, facilitating green entrepreneurship, financing of biomass technologies through Bio-Energy Fund (loan + grant), capacity building, and raising awareness.</p> <p>Private sector enterprises will be engaged in the development and upscaling of renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) interventions, providing training and potential linkages to technological solutions, distribution channels, financing access, etc.</p> <p>As part of the project efforts to facilitate establishment of business models for leveraging funding, local and national financial institutions will be engaged, including but not limited to the Commercial International Bank, Banque Misr, Ahly National Bank, and Alexandria Bank.</p>	<p>CEO ER Section 4 (Private Sector Engagement); Project Document Section IV (Results and Partnerships); Annex 18 to the Project Document (co-financing letters)</p>

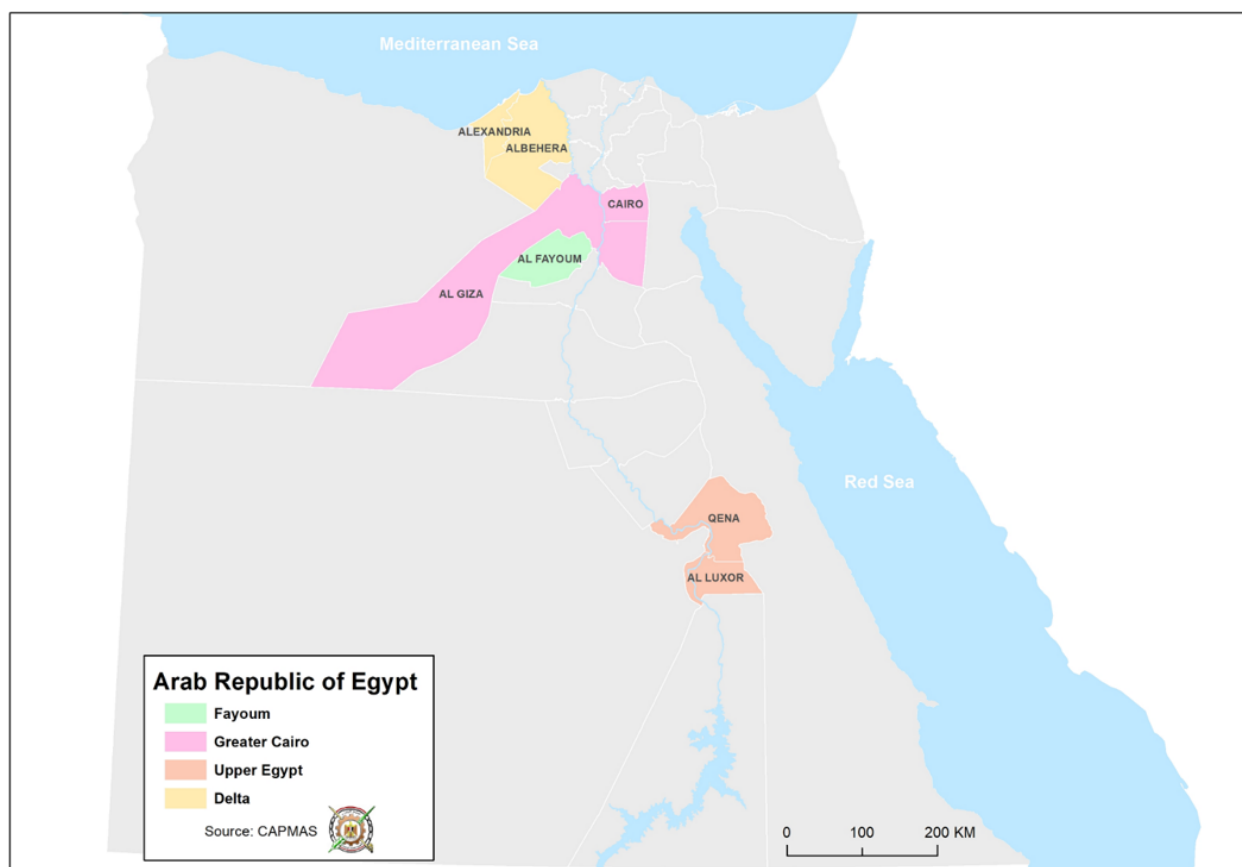
**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status
in the table below:**

