GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Promoting sustainable fisheries management in the Red Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (RedSeaFish project)	
Region Regional	GEF Project ID 11113
Country(ies) Regional Djibouti Egypt Eritrea Jordan Yemen	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies): FAO	GEF Agency ID 744425
Executing Partner tbd	Executing Partner Type Others
GEF Focal Area (s) International Waters	Submission Date 4/11/2023
Project Sector (CCM Only) Mixed & Others	
Taxonomy Focal Areas, International Waters, Coastal, Learning, Fisheries, Large Marine Ecosystems, Biomes, Coral Reefs, Seagrasses, Mangrove, Strategic Action Plan Implementation, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Large corporations, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Participation, Partnership, Consultation, Local Communities, Communications, Education, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Beneficiaries, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Innovation, Knowledge Generation, Training, Workshop, Course, Knowledge Exchange, Conference	
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 48
GEF Project Grant: (a) 6,192,694.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

588,306.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 6,781,000.00	Total Co-financing 40,300,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 200,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 19,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 219,000.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 7,000,000.00
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B "project description".(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The Red Sea is a semi-enclosed basin supporting high levels of endemism and many threatened marine species including sharks and turtles. However, overfishing and IUU fishing have caused significant declines in fishery stocks, loss of marine biodiversity and degradation of the Red Sea ecosystem, as well as negative socio-economic impacts for coastal communities. The project will address this problem focusing on barriers which impede sustainable fisheries, and improving regional cooperation on fisheries management, which is currently lacking in the Red Sea. Specifically, the project will: (1) Strengthen fisheries data and information systems for effective national and regional fisheries management; (2) Strengthen collaborative Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management for key shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea; (3) Improve national regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity to manage shared or priority Red Sea fishery stocks sustainably; and (4) Improve knowledge and awareness to support sustainable fisheries in the region. Together these will build a foundation for transformative longer-term regional cooperation on fisheries management (supporting creation of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation), while at the same time improving national frameworks and capacity for managing fisheries sustainably. In terms of GEBs, the project will move key fisheries towards more sustainable levels, with reduced impacts on threatened and protected marine species. The principal stakeholders are the seven national fisheries agencies (Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen), fisheries research institutes, artisanal fishers and their communities that comprise the bulk of the fisheries in the Red Sea, and the semi-industrial fisheries sector.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To strengthen regional cooperation and management for sustainable shared fisheries in the Red Sea.

Project Components

Component 1: Strengthening fisheries data and management information systems for effective national and regional sustainable fisheries management in the Red Sea.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,850,000.00	18,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: National and regional data improved, available and supporting EAF management of key shared or priority fisheries stocks.

Indicator 1: Increase in number of updated stock assessments for target species prepared in support of national and regional fisheries management plans.

Outcome 1.2: Systems for managing fisheries information to support sustainable management of shared or priority Red Sea fisheries at national and regional levels improved or developed.

Indicator 2: Number of countries with information systems (FMIS) hosting information on target fisheries (e.g. on gender disaggregated socio-economic data and Small scale Fisheries (SSF), including catch effort, etc) feeding into regional fisheries management decisions.

Indicator 3: Number of species with complete regional level information to feed into regional management plans.

Output:

Output 1.1.1: Key shared or priority stocks assessed with relevant management recommendations to determine sustainable levels for fishing activities at national and regional levels.

Output 1.1.2: Socio-economic data for key shared or priority fisheries (including value chain data), collected, analyzed and integrated into fisheries management information systems.

Output 1.1.3: Fisheries staff and fishing/coastal communities with capacity and resources (training, technical equipment, etc) to collect and improve relevant fisheries data needed for EAF management of shared or priority stocks.

Output 1.2.1: National fisheries management information systems (FMIS) developed or strengthened to provide data and analysis for regional management of shared or priority stocks.

Output 1.2.2: Fisheries staff trained to use updated FMIS, including on data analysis, intepretation and integration of information into national and regional fisheries management decision-making processes.

Output 1.2.3: Regional fisheries information system to support sustainable management of shared or priority stocks established and operational.

Output 1.2.4: Minimum fisheries data requirements regionally agreed and standardized.

Component 2: Strengthening collaborative EAF-based fisheries management for key shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
850,000.00	4,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1: Regional fisheries collaboration and decision-making for shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea strengthened.

Indicator 4: Number of harmonised regional fisheries management recommendations developed as part of updating of regional fisheries management plans for shared or priority fisheries.

Outcome 2.2: Regional management measures needed to achieve sustainable key Red Sea fisheries identified, agreed and regional-level actions under implementation.

Indicator 5: Number of agreed, harmonized management technical measures for shared or priority fishery resources (e.g. minimum sizes, Conservation Management Measures (CMMs), Harvest Control Rules (HCRs)) developed and adopted by Red Sea fisheries nations.

Output:

Output 2.1.1: Regional fisheries management multi-stakeholder working group/ taskforce established to advise and support improved management of sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea.

Output 2.1.2: Key national actors with capacity to engage effectively in forums addressing the shared management of Red Sea fisheries (e.g. awareness-raising on regional issues, and training in negotiations, advocacy/lobbying with travel resources for regional meetings).

Output 2.2.1: Development of regional Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for key Red Sea fisheries, including integration of international instruments, compatible information system, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) coordination.

Output 2.2.2: Regional indicators for sustainable development and use of Red Sea marine capture fisheries developed, agreed and applied.

Output 2.2.3: Capacity for coordination of implementation of regional FMPs for key Red Sea fishery resources built, including increased coordination for MCS at regional level.

Component 3. Improving national regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity to manage shared or priority Red Sea fisheries sustainably.

Component Type	Trust Fund

Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,500,000.00	12,000,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: National fisheries regulations and management frameworks aligned with EAF and sustainable fisheries best practices, and regional agreements on management of Red Sea fisheries.

Indicator 6: Number of countries shared or priority fisheries with updated national regulatory frameworks supporting EAF and sustainable fisheries best practices, and regional agreements on management of important Red Sea fish fisheries.

Outcome 3.2: National fisheries agencies managing shared or priority Red Sea fisheries stocks, in line with agreed national and regional fisheries management measures and international best practices.

Indicator 7: Number of countries with fisheries management plans in line with regional guidance and best practice (e.g. following regional fisheries management plans).

Output:

Output 3.1.1: National regulations for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) management of target Red Sea fisheries updated or developed to reflect regional needs and agreements, including technical and co-management measures, particularly in relation to Small Scale Fisheries (SSF).

Output 3.1.2: National fisheries management plans (FMPs) for target Red Sea fisheries updated or developed to reflect regional needs and agreements and under implementation with engagement of men and women from coastal communities, including co-management .

Output 3.2.1: National MCS resources (knowledge, equipment, financing) to support regional fisheries management measures (detailed in the regional fisheries management plans) built.

Output 3.2.2: Tools and technology for bycatch reduction of ETP species (e.g. sharks, turtles) adopted for key Red Sea fisheries.

Output 3.2.3: National fisheries co-management frameworks for the shared or priority fisheries operational.

Component 4: Improving knowledge and awareness to support sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea, lesson learning and project management.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
404,744.00	1,880,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1: Knowledge of processes, measures and options for effective EAF management of key Red Sea fisheries increased among key stakeholder groups.

Indicator 8: Percentage increase in knowledge on EAF principles and practices among national fisheries staff compared with baseline levels at start of project implementation according to project surveys (KAP survey).

Indicator 9: Level of engagement in IW:LEARN activities through participation and delivery of key products (GEF Indicator 7.4).

Output:

Output 4.1.1: Communications Strategy and associated outreach and awareness-raising program on EAF, sustainable fisheries best practice guidelines and new regulations and provisions for key Red Sea fisheries developed and delivered to relevant stakeholder groups (fisheries agencies, SSF).

Output 4.1.2: Project results, experiences and lessons learned identified and disseminated to key project stakeholders, with roadmap for scaling of successful project solutions (including 1% allocation to IW:LEARN activities).

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
293,060.00	1,420,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.2: Effective gender-responsive project implementation based on adaptive management.

Indicator 10: Recommendations from operational M&E system (including from PSC and PIRs) fed back into project implementation.

Output:

Output 4.2.1: A gender-responsive project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system in line with FAO and GEF requirements, using data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity designed and operational.

Output 4.2.2: Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation carried out.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1: Strengthening fisheries data and management information systems for effective national and regional sustainable fisheries management in the Red Sea.	1,850,000.00	18,000,000.00

Component 2: Strengthening collaborative EAF-based fisheries management for key shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea.	850,000.00	4,000,000.00
Component 3. Improving national regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity to manage shared or priority Red Sea fisheries sustainably.	2,500,000.00	12,000,000.00
Component 4: Improving knowledge and awareness to support sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea, lesson learning and project management.	404,744.00	1,880,000.00
M&E	293,060.00	1,420,000.00
Subtotal	**5,897,804.00**	**37,300,000.00**
Project Management Cost	294,890.00	3,000,000.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**6,192,694.00**	**40,300,000.00**

Please provide justification

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

i. Current situation and problem

The Red Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (Red Sea LME) is an almost entirely land-locked deep-water basin, the only connection with other marine areas being through the Suez Canal to the north leading to the Mediterranean Sea and the narrow strait of Bab-el-Mandab to the south leading to the Gulf of Aden and further to the Western Indian Ocean. Partly because of this, the Red Sea supports one of the highest levels of endemism of marine biodiversity in the world, with an estimated 14.7% of its fish species endemic (19.3% when combined with Gulf of Aden) and is considered an "evolutionary incubator" that contributes unique genetic lineages to other regions of the Indo-West Pacific. Indeed, only the waters around the Hawaiian Islands and Easter Island have a greater level of endemism. The Red Sea is also host to a number of IUCN Red List Species. For instance, of the 29 shark and 28 ray species known to occur in the Red Sea, 50% and 40% respectively are classified as globally threatened , and the Red Sea has globally important areas for nesting and foraging Green Turtle and Hawksbill Turtle.