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: USD 50,000	
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>

	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews.	2,500.00	2,500.00	-
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes.	43,000.00	15,003.57	18,000.00
Component C: Validation Workshop and Report	4,500.00	42.41	14,454.02
Total	50,000.00	17,545.98	32,454.02

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.



Landscape	Governorate	Midpoint geocoordinates	
		Latitude	Longitude
Greater Cairo	Cairo	29.95 N	31.54 E
	Giza	28.77 N	29.23 E
West Delta	Alexandria	30.88 N	29.74 E
	Beheira	30.85 N	30.34 E
Fayoum	Fayoum	29.36 N	30.62 E
Upper Egypt	Luxor	25.39 N	32.49 E
	Qena	26.23 N	32.99 E

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency) [1]
		Component 1		Component 2		Sub-Total	M&E	PM C		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2		Outcome 3.1			
Works						0			0	
Goods	Computer/IT equipment	1,754				1,754		0	1,754	UNOPS
Vehicles						0			0	
Grants/Sub-grants	Small grants (max. US\$50k)	540,600	424,000			964,600			964,600	UNOPS

	Strategic grants (max. US\$150k)	159,0 00	159,0 00			318,00 0			318,00 0	UNOPS
Revolvin g funds/ Seed funds / Equity						0			0	
Sub- contract to executing partner/ entity						0			0	
Contract ual Services ? Individu al	Programme Assistant	50,88 0	47,70 0	19,08 0	19,08 0	136,74 0	9,540	6,36 0	152,64 0	UNOPS
	Technical Assistant	33,92 0	33,92 0	16,96 0	16,96 0	101,76 0			101,76 0	UNOPS
Contract ual Services ? Compan y						0			0	
Internati onal Consulta nts	Midterm Reviewer					0	15,90 0		15,900	UNOPS
	Terminal Evaluator					0	15,90 0		15,900	UNOPS
Local Consulta nts	Gender- Safeguards Consultant	3,180	3,180			6,360	14,31 0		20,670	UNOPS
	Business Development Consultant				4,770	4,770			4,770	UNOPS
	KM/Communica tions Consultant				4,770	4,770			4,770	

	M&E Specialist					0	9,540		9,540	UNOPS
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	National Coordinator	93,440	87,600	46,720	35,040	262,800	11,680	5,840	280,320	UNOPS
						0			0	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Trainings, trade fairs, seminars	33,500	33,500	2,000	3,000	72,000			72,000	UNOPS
	Inception Workshop					0	1,060		1,060	UNOPS
	NSC meetings					0	2,120		2,120	UNOPS
Travel	Travel costs, technical components	2,000	2,000	4,000	12,000	20,000			20,000	UNOPS
	Travel costs for inception workshop					0	3,180		3,180	UNOPS
	Travel costs M&E visits					0	8,000		8,000	UNOPS
	Travel costs for MTR					0	3,180		3,180	UNOPS
	Travel costs for TE					0	3,180		3,180	UNOPS
Office Supplies						0			0	
Other Operating Costs	Rental & Maintenance							64,000	64,000	UNOPS
	Audiovisual-Print Production Costs				5,160	5,160			5,160	UNOPS

	Financial audit(s)					0		21,615	21,615	UNOPS
	Communic & Audio Visual Equip					0		2,000	2,000	UNOPS
Grand Total		918,274	790,900	88,760	100,780	1,898,714	97,590	99,815	2,096,119	

[1] In exceptional cases where GEF Agency receives funds for execution, Terms of Reference for specific activities are reviewed by GEF Secretariat

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit a finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

n/a

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

n/a

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).

n/a