Each of the seven Arab and African littoral states of the Red Sea engages in fishing activities in the Red Sea. Based on the most recent statistics available, the reported annual production in the Red Sea fisheries in 2020 was approximately 100,000 tonnes excluding Yemen's production as Red Sea production data was not available for that year (Yemen's most recent fisheries production data for the Red Sea was from 2011 at approximately 40,000 tonnes) . Artisanal fisheries dominate the fisheries activities in most countries in terms of employment, number of vessels and total catch although the size of each fishery also varies significantly from country to country (fisheries are 100% artisanal in Djibouti and Sudan , while artisanal fisheries contribute to only 10% of catch in Eritrea and 14% in Egypt), and there has been a marked increase in industrial fishery activities the recent years. While fisheries contribution to national GDP is usually not large (e.g. a high of 3% for Yemen and Eritrea), fisheries are a particularly important source of livelihoods, food security and nutrition (especially for protein) for many Red Sea coastal communities. Indeed, an estimated 85,000 people (mainly men) are directly engaged in fishing on the Red Sea and many more (over 100,000) men and women are employed in support roles supplying the fishing sector, or in the post-harvest sector, and the fisheries research and management sector is a further area of employment, particularly for women. However, recent stock assessments, largely along the coastlines of Saudi Arabia and Egypt, generally indicate either levels of over-exploitation (beyond maximum sustainable yields) or increasing fishing intensity on stocks. In addition, Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing occurs in the EEZs of all Red Sea coastal countries. Given Red Sea fisheries are multi-species fisheries with no one taxon dominant, these assessments indicate overexploitation of a wide variety of fish and collateral impacts on other marine biodiversity, including coral reef fish species such as parrotfish (which can have severe negative impacts on the coral reefs dynamics and regeneration) in Saudi Arabia and populations of Snubnose emperor (Lethrinus borbonicus), Orange-spotted trevally (Carangoides bajad), bluefin trevally (Caranx melampygus) ,Rabbitfish (Siganus rivulatus) , summan grouper (Epinephelus summana), blue-spotted grouper (Cephalopholis argus) along the Egyptian Red Sea coast. Overfishing, combined with pollution, climate change, and coastal development have been highlighted as a cause for the decreased abundance of these species, and studies recommend reducing fishing effort. Indeed, over 60% of the reefs in the Red Sea are at risk, with overfishing a key threat affecting 55 percent of reefs in the region . Overexploitation has led to changes in fishing practices and fishing intensity, with declining catches leading to fishers seeking new fishing grounds outside of their own EEZ, exacerbating levels of IUU fishing and potentially increasing tensions between countries.

IUU fishing in the Red Sea is most widely reported as associated with artisanal vessels of Red Sea countries but internationally flagged industrial vessels have also been caught fishing illegally in the region.

Inappropriate/irresponsible fishing practices have also been identified as a key threat to marine turtles in the Red Sea as well as sharks. For instance, some fishing gears (notably trawl and gill nets) catch juvenile and non-target species (so-called bycatch) including Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species particularly marine turtles and sharks, and can also cause wider physical damage to marine ecosystems, such as to benthic habitats through bottom trawling. Overharvesting has also affected other non-fish marine biodiversity in the Red Sea. For instance, over-exploitation, illegal take and the resulting huge declines of sea cucumber populations are well documented in the Red Sea, despite the fishery being banned in several countries, e.g. Egypt. One recent study showed that the diversity of species of sea cucumber dropped from 13 species in 2000 to only 7 in 2016 due to overharvesting at one location which has also affected their behaviour within the ecosystem.

There have also been socio-economic costs resulting from the environmental loss and degradation, both within the fishery (declining income from fishing, increased unemployment, and an increase in cost of fishing due to having to travel further or fish for longer) and to associated sectors such as tourism, and this acts against moves the 'blue economy' policies and plans of the Red Sea member states. Consequently, urgent efforts are needed to reduce pressures on Red Sea fish species and stocks. If these are not addressed then the fisheries and their dependent human coastal populations will continue to be adversely impacted, with increasing negative knock-on effects on the wider Red Sea marine ecosystem including further loss of marine biodiversity and habitats, local extinctions, and changes in ecosystem dynamics and marine food webs in the Red Sea.

ii. Underlying root causes of environmental change in the project context

The overexploitation of fisheries and marine resources in the Red Sea is caused by several factors that vary by country, locality and fishery. In some cases, this is a result of an increased demand for fish products (locally and sold to wider regional and global markets), e.g. in Saudi Arabia, while in others it is caused by the socio-economic situation of the local fishers. In the case of Egypt for instance, the relatively low local price of fish and other harvested marine resources, combined with sharp increases in household and fishing operation costs and a relative lack of additional livelihood options for many poor fishing communities limit how much these fishers can improve their incomes beyond simply increasing fishing activity and effort. Consequently, compliance with fisheries regulations (such as closed seasons or no-take areas) can be low, particularly when fisher needs have not been considered when formulating fisheries management measures by the authorities (there is little or no co-management in Red Sea fisheries).

In addition, for countries without recent assessments of fish stocks, policies to expand their fisheries without an accurate, up-to-date picture of their resources (in Sudan and Eritrea, for instance) has the potential to create detrimental impacts for the whole Red Sea LME. In another, specific circumstance – Yemen - the absence of fisheries management due to an ongoing war has left an entire EEZ exposed to IUU fishing by foreign vessels.

iii. Baseline and barriers baseline

Current levels and effectiveness of management of fisheries (the baseline) varies from country to country but Red Sea countries face four main challenges (barriers) that hinder more effective management for sustainable fisheries.

1: Lack of data and inadequate information management systems to enable effective decision-making in management for sustainable fisheries. While some research institutes in Egypt and Saudi Arabia have undertaken fish stock assessments in recent years (2016-2020, mainly in national waters and on specific species), data are generally limited in terms of species and geographical coverage, and for some countries data are decades old particularly in the southern part of the Red Sea. Regional information on stocks, which is essential for decision-making on overall regional as well as setting national catch limits, closed areas and closed seasons, is not available. For instance, there are limited data on where fishing effort takes place in the

Red Sea which hinders the understanding of how fishing impacts stocks in specific areas and hinders the identification of area-based fisheries/conservation management measures. Catches may also be underreported. For instance, fish caught in Eritrea (whether by Eritrean or Yemeni vessels) but landed in Yemen are either not reported at all or reported in Yemen's landings. Similarly Egyptian fishers that fish another country's EEZ, either through an agreement or otherwise, will land and report the catch in Egypt. This data-poor/data confused situation complicates fisheries analysis and argues for much more comprehensive regional and national data on fishing activities and stocks status so that management decisions can be based on sound scientific findings. This means that fisheries are not managed for sustainability. Furthermore, although most national fisheries agencies have some form of system for data gathering, storage, analysis and dissemination (Fisheries Management Information Systems or FMIS), these vary in development and utility (particularly for regionally important stocks). Importantly, there is no sharing of fisheries data or coordination at the regional level to ensure complementary of data gathering measures, apart from some limited cooperation between a few research institutes, and a data gathering, storage, analysis and dissemination system at the regional level does not exist.

2: Lack of regional agreement and coordination for sustainable management of shared/priority Red Sea fisheries. Coordinated regional-level policies or common, agreed regulatory and management frameworks for Red Sea fisheries (e.g. for setting joint catch limits, agreeing no-take areas, coordinating research, etc) to achieve sustainable fisheries do not exist (or even a platform to discuss these issues), and although there are some bilateral agreements on fisheries in Red Sea region (e.g. MoU between Djibouti and Somalia, and previously a fishing agreement between Egypt and Sudan), these are limited. Even regional cooperation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) to tackle Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing does not exist, despite being in the interest of all the Red Sea countries, and there are no regional Fisheries management Plans for shared fisheries. The existing regional agreements on fisheries governance are inadequate and current regional policy, regulatory and management frameworks are widely recognised as unsatisfactory. For instance, the PERSGA Regional Protocol on Cooperation in Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden has not been signed by any Red Sea country, and there have been repeated calls in international fora for a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, but this has yet to be established. Given many stocks are shared between countries there is a clear need for common, agreed management and coordination of fisheries resources and management effort. However, encouragingly, five of the seven Red Sea countries engage in regional fisheries management outside of the Red Sea , which demonstrates both a will and capacity to cooperate on regional fisheries management issues.

3. Weak/ineffective national regulatory and management frameworks to support sustainable fisheries at regional level. Current regulatory and institutional structures addressing fisheries management at the national level also need updating. For instance, consultation between national fisheries agencies, local fisher communities and other stakeholder groups and the involvement of local fishers or their representatives in management process is generally poor or non-existent. Management is generally top-down and co-management does not exist, which contributes to the ineffectiveness of regulations. Related to this, provisions to promote fisheries best practice (EAF) and international guidelines and agreements are only partially in place. In terms of planning, national Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) are often not comprehensive or need updating and don't consider the regional situation despite many shared fisheries between countries. In some cases where countries have taken management measures to address overexploited stocks, these have failed to stop the exploitation of the species (e.g. sharks in Saudi Arabia, sea cucumber in Egypt). Other areas which lack sufficient resources and coordination in many Red Sea countries that hinder effective fisheries management include MCS and reporting of fisheries-related information. In addition, gears which can result in high bycatch of non-catch species (bycatch) such as marine turtles and sharks continue to be employed with knowledge of, or access to, cost-effective measures to reduce bycatch not widespread in the region.

4. Poor knowledge and awareness of measures to support sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea. Knowledge of, and training in, current fisheries management such as the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and particularly instruments under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (such as the PSMA and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and

Poverty Eradication) among fisheries agency staff is variable across the Red Sea region. Also, awareness among local fishers and fisher groups of fisheries regulations (and importantly their justification), responsible fishing practices, and options to improve sustainability (and often access to higher-paying markets) is often very poor and can result in local overfishing, loss of livelihoods, and IUU fishing. This limits the effectiveness of any measures developed to promote sustainable fisheries. In addition, institutional capacity to communicate knowledge on responsible fishing practices to key audiences is generally under-resourced. While Djibouti, has communication and co-management with local fishers integrated into their policy framework through their Fisheries Advisory Council, the rest of the Red Sea countries communicate and engage with fishers organizations on more of an ad hoc basis rather than through an institutionalized outreach strategy with trained staff and materials which limits the effectiveness of fisheries extension officers in the field.
As indicated above, a common feature of fisheries agencies in the Red Sea region is a lack of appropriate capacity (trained staff, equipment/technology, other resources) to manage fisheries sustainably at either national or regional levels. For instance, many fisheries agencies have few staff trained in data collection and management or adequate resources (e.g. transportation facilities) to gather complete fisheries data (especially for countries with long coastlines) . Similarly, MCS and enforcement activities tend to be constrained by limited capacity. However, because lack of capacity applies to all the above barriers (it is cross-cutting) it is not treated as a separate barrier and project activities targeted at capacity building are not addressed under a specific project Component.

iv. Objective of the project, and its justification
The above baseline and barriers will continue in the absence of an intervention. The project strategy is to address the this challenge with outcomes that reflect the barriers; in other words the project aims to: (i) improve data and information systems that are essential for effective fisheries management; (ii) support cooperation between Red Sea countries to develop and then implement agreed management actions on shared fisheries; (iii) enable Red Sea fishing agencies and local fisheries stakeholders to cooperate on and implement the agreed regional fisheries management actions required at national and regional levels; and (iv) to raise awareness and generate knowledge to support (i) – (iii) with lessons offering the potential to scale up to other fisheries in the region and beyond.
The project objective is ‘to strengthen regional collaboration and management for sustainable shared fisheries in the Red Sea’. The project focuses on the regional level and activities at national level to support this. The regional focus is because the Red Sea countries currently operate with little collaboration on fisheries measures, resulting in overfished and degraded stocks which will continue without action.
There have been high-level discussions on establishing a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and the project will facilitate this long-term aim by supporting important steps towards its creation through establishing an initial regional forum/body (technical working group) to allow countries to discuss and agree on joint fisheries management actions captured in 1-3 fisheries management plans and to begin their coordinated implementation. In doing so the project will enable cooperation between Red Sea countries around a common goal – sustainable, regionally shared fisheries, and help build confidence and trust between the countries and show what is possible, which would encourage greater government support, facilitating the creation of the RFMO. Such action has not happened in the region before but would be a key task of any RFMO.

v. Likely future without intervention
Without the GEF project, fisheries would likely continue to grow in most countries and without consideration for the sustainability of the stocks. In cases where national level stock assessments of shared species are undertaken, subsequent management would be incomplete and ineffective without regional coordination on the assessments. Continued attempts at management in terms of closed seasons and limits on effort would likely remain ineffective due to their uncoordinated and top-down approach. Managers currently struggle to deliver effective fisheries management due to limited resources, but these will be even less effective, particularly for shared and highly migratory stocks, if management is only considered at national level and

without coordination on measures at the regional level. Additionally, regionally fragmented approaches to combat IUU fishing will continue to be ineffective without a coordinated approach to MCS and a system in place for information sharing on IUU fishing data and intelligence. Without a regional approach to the full fisheries management cycle (science, management measures, policy, engagement with stakeholders), continued fragmented approaches to fisheries management will likely result in further declines in stocks and continued degradation of the health of the Red Sea marine ecosystem. In the absence of increased knowledge and greater understanding and application of best practice for management for sustainable fisheries, countries will only attempt to address fisheries challenges after serious declines occur (as has happened in the case of sharks, and sea cucumbers in the region).

vi. Selection of project in preference to other potential options

The semi-enclosed nature of the Red Sea means that it falls under Section IX of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which states that "States bordering an enclosed or semi-enclosed sea should cooperate with each other in the exercise of their rights and in the performance of their duties under this Convention. To this end they shall endeavour, directly or through an appropriate regional organization: (a) to coordinate the management, conservation, exploration and exploitation of the living resources of the sea" Consequently, a regional approach to fisheries management in the Red Sea context is needed and urgent. Fisheries resources in most of the Red Sea countries are limited, which together with the multi-species, multi-gear nature of Red Sea fisheries makes management complex. A regional approach to assessments will ensure that fisheries managers have a more complete picture leading to better management decisions, and coordinated measures such as regionally agreed closed seasons for shared stocks will enhance the effectiveness of those limited resources. MCS resources are also limited in the region, so coordination and information sharing on MCS is essential to ensure the limited resources available are targeted to where they will be most effective. Increasing knowledge and sharing best practices on previously untried fisheries management concepts, such as EAF, will support countries in improving national measures and integrating region-specific complexities into fisheries management. Without such exchange, collaboration and cooperation between the Red Sea countries, key fisheries management efforts will continue to be ineffective within some countries, and Red Sea fish stocks and associated marine biodiversity will continue to decline.

vii. Endurance of project outcomes

The potential for enduring outcomes will be achieved through agreement on, and endorsement of, the regional fisheries management plans by the Red Sea countries and their incorporation into national fisheries regulations ('locking in' the new regulatory framework), supported by targeted capacity built for the countries to implement these plans at the national level, and stakeholders, particularly the artisanal fishers, benefiting from of the application of the EAF for the target fish stocks, with opportunities for co-management arrangements established within the fisheries management frameworks. The regional technical working group/task force, a key element of the project, will create a mechanism for collaboration, communication and exchange specifically focused on regional fisheries management, which does not exist for the Red Sea region. The means to ensure this working group will continue to operate will be explored during the project implementation but one possibility is that this group will be absorbed into the proposed RFMO for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

viii. Stakeholders and their roles

The key stakeholders include the seven national Government fisheries agencies of the Red Sea that have responsibility for fisheries management in their countries, and some of which are parties to wider regional and international fisheries and relevant agreements (e.g. memberships of regional fishery bodies (GFCM, RECOFI, IOTC, SWIOFC) and parties to binding international agreements (UNCLOS, PSMA, Compliance Agreement). In addition, these agencies, along with researchers at national institutes conducting fisheries research, are often a key employment source for women in the fisheries sector. Equally critical stakeholders are the artisanal fishers (along with their associated fishing communities) that make up the bulk of the fisheries in the Red Sea, and would be most directly affected by any new national or regional-level fisheries

management measures such as catch limits or closed areas/seasons, and some of whom are engaged in IUU fishing. This group will be specifically targeted for the introduction of responsible fishing practices under the project. Without the full participation of this stakeholder group, the projects' GEB will not be fully deliverable. The project will develop strong partnerships with the private sector industrial fisheries through partnerships with the main companies involved, although the scale and impact of industrial fishing in the Red Sea is considered less that for artisanal fisheries. Another important stakeholder group involved with the fisheries, and a target group for the project, are those providing services to the fisheries sector in terms of making/repairing nets as well as processing and selling fish products (both key employment source for women in the fisheries sector). The project will also involve a wider group of international strategic partners such as WorldFish and PERSGA and the development agencies and international organisations operating in the Red Sea region with fisheries or marine conservation programmes and projects such as The World Bank and UNIDO. An initial stakeholder analysis compiled by the participating countries outlining potential roles and responsibilities is provided with this PIF.

ix. Fit within the current landscape of investments, country priorities and lessons learned from previous projects

There has been very little investment in regional fisheries in the red Sea region in recent years. At present there is no significant investment in Red Sea fisheries at a regional level (the GEF project would be innovative in this regard) except for the World Bank project "Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH) project Component 1: Strengthening regional collaboration in management of marine fisheries and aquaculture in the RSGA region". The RedSeaFish project will complement (and collaborate with) the UNEP-GEF "An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)" project, currently under development (PPG stage), which focuses on other (non-fisheries) regional aspects of the Red Sea marine environment.

At the national level, investment in fisheries management varies but, except for Saudi Arabia, Red Sea countries have relatively little current financing or programmes and limited other capacity and resources for fisheries management. Saudi Arabia has the most significant fisheries management resources of the Red Sea countries. For instance, it has a stock-assessment working group (WG) constituted by MEWA, KAUST University and FAO which was established in 2022. To date the WG has created a digital fisheries data system including mobile applications to capture data from landing sites, storage of information in a cloud and automatic analysis and presentations of data in a web-portal and it has collated and analysed historical fisheries data which is to be published as a digital book "Fisheries Statistics Saudi Arabia 2016-2021". This analysis has allowed the first Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) analysis of 217 species in Red Sea as well as the first Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) stock assessment analysis of around 50 Red Sea species using the CMSY statistical model. In parallel to that process, the fisheries authorities in Saudi Arabia have been collecting biological data and sampling of more than 20 species along the Red Sea with small laboratories established at main landing sites which should allow estimates of the current situation for several stocks. Based on the data being collected, several management plans, focused on gear types, are to be developed in a participatory process involving fisher communities. The experiences and technical capacity being developed in Saudi Arabia will provide an important baseline and key support to the RedSeaFish project activities (particularly for Components 1 and 3). In terms of other countries, investments in fisheries management have been very limited in recent years. However, in Djibouti, the fisheries agency has made improvements to data management and information processing a priority, including the use of the Open Artfish database for data in 2019. The RedSeaFish project will build on the work the government has begun in this regard (under Component 1 especially). Similarly, an ongoing UNIDO-funded project in Sudan "Building institutional capacities for the sustainable management of the marine fishery in the Red Sea State (Phase II)" include efforts to develop a fisheries statistics system and implement EAF in the Red Sea which will be directly complementary to the activities under this project. In addition, a multi-donor IFAD Fisheries Resource Management Project (FReMP) in Eritrea will support development of management advice for the

roving coral grouper (Plectropomus pessuliferus, "Najil") and the Squaretail Coral Grouper (Plectropomus areolatus, "Silimani") and includes some planned stock assessment exercises. Again, these projects will be engaged during the PPG phase to explore mutual support and synergies.

Discussions on the formation of a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region have made slow progress. A lesson learned on establishing such bodies elsewhere in the world shows that the process is facilitated by having initial regional projects targeted at common fisheries issues where there are tangible deliverables. This is the approach taken by the RedSeaFish project which will bring together the seven coastal countries of the Red Sea to develop a set of agreed fisheries management plans for their shared or priority fisheries which will demonstrate the benefits of working together on common issues and the advantages of establishing a regional institutional framework to do so.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

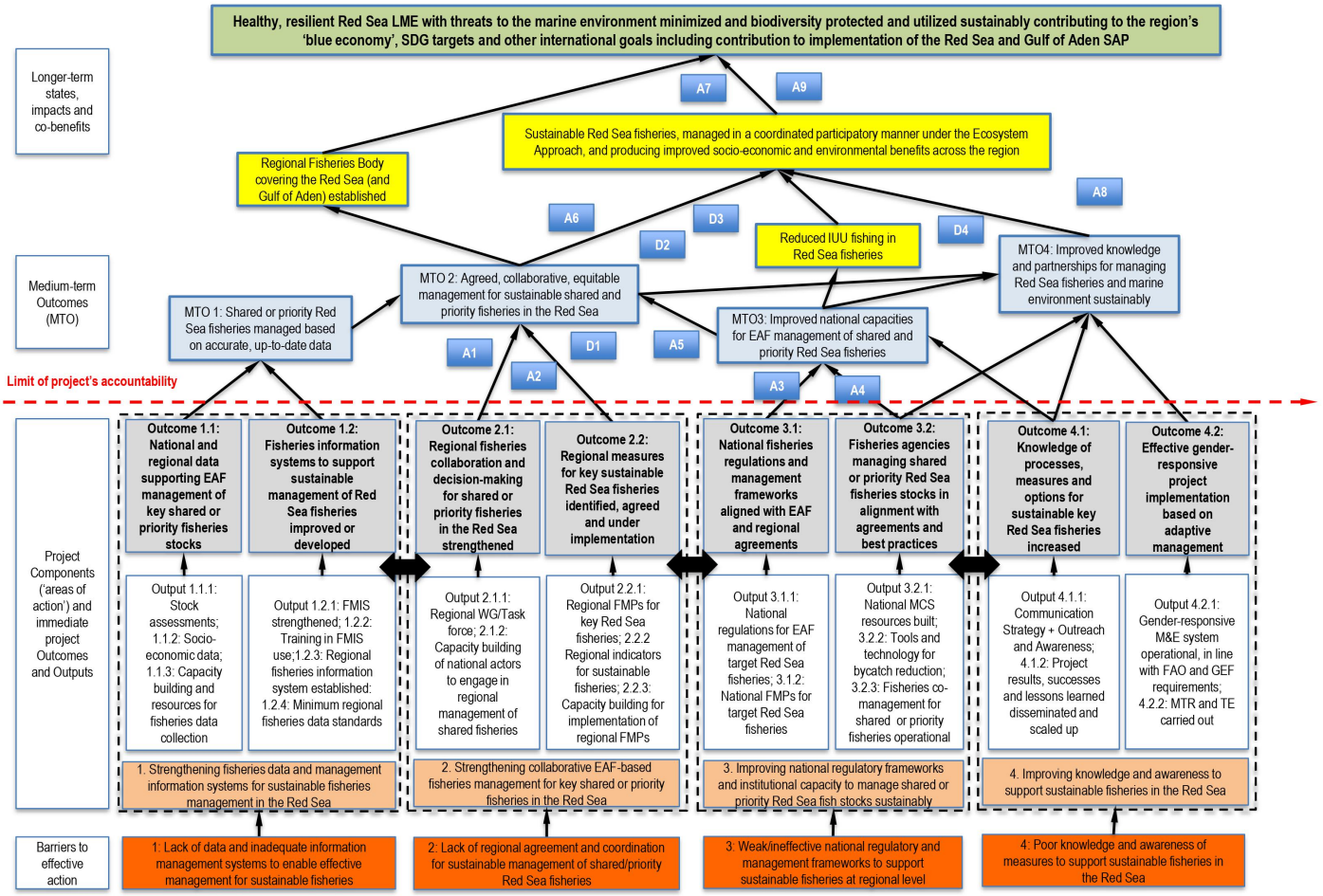
Project description

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

i. Project approach and Theory of Change

The overall project objective is 'to strengthen regional cooperation and management for sustainable shared fisheries in the Red Sea'. The project's Theory of Change (see graphic below) rests on overcoming the key barriers (identified above) that prevent long-term solutions to the common, agreed management for achieving sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea, thereby helping to address overfishing and IUU fishing which threaten not only the Red Sea marine environment but also local coastal economies and livelihoods. The project focuses on the regional (transboundary) level in line with GEF IW objectives (shared stocks/fisheries), facilitating actions to deliver at the regional level with elements to ensure national level benefits but which also support regional deliverables. For instance, supporting capacity building for wider implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries for management of shared Red Sea fisheries will provide benefits at both national and regional levels. More specifically, the project's approach is to facilitate the development of a set of regional management plans agreed by the Red Sea coastal states for priority and shared fisheries and provide systems and resources at the national level to meet the actions agreed in these regional management agreements. In doing so the project will initiate and support coordination and collaboration efforts focused on fisheries management between Arab and African coastal states of the Red Sea. The project will support the groundwork for managing their shared fisheries sustainably, creating a new (and the first) regional partnership specifically for fisheries management, which will serve as a precursor and foundation for the future establishment of a Regional Fisheries Body (RFB), and at the same time generating knowledge and capacity that will facilitate common effective approaches to the problem of unsustainable use of marine resources in the Red Sea LME.

The project has 4 components with 21 outputs that together will deliver 8 project outcomes. These are presented in the Indicative project Overview table above. The four components are as follows.


Healthy, resilient Red Sea LME with threats to the marine environment minimized and biodiversity protected and utilized sustainably contributing to the region's 'blue economy', SDG targets and other international goals including contribution to implementation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden SAP
Longer-term states, impacts and co-benefits
A7
A9
Sustainable Red Sea fisheries, managed in a coordinated participatory manner under the Ecosystem Approach, and producing improved socio-economic and environmental benefits across the region
Regional Fisheries Body covering the Red Sea (and Gulf of Aden) established
A8
A6
D3
D2
Reduced IUU fishing in Red Sea fisheries
D4
MTO4: Improved knowledge and partnerships for managing Red Sea fisheries and marine environment sustainably
Medium-term Outcomes (MTO)
MTO 2: Agreed, collaborative, equitable management for sustainable shared and priority fisheries in the Red Sea
MTO 1: Shared or priority Red Sea fisheries managed based on accurate, up-to-date data
MTO3: Improved national capacities for EAF management of shared and priority Red Sea fisheries
A1
D1
A5
A2
A3
A4
Limit of project's accountability
Project Components ('areas of action') and immediate project Outcomes and Outputs
Outcome 1.1: National and regional data supporting EAF management of key shared or priority fisheries stocks
Outcome 1.2: Fisheries information systems to support sustainable management of Red Sea fisheries improved or developed
Outcome 2.1: Regional fisheries collaboration and decision-making for shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea strengthened
Outcome 2.2: Regional measures for key sustainable Red Sea fisheries identified, agreed and under implementation
Outcome 3.1: National fisheries regulations and management frameworks aligned with EAF and regional agreements
Outcome 3.2: Fisheries agencies managing shared or priority Red Sea fisheries stocks in alignment with agreements and best practices
Outcome 4.1: Knowledge of processes, measures and options for sustainable key Red Sea fisheries increased
Outcome 4.2: Effective gender-responsive project implementation based on adaptive management
Output 1.1.1: Stock assessments; 1.1.2: Socio-economic data; 1.1.3: Capacity building and resources for fisheries data collection
Output 1.2.1: FMIS strengthened; 1.2.2: Training in FMIS use;1.2.3: Regional fisheries information system established: 1.2.4: Minimum regional fisheries data standards
Output 2.1.1: Regional WG/Task force; 2.1.2: Capacity building of national actors to engage in regional management of shared fisheries
Output 2.2.1: Regional FMPs for key Red Sea fisheries; 2.2.2 Regional indicators for sustainable fisheries; 2.2.3: Capacity building for implementation of regional FMPs
Output 3.1.1: National regulations for EAF management of target Red Sea fisheries; 3.1.2: National FMPs for target Red Sea fisheries
Output 3.2.1: National MCS resources built; 3.2.2: Tools and technology for bycatch reduction; 3.2.3: Fisheries co-management for shared or priority fisheries operational
Output 4.1.1: Communication Strategy + Outreach and Awareness; 4.1.2: Project results, successes and lessons learned disseminated and scaled up
Output 4.2.1: Gender-responsive M&E system operational, in line with FAO and GEF requirements; 4.2.2: MTR and TE carried out
1. Strengthening fisheries data and management information systems for sustainable fisheries management in the Red Sea
2. Strengthening collaborative EAF-based fisheries management for key shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea
3. Improving national regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity to manage shared or priority Red Sea fish stocks sustainably
4. Improving knowledge and awareness to support sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea
Barriers to effective action
1: Lack of data and inadequate information management systems to enable effective management for sustainable fisheries
2: Lack of regional agreement and coordination for sustainable management of shared/priority Red Sea fisheries
3: Weak/ineffective national regulatory and management frameworks to support sustainable fisheries at regional level
4: Poor knowledge and awareness of measures to support sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea

Assumptions

A1. National government agencies are willing to engage collaboratively in management of fisheries and marine resources which are shared with other Red Sea states despite political, cultural, economic and other differences

A2. The fishing industry (particularly the small-scale fisheries subsector) accepts need for common measures to manage red Sea fish stocks sustainably, even if it means reduced quotas

A3. The private sector is willing (or can be encouraged) to invest in fishing activities that are aligned with EAF management

A4. There is sufficient and continued commitment (political support, staff, resources, etc) by national government institutions responsible for fisheries policy, legislation and management for actions to adopt and continue to implement EAF management

A5. Social, economic and cultural barriers do not prevent women or fisher communities from effectively participating in the sustainable management of fisheries

A6. Countries continue to see the value of, and commit resources for regional cooperation and collaboration to address EAF management for Red Sea fisheries

A7. Future climate change impacts do not irreversibly affect the structure and function of the Red Sea LME marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats

Drivers

D1. Increased awareness among government decision and policy makers about the value of marine ecosystems and their role in climate change mitigation and sustainable development, the opportunities offered by the blue economy (particularly for supporting recovery from the COVID pandemic) and need to manage coastal and marine resources sustainably, together with increased promotion of the value of marine ecosystems by number of global level initiatives such as the High-Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy

D2. Obligations under international/regional policy and legal frameworks together with international fisheries best practice guidelines encourage more responsible fishing practices

D3. Increasing global demand for fish products from sustainably managed stocks and/or those which meet national legislation of import countries for fisheries that apply EAF principles

D4. Regional initiatives and forums, such as the RSGA SAP, promoting regional visions, building capacity and facilitating increased inward investment for sustainable management of marine resources, along with international legal obligations, such as national commitments to the SDGs, UNFCCC and CBD

Note: arrows in the graphic indicate a connection (linkage, relationship) between project components, and the direction of arrows indicates the how an element leads to, or contributes to, one or more others (which may illustrate how one element may be dependent on another being achieved). So, for instance, the arrows can indicate how direct results of the project (outputs) can combine to produce wider changes (immediate project outcomes) which themselves may contribute to longer-term changes (mid-term and long-term changes in behaviour, systems and states). Arrows that point both left and right indicate a two-way flow of results from one component to another. For instance, information from components 1-3 feeds development of deliverables under Component 4. However, the causal flow of results in the ToC (from output to project outcome to wider, longer-term changes in state) also depends on a series of assumptions and drivers (indicated in the graphic) that may influence the linkage (relationship) between the elements of the ToC.

Achievement of the immediate project components and outcomes above will contribute to wider changes and impacts over the longer term as set out in the Theory of Change graphic above. Briefly, the outcomes associated with Component 1 will combine to provide much improved, accurate and (importantly) up-to-date data sets that will allow evidence-based decision-making for managing shared or priority Red Sea fisheries sustainably (Medium Term Outcome (MTO) 1 in ToC graphic). Project results under Component 2 (regional fisheries management measures for target fisheries) combined with those from Components 1 and 3 will allow for agreed, collaborative and more equitable management of fish stocks in the Red Sea (MTO2), assuming national government agencies continue to be willing to work collaboratively despite political, cultural, economic and other differences (Assumption (A) 1) and that the fishing industry (particularly the small-scale fisheries subsector) accepts the need for common measures to manage Red Sea fish stocks sustainably, even if it means reduced effort (A2).

An important impact driver for this regional collaboration which will help the project's expected outcomes endure long-term is an increased awareness among Red Sea governments on the value of marine ecosystems and their role in climate change mitigation and sustainable development and the opportunities offered by the

blue economy (impact driver (D) 1), particularly for supporting recovery from the COVID pandemic. The expected outcomes under Component 3 will help deliver improved national capacities for EAF management of shared and priority Red Sea fisheries (MTO3), although it is recognised that several assumptions need to be met for this occur, including that the private sector is willing (or can be encouraged) to invest in fishing activities that are aligned with EAF management (A3) and there is sufficient and continued commitment (political support, staff, resources, etc) by national government institutions responsible for fisheries policy, legislation and management for actions to adopt and continue to implement EAF management (A4). Importantly, in terms of women's participation, it is assumed that social, economic and cultural barriers do not prevent women from effectively participating in the sustainable management of fisheries (A5). Finally, it is expected that delivery of the outcomes of all four components will generate greater knowledge and long-term base for partnerships for managing Red Sea fisheries and marine environment sustainably (MTO4). Together with additional external inputs (e.g. other national and donor-funded initiatives involving other actors), these medium term outcomes are expected to combine to deliver longer-term changes, impacts and co-benefits, including reduced IUU fishing in the Red Sea and eventually the ultimate long-term 'situation sought' of a Red Sea marine ecosystem managed sustainably in a coordinated participatory manner under the Ecosystem Approach, and producing improved socio-economic and environmental benefits across the region. Importantly, the project will also help lay the foundations for the establishment of a Regional Fisheries Body covering the Red Sea (probably combined with Gulf of Aden – the provisionally titled RSGA RFMO). However, the achievement of these longer-term changes and impacts depends on several other wider assumptions being met and impact drivers that may make progress along the causal chain more likely, as illustrated in the graphic, above. These include assumptions that countries continue to see the value of, and commit resources for, regional cooperation and collaboration to address EAF management for Red Sea fisheries (A6) and importantly over the longer term that future climate change impacts do not irreversibly affect the structure and function of the Red Sea LME marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats (A7). In addition, two other assumptions that are required for long-term achievement of sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea are that global demand for Red Sea fish and fish products can be moderated within sustainable limits (A8) with for instance, other sources of fish e.g. through aquaculture, made available, and the socio-economic conditions of Red Sea fishers can be improved and then maintained over the long-term (A9). Furthermore, several additional impact drivers should support delivery of longer-term benefits, namely: obligations under international/regional policy and legal frameworks together with international fisheries best practice guidelines that encourage more responsible fishing practices (D2); increasing global demand for sustainably or responsibly managed fish products and/or those which meet national legislation of import countries for fisheries that apply EAF principles (D 3); and the requirement to engage with regional and global initiatives, such as the RSGA SAP, and meet international legal obligations, such as national commitments to the SDGs, UNFCCC and CBD (D5)

Component 1: Strengthening fisheries data and management information systems for effective national and regional sustainable fisheries management in the Red Sea. This Component seeks to increase robust, reliable data and information needed to meet the objectives of sound regional fisheries management in the region and to strengthen the systems used to collect, analysis and utilise such information in fisheries management decision-making, targeted on fisheries of common concern for the Red Sea countries. There are two Outcomes associated with this Component:

Outcome 1.1: National and regional data improved, available and supporting EAF management of key shared or priority fisheries stocks; and
Outcome 1.2: Systems for managing fisheries information to support sustainable management of shared or priority Red Sea fisheries at national and regional levels improved or developed.

Under this component the project will assess and set up periodic monitoring of the status of key shared or priority stocks to determine sustainable fishing levels (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2), with updating of national fisheries information systems (Output 1.2.1) and the creation of a regional information (system or sharing,

Output 1.2.3) utilising the improved national data on the target fisheries (the hosting and long-term home for the regional data is currently being discussed and will be decided during the PPG). This Component also supports related capacity building of men and women in fisheries departments, research institutes and fishing/coastal communities to collect relevant fisheries data and use updated Fisheries Management Information Systems (FMIS) and be able to integrate analyses into fisheries management decision-making processes (through Outputs 1.1.3 and 1.2.2). As part of this, the project will also seek to agree minimum standardized fisheries data requirements regionally (Output 1.2.4). This component largely addresses barrier 1 above.

Component 2: Strengthening collaborative EAF-based fisheries management for key shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea. This Component specifically addresses barrier 2 above. There are Outcomes:

Outcome 2.1: Regional fisheries collaboration and decision-making for shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea strengthened; and
Outcome 2.2: Regional management measures needed to achieve sustainable key Red Sea fisheries identified, agreed and regional-level actions under implementation

Under this component, an initial activity will be to establish a regional, multi-stakeholder fisheries management taskforce/working group (WG) that will coordinate and support the development and implementation of management measures for sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea (Output 2.1.1) and capacity and resources of key actors to enable their effective participation in the WG (Output 2.1.2). Such a body does not currently exist. The establishment of this initial Working Group with the specific task of developing common management for shared fisheries will allow countries to develop the necessary capacity, partnerships and working relations for engagement and involvement in regional fisheries management on which an RFMO can be built. The regional fisheries management plans will address priority needs across Red Sea fisheries (Output 2.2.1). The suite of international fisheries instruments to support sustainable fisheries under the umbrella of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, strengthened fisheries information systems, and MCS coordination will also be integrated into all Fisheries management plans. This component will also the design and agreement on a set of regional indicators for the sustainable development and use of Red Sea marine capture fisheries (Output 2.2.2). It will also support coordination on the implementation of actions under the regional FMPs, such as formalized communication and information exchange related to MCS and coordination on regional-level MCS activities to address IUU of target fisheries (Output 2.2.3).

Component 3: Improving national regulatory and management frameworks and institutional capacity to manage shared or priority Red Sea fisheries sustainably. Component 3 addresses barriers 3 and 4. This component has two Outcomes:

Outcome 3.1: National fisheries regulations and management frameworks aligned with EAF and sustainable fisheries best practices, and regional agreements on management of Red Sea fisheries; and
Outcome 3.2: National fisheries agencies managing shared or priority Red Sea fisheries stocks, in line with agreed national and regional fisheries management measures and international best practices.

n order to effectively deliver sustainable fisheries and wider global environmental benefits at the regional level, national fisheries management systems need to be strengthened. Consequently, activities under this component will update national fisheries regulations to address measures agreed at the regional level under Component 2 (Output 3.1.1), including ensuring advancements in international fisheries best practice (following on EAF, including co-management), guidelines and agreements are fully integrated into national fisheries management frameworks and practices. This will involve updating of national management plans for the regionally important target fisheries (Output 3.1.2), developed with engagement of men and women from coastal communities (building co-management practice under Output 3.2.3) and building the necessary capacity to implement these measures, including capacity for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) at

national level with a focus on efforts within EEZs, capacity of countries to monitor their vessels and implement flag, coastal, port state responsibilities, and to ensure alignment with any MCS measures/priorities at regional level (Output 3.2.1). Importantly, the improved fisheries data collection delivered under Component 1 will support the development of these national fisheries management plans. Broader environmental benefits will also result under this Component from the piloting of bycatch reduction technology targeted at ETP species such as sharks and turtles (Output 3.2.2), which is innovative for the Red Sea region. Considering women are strongly represented in downstream activities of the fishing sector, under this Component particular attention will be given to build capacity on the new management frameworks amongst this group. Women in the maritime sector are often present at various levels of seniority and will be specifically targeted across all project components.

Component 4: Improving knowledge and awareness to support sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea, lesson learning and project management. This component addresses the need for knowledge generation and target awareness raising of key audiences (including capturing and disseminating lessons and best practice form project experiences), addressing barrier 4. This component has two Outcomes:

Outcome 4.1: Knowledge of processes, measures and options for effective EAF management of key Red Sea fisheries increased among key stakeholder groups; and

Outcome 4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation: Effective gender-responsive project implementation based on adaptive management.

Although activities under this Component apply across the whole project it is considered most relevant to addressing barriers 1 and 4 and focuses on improving knowledge base and awareness of fishers and fisheries personnel on EAF, regulations and related best practice and guidelines and the need for regionally relevant fisheries management measures, through development of a Communications Strategy and associated outreach and awareness-raising programme targeted at fisheries agencies, key stakeholders and shared fisheries, and including training of fisheries extension officers, where they exist (under Output 4.1.1), and through dissemination of project results, experiences and lessons learned to key project stakeholders, with development of a roadmap for scaling of successful project solutions (Output 4.1.2). This component also includes two outputs related to ensuring effective adaptive project management to ensure the above outcomes and outputs can be delivered effectively (Outputs 4.2.1 and 4.2.2).

i. Longer-term changes and impacts in Theory of Change

Achievement of the immediate project components and outcomes above will contribute to wider changes and impacts over the longer term as set out in the Theory of Change graphic above. Briefly, the outcomes associated with Component 1 will combine to provide much improved, accurate and (importantly) up-to-date data sets that will allow evidence-based decision-making for managing shared or priority Red Sea fisheries sustainably (Medium Term Outcome (MTO) 1 in ToC graphic). Project results under Component 2 (regional fisheries management measures for target fisheries) combined with those from Components 1 and 3 will allow for agreed, collaborative and more equitable management of fish stocks in the Red Sea (MTO2), assuming national government agencies continue to be willing to work collaboratively despite political, cultural, economic and other differences (Assumption (A) 1) and that the fishing industry (particularly the small-scale fisheries subsector) accepts the need for common measures to manage Red Sea fish stocks sustainably, even if it means reduced effort (A2).

An important driver for this regional collaboration which will help the project's expected outcomes endure long-term is an increased awareness among Red Sea governments on the value of marine ecosystems and their role in climate change mitigation and sustainable development and the opportunities offered by the blue economy (Driver (D) 1), particularly for supporting recovery from the COVID pandemic. The expected outcomes under Component 3 will help deliver improved national capacities for EAF management of shared and priority Red Sea fisheries (MTO3), although it is recognised that several assumptions need to be met for

this occur, including that the private sector is willing (or can be encouraged) to invest in fishing activities that are aligned with EAF management (A3) and there is sufficient and continued commitment (political support, staff, resources, etc) by national government institutions responsible for fisheries policy, legislation and management for actions to adopt and continue to implement EAF management (A4). Importantly, in terms of women's participation, it is assumed that social, economic and cultural barriers do not prevent women from effectively participating in the sustainable management of fisheries (A5). Finally, it is expected that delivery of the outcomes of all four components will generate greater knowledge and long-term base for partnerships for managing Red Sea fisheries and marine environment sustainably (MTO4). Together with additional external inputs (e.g. other national and donor-funded initiatives involving other actors), these medium term outcomes are expected to combine to deliver longer-term changes, impacts and co-benefits, including reduced IUU fishing in the Red Sea and eventually the ultimate long-term 'situation sought' of a Red Sea marine ecosystem managed sustainably in a coordinated participatory manner under the Ecosystem Approach, and producing improved socio-economic and environmental benefits across the region. Importantly, the project will also help lay the foundations for the establishment of a Regional Fisheries Body covering the Red Sea (probably combined with Gulf of Aden – the provisionally titled RSGA RFMO). However, the achievement of these longer-term changes and impacts depends on several other wider assumptions being met and impact drivers that may make progress along the causal chain more likely, as illustrated in the graphic, above. These include assumptions that countries continue to see the value of, and commit resources for, regional cooperation and collaboration to address EAF management for Red Sea fisheries (A6) and importantly over the longer term that future climate change impacts do not irreversibly affect the structure and function of the Red Sea LME marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats (A7). However, several additional drivers should support delivery of longer-term benefits, namely: obligations under international/regional policy and legal frameworks together with international fisheries best practice guidelines that encourage more responsible fishing practices (D2); increasing global demand for sustainably or responsibly managed fish products and/or those which meet national legislation of import countries for fisheries that apply EAF principles (D 3); and the requirement to engage with regional and global initiatives, such as the RSGA SAP, and meet international legal obligations, such as national commitments to the SDGs, UNFCCC and CBD (D5).

ii. Fisheries to be targeted by the project

An informal technical working group (WG), comprising focal points from all the Red Sea fisheries agencies, was established during the PIF stage. This identified an initial group of priority regional or shared Red Sea fisheries that will be targeted for improved management under the project. These are: Orange spotted trevally (Carangoides bajad), Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus commerson), Roving coral grouper (Plectropomus pessuliferus), Indian mackerel (Rastrelliger kanagurta), Red Sea goatfish (Parupeneus forsskali), and Spotted sardinella (Amblygaster sirm). These were selected considering a set of criteria including gear type, shared nature of stocks, ecosystem role, and economic importance of the fishery. This list will be reviewed and further refined during the PPG phase.

iii. Global environmental benefits which would not have accrued without the GEF project (additionality)

Given the shared nature of many of the Red Sea fisheries and the lack of current coordination on their management, a GEF investment in developing agreed management measures together with targeted institutional and capacity building to support their implementation will lead to substantial improvement in fish stocks health and support moves towards more sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea region. Even relatively simple fisheries agreements, e.g. on Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and catch limits, Conservation Management Measures (CMM) for regionally significant fisheries, could quickly move target species towards more sustainable levels. A preliminary estimate suggests the project would move c.22,450 tons of globally over-exploited fisheries towards more sustainable levels.

The GEF investment would also support the establishment of a proposed RFMO for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden that has been endorsed by the Red Sea coastal states. The GEF project would promote and aid this

processes, particularly through actions to improve fisheries data and regional fisheries assessments (Component 1); governance and institutional development activities to address shared fisheries at the regional level (Component 2); building capacity to address common fisheries management weaknesses such as MCS that will support regional aims (Component 3); and through sharing the experience of countries working together to address common challenges to Red Sea fisheries and the marine environment (Component 4). The project would also generate additional GEBs through the adoption of more responsible fisheries practices indirectly benefiting the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area. These include the introduction of bycatch reduction devices (BRD) or alternatives for the most destructive fishing gear such as gill nets which would create indirect benefits for non-fish marine biodiversity, such as a reduction of threat to Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species, e.g. sharks, marine mammals and marine turtles, caught as bycatch. The project's efforts to coordinate and improve management for more sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea will also help support, conserve and restore key species, critical habitats and the ecological integrity of the region's Marine Protected Areas, many of which suffer from over- and illegal fishing.
Without the GEF investment, overfishing and IUU fishing will continue due to: lack of regional agreement on management of shared stocks; insufficient data for effective management decisions: (where they exist) out-of-date fisheries management plans based on (in many cases) decades old data on fish stocks: poor awareness and knowledge among key stakeholders of solutions to move towards more responsible and sustainable fisheries; limited capacity for monitoring, control and surveillance to address IUU and sustainable fisheries in some Red Sea countries; and overall very limited implementation of international best practice to manage fisheries including the EAF. As a result, current trends of declining marine resources in the Red Sea will largely continue, especially with a growing demand for food for the human population in the region and limited opportunities for other types of agriculture in many of the Red Sea countries. Also, without the GEF investment in supporting regional collaboration to build trust it is unlikely there will be any regional cooperation on fisheries in the immediate future and the establishment of the proposed RFMO for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden much less likely.
It should also be noted that whilst conservation and sustainable development of marine and coastal environments have received GEF financing in recent years , a key component of the Red Sea marine environment – fisheries – has had relatively little previous investment under the GEF International Waters Focal Area. The Project activities will also support working towards the recently agreed CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly to achieving Target 5 (through Component 2), 9 (through Components 2 and 3),10 (through Component 2), 20 (through Components 1 and 3), and 21 (through Components 1)

iv. Stakeholders and their respective roles, contributions and benefits
The project will draw together a large and diverse group of stakeholders who play important roles in fisheries in the Red Sea region, including fisheries management and regulatory authorities, fisherfolk communities, academic and private sector groups directly and indirectly involved in national and regional fisheries, including those involved along target fisheries value chains. An initial review of project stakeholders and their potential roles and responsibilities during the PPG phase and expected role during project implementation was undertaken as part of the PIF development by the project's technical working group. This identified three main stakeholder groups engaged in the Red Sea fisheries: (i) those directly involved in fisheries operations; (ii) those involved in fisheries value chains (supplying the sector as well as marketing, processing etc of the product); and (iii) fisheries management and research. A fourth group – international and strategic partners and development donors - was also identified. e assessment also made an initial identification of the roles that women play in Red Sea fisheries (there is an absence of recent studies on gender and fisheries for the Red Sea region).
Key stakeholders to be involved in the full project development include the national fisheries authorities of the seven target countries (Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Livestock and Fisheries Resources of Djibouti, National Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Marine Resources of Eritrea, Lakes and Fish Resources Protection & Development Agency of Egypt, General Fisheries Directorate Ministry of Environment Water and Agriculture of Saudi Arabia, Marine Fisheries Directorate, Ministry of Livestock and

Fisheries of Sudan, and Ministry of Fisheries Wealth of Yemen), as well as fisherfolk organisations (local and national) and private sector fishing enterprises (linked to SSF and industrial fisheries companies operating in the target fisheries), as well as the institutions financing their fisheries. National government fisheries agencies will act as the focal point for project activities in each country and be the lead national agency supporting development of project activities. At the regional level, linkage with other Regional Fisheries Bodies, including the IOTC and RECOFI, will help facilitate the scaling-up and wider impact of project successes. Strong linkages are also foreseen with fishers cooperatives, civil society organisations such as National Union of Eritrean and Development Association Red Sea protectorates, Egypt, together with academic and research institutes such as KAUST University in Saudi Arabia and the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport in Egypt. Local fisher communities are a key target group for the project and the project will engage with this group through development of fisheries co-management arrangements (under Component 2) and pilot activities, e.g. introduction of bycatch reduction devices and a responsible fisheries outreach programme (under Component 3).
A more comprehensive stakeholder analysis will be conducted during the PPG phase to determine specific stakeholder needs and priorities. Further in-depth consultations will be undertaken to establish/strengthen partnerships and practical modalities for linkage and collaboration. The mechanisms for managing project partnerships during project implementation will be fully developed and agreed on during the PPG phase and captured in a project Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

v. Strengthening and alignment with existing national policies (policy coherence)
The project activities will play a role in aligning national policy and legislation/regulations with EAF and international best practice, updating national legal and policy frameworks (under Component 3) to ensure that countries can effectively implement regional fisheries management measures (developed under Component 2) and including a suite of international fisheries management instruments. This will include incorporating relevant elements of (among others) the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries , FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication , FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Fishing Operations - Vessel Monitoring Systems , and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Marking of Fishing Gear (VGMFG) , FAO International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing , the UN Fish Stocks Agreement into regional management policy and planning (under Component 2) and national policy and legislative frameworks (under Component 3). Project activities will also include awareness raising targeted at government personnel (under Component 4) on how existing international fisheries instruments and best practices support fisheries management practices to deliver long-term socio-economic and environmental objectives, such as sustainable livelihoods, increased food security, maintaining ecosystem health, climate change adaptation, and sustainable tourism development. The project will also engage in awareness-raising activities among local fishers and their representatives to ensure effective implementation of the updated policies and regulatory frameworks (also under Component 4).

vi. Knowledge generation, management and exchange
The project will generate considerable knowledge and products across all its components, and Knowledge Management (KM) is an integral part of the project. These will be coordinated through Component 4 whose focus is to raise awareness, promote learning and continuous improvement (linked to project M&E activities), generate content for up-scaling of project achievements, lessons and good practices, enable institutional memory, and support stakeholder engagement on key issues related to management for sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea. Specific KM activities included under Component 4 and will support capacity building and training actions under all the components.
Online/virtual training and information exchange are expected to play a significant role in the project's KM approach and will be supported through the creation of a dedicated digital project KM platform (part of the project website). The project will also host in-person fora, meetings, workshops, as well as maintaining informal communication with key stakeholders through a project listserve and other means (e.g. Facebook

group, WhatsApp group). Project results, experiences, lessons learned and recommendations for successful implementation of effective, sustainable fisheries management measures in the Red Sea will be identified and disseminated via relevant national, regional and global platforms, including existing FAO, national government and project partner websites, such as PERSGA. At the global level, the findings and recommendations of the project will be shared through IW:LEARN and IW:LME and other relevant global knowledge platforms and with the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Including contributing to IW:LEARN GEF Experience Note/Results Note/Good Practice Brief and other relevant knowledge products during project implementation. A minimum of 1% of the GEF IW grant financing will be ring-fenced to support participation in IW:LEARN activities, which will be identified by a specific budget line within the project budget (to be developed at the PPG stage and included in the Project Document). The project will be able to draw upon the experience and lessons learned from engagement in IW:LEARN by previous FAO-GEF projects (e.g. suite of REBYC projects on bycatch) to ensure effective and impactful delivery of knowledge products through IW:LEARN. A broader dissemination of experience and lessons learnt generated by the project will be pursued though engaging national and regional technical and educational institutions, and regionally and internationally through South-South cooperation mechanisms. In addition, the FAO eLearning Academy will support the project's remote learning activities. FAO is particularly well capacitated for this effort with alignments to numerous fisheries management organizations globally. These formal and informal links, including the FIRMS partnership, provide a platform to discuss and design locally adapted KM services.

The project's KM approach will build on the experience, lessons learned and information platforms developed during previous FAO-GEF IW fisheries-related projects, such as the GEF-5 and GEF-7 FAO-GEF Common Oceans ABNJ programmes, A core element of Component 4 will be the development of a KM Strategy and Plan (linked to the project's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Plan), which will direct the project's knowledge generation, lesson learning, information sharing, and awareness-raising activities with clear identification of roles and responsibilities, deliverables, resources and timing (what, how, when, who and with what resources). The project will draw on a broad range of both innovative and established KM services and products provided by FAO. These will be available for the entire data cycle from data collection (e.g. locally adaptable SMARTForms /mobile apps for data collection, monitoring and reporting including on catch data for target fisheries), data analytics, generation of statistics, and indicator dashboards (such as through the new FAO/NFI geospatial infrastructure, and the Calipseo national statistical system), and publication and dissemination (e.g. new fact sheets engine on gear types). The utility of these for the project's KM approach and practice along with other FAO corporate KM products will be explored more fully during the PPG phase. Key elements of KM are document and publication management, and data persistence and re-use, which are also key for the project's sustainability strategy. In relation to these, the project will draw on FAO capacity and experience with regional multi-topic on-line Atlases. These multi-tenant and metadata-driven atlases are designed to offer flexible, locally owned, secure, and spatially explicit KM. In addition, other relevant FAO specialized KM capacity, such as OpenASFA.

vii. Transformational and innovative nature of project and scaling up

Innovation/transformation: Agreement on management of Red Sea fisheries on a regional basis (under Component 2) is innovative as regional agreements on fish stock management do not currently exist. These will help transform conservation and sustainable use of the living marine resources of the Red Sea particularly key fish stocks but also other marine biodiversity. Also innovative, and potentially transformational, for the region's fisheries is a specific project focus on supporting multi-stakeholder engagement (beyond just government fisheries agencies) and co-management as an integral element of regional and national fisheries management decision-making. This challenges the current 'business-as-usual' approach to national fisheries management in the Red Sea where decision-making rests with governments and goes beyond the more traditional approach to regional fisheries governance taken by RFMOs where involvement of the private sector or CSOs is largely limited to invitations to participate in meetings on specific topics. The project will assist the participating countries to engage with concerned stakeholders in all areas of fisheries management, including fisheries information collection, stock assessment exercises and use of data in designing appropriate

management measures (under Component 1), stakeholder consultation, integration of EAF and international best practices into fisheries management, and MCS activities (under Component 3). Support for adoption of broader EAF elements such as addressing wider environmental impacts of fisheries, e.g. bycatch reduction devices (under Component 3) is also relatively new in the Red Sea region and has not been widespread. The multi-stakeholder engagement approach at the regional level combined with integrating co-management and EAF into national management frameworks constitutes a major institutional innovation for the Red Sea countries.

Scaling-up of project results and successes will be achieved through the project's Knowledge Management activities under Component 4, including engagement with IW:LEARN events and activities. The project's regional technical working group (which has already been established to help design the project at the PIF stage) also offers an opportunity for scaling-up project results including the potential to develop further regional fisheries management plans for additional Red Sea fisheries, as well as expansion of the working group to include countries in the Gulf of Aden or the Arabian Sea LME. Engagement with neighbouring countries in the Gulf through RECOFI, or other RFBs, and cooperation on the same fisheries issues will provide an excellent opportunity to share project experiences, results and benefits and reach new countries with the project's innovative approaches.

Note: if the working group and its products, namely the regional fisheries management plans, are successful then it increases the likelihood of the establishment of the proposed RFMO for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, which would embed the management plans and fisheries management measures, the EAF approach, the role of non-state actors and co-management, and cooperation between Red Sea coastal states into a formalized legal agreement and regional institution framework further supporting scaling up and sustainability of project results.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

The project will establish strong links with several fisheries management related projects in the Red Sea and beyond, as well as others concerned with the Red Sea marine environment, building on their achievements and ownership, including:

- World Bank funded 'Sustainable Fishery Development in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (SFISH) project Component 1: Strengthening regional collaboration in management of marine fisheries and aquaculture in the RSGA region'. The SFISH project offers opportunities for collaboration, exchange of information, and possibly some shared activities with the RedSeaFish project (particularly for Components 1 and 2) e.g. it has a component seeking to strengthen some aspects of regional fisheries management including improving fisheries data for decision-making.
- UNEP-GEF 'An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)' project, executed by PERSGA currently, under development (PPG stage). Although not a fisheries project, the HESBERGA project addresses the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment and its resources (including a blue economy focus) of the Red Sea, it includes many of the same country partners (excludes Eritrea and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and during the PPG phase opportunities to coordinate and collaborate on common issues and activities (e.g. government agency capacity building, knowledge management and dissemination of each project's results, observer status at each project's Project Steering Committee meetings) will be explored and confirmed.

- UNIDO-led 'Building institutional capacities for the sustainable management of the marine fishery in the Red Sea State (Phase II) (Sudan)' which is helping to build essential capacity for managing fisheries in Sudan including assessment of fisheries resources in the Sudanese Red Sea.

Other potential projects/initiatives with which partnerships and linkages will be explored include:

- The IFAD/GEF/FAO/Germany: FReMP Eritrea (inc FAO Technical Cooperation Programme) project;
- FAO Yemen Livelihood and Human Security (YLHS) project;
- IFAD Support Program for Reducing Vulnerability in Coastal Fishing Areas (PRAREV) project in Djibouti (promote co-management of resources, FAO set up statistical monitoring system);
- World Bank SFISH Component 2: Improving Economic Opportunities, Food Security and Effective Management of Fishery Production in Yemen;
- PERSGA Living Marine Resources Programme (PERSGA is an intergovernmental organization governed by a council of ministers responsible for environmental affairs in 6 or the 7 project countries) , and,
- Stock-assessment working group (WG) constituted by MEWA, KAUST University and FAO in Saudi Arabia.

There are also several global FAO-led fisheries projects which are relevant to the RedSeaFish project with which linkages, including: potential linkage with the FAO Umbrella Programmes on SSF and IUU fishing, and the FAO Calipseo national statistical system. Communication will be established with the above projects during the PPG phase. However discussions have already been held with The World Bank on the GEF RedSeaFish PIF development and potential areas of coordination .

Core Indicators

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
17,454,800.00			

Indicator 5.1 Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

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

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Marine OECMs supported

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

Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	Red Sea			
Count	1	0	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagonostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Red Sea	1			

Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Red Sea	2			

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministeral Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Red Sea	1			

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN throgh participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Red Sea	1			

Indicator 8 Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
21,450.00			

Fishery Details

This is based on available data on the priority top 6 Red Sea species as agreed by the technical working group. These are: Orange spotted trevally (Carangoides bajad), Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus commerson),

Roving coral grouper (Plectropomus pessuliferus), Indian mackerel (Rastrelliger kanagurta), Red Sea goatfish (Parupeneus forsskali), and Spotted sardinella (Amblygaster sirm). These were selected considering a set of criteria including gear type, shared nature of stocks, ecosystem role, and economic importance of the fishery. This list will be reviewed and further refined during the PPG phase. Together these fisheries total around 33,000 tonnes (excluding Yemen which does not have that data for these species for the Red Sea only). The CI target (to be achieved in the four years of the project) was agreed as 65% of this figure – 21,450 tonnes.

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	3,000			
Male	7,000			
Total	**10,000**	**0**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

CI-5 – The project target value of 17,545,800 hectares represents the sum of extent of Inshore fishing areas for the seven participating countries: Djibouti 314 km2; Egypt 23,180 km2; Eritrea 54,887 km2; Jordan 28 km2; Saudi Arabia 69,756 km2; Sudan 23,248 km2; Yemen 24,907 km2. Source: http://www.seaaroundus.org/

CI-8 – This is based on available data on the priority top 6 Red Sea species as agreed by the technical working group. Together these fisheries total around 33,000 tonnes (excluding Yemen which does not have that data for these species for the Red Sea only). The CI target (to be achieved in the four years of the project was agreed as 65% of this figure – 21,450 tonnes).

CI 11 – Data on the number of individuals involved with fisheries in the region is poor. Based on the best available data for the Red Sea, the number of people directly employed in fisheries is approx. 80,000, 99.9% of which are men. However, in the fisheries value chain there are an estimated 100,000, of which about 25% are women. An additional approximately 400 are engaged in research and fisheries management, of which 30% are women.

Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases and what are the mitigation strategies the project preparation process will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project preparation-such as in terms of consultations, role and choice of counterparts, delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the "Project description" section above). The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	Low	Risk: Long-term risk to the Red Sea environment undermining results of project but no immediate risks presented during project lifetime, although extreme climate events,

		such as cyclones, may temporarily affect project execution. Mitigation: The project will employ an adaptive management approach to project execution with a funded M&E system in place from the start to mitigate any climate-related events during the project.
Environment and Social	Low	Risk: Environmental – no risks foreseen although there is the possibility if management restrictions are introduced for the target species it may shift IUU fishing to other (currently less affected) species and areas of the Red Sea. Mitigation: Environmental – the project will strengthen MCS capacity and measures for the target fisheries which will support wider efforts to address IUU fishing in the region. Risk: Social - continuing COVID pandemic (or local outbreaks) may lead to lower engagement, fewer in-person meetings, and delays in project execution, particularly for those project partners where staffing and capacity are less available (e.g. Eritrea and Sudan). Mitigation: Social - the project will use online platforms to implement activities to the extent feasible (employing practices and lessons gained during the first 2-3 years of COVID pandemic) which also minimizes the risk of disease.
Political and Governance	Low	Risk: Low commitment and engagement in project from key partners and government institutions to engage in design of the full project and its implementation (poor political support, staffing/capacity, co-financing, and/or changed priorities due to adverse economic conditions or changes in Governments). Mitigation: The

		RedSeaFish project has been designed to respond to, and directly support, the national priorities of the participating countries and to meet regional (LME) level priorities to address unsustainable use of marine resources in the Red Sea. For instance, the project explicitly supports the need for better fish stocks data to enable effective fisheries management decisions to maintain or recover target stocks and will help strengthen capacity of the national fisheries authorities as well as the needs of local fishing communities and associations to adopt and developing incentives to encourage fishers to adopt more responsible fishing practices. The project also responds to national and regional priorities identified by ad hoc Red Sea fisheries working group, representing each of the participating countries, established by the project in December 2022. In addition, FAO has a long-established relationship with the target country's lead fisheries institutions on which the project will build. The project will also leverage existing coordinating and cross-cutting inter-governmental and trans-boundary mechanisms that address marine resource conservation (e.g. PERSGA) to ensure participation remains strong, as well as on the need to establish an RFMO in the region.
Macro-economic	Low	Risk: Global recession(s) may impact the amount of government and donors' co-financing contributions to the project during its implementation. Some countries in the region are facing significant economic challenges that may impact financial commitments to the project. Mitigation: the project is structured

		so that if there is a cut in funding the scope of the project can revised/or reduced respectively, e.g. virtual capacity building activities in case of in-person meetings to save funds, decreasing number of demo projects, etc.
Strategies and Policies	Low	Risk: The policy, legal and management reforms proposed under the project (through Component 2 and 3) may not be approved, fully adopted and under implementation by participating governments within the 4 years of the project, due to the short timescale and/or because there are insufficient Government resources to ensure their approval and subsequent execution. Mitigation: participating Governments have already shown their commitment (partly evidenced by the previous engagement in meetings to establish a regional fisheries body for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and PERSGA-led initiatives targeted at improving the marine environment of the Red Sea).
Technical design of project or program	Low	Risk: There are few technical risks to the project, as most of the technological approaches adopted by the project are well tested – stock assessment and data analysis (under Component 1) or devices to limit bycatch of sharks and turtles (Component 3) are a well-established fisheries management tools. Mitigation: The project has strong technical backstopping by FAO and the project will have technical expertise available from its HQ (Rome), subregional (Cairo) and country offices (all seven participating countries). The management of the project will also follow an adaptive management

		approach with a ring-fenced funded project M&E system. Risk: There are few technical risks to the project, as most of the technological approaches adopted by the project are well tested – stock assessment and data analysis (under Component 1) or devices to limit bycatch of sharks and turtles (Component 3) are a well-established fisheries management tools. Mitigation: The project has strong technical backstopping by FAO and the project will have technical expertise available from its HQ (Rome), subregional (Cairo) and country offices (all seven participating countries). The management of the project will also follow an adaptive management approach with a ring-fenced funded project M&E system.
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Low	Risk: Lack of institutional expertise on the national and regional level to deliver capacity building activities. Mitigation: Where capacity is considered limited, such as experience of developing regionally agreed fisheries management plans (Component 2), it will be built through the project. Assessments of institutional (both national and local) expertise and resources will be undertaken during the PPG phase with recommendations to address these built into project activities (through training workshops, etc). In addition, FAO will provide specilised capacity support to the project through its technical divisions, and a sustainability plan will be developed during the last year of the project to ensure there is a clear road map with resources identified to ensure that project results will be sustainable.

Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Low	Risk: Potential mismanagement of donor funds Mitigation: FAO has comprehensive financial management and procurement systems in place that ensure no misuse of funds will occur. FAO will be fully responsible for administering the funds following the FAO and GEF financial regulations, rules, policies and procedures, and administrative instructions, in accordance with the common UN practices. A key condition of the project's executing partner will be the requirement to have passed a FAO-led fiduciary assessment (or already been approved by an equivalent body) and procurement process will follow FAO rules.
Stakeholder Engagement	Low	Risk: Women may be less able to participate and benefit from the project due to cultural constraints and generally greater child-care and family responsibilities compared with men, especially in some of the partner countries. Also, in general, the fisheries sector has been historically male dominated so ensuring women are equally represented is more of a challenge than many other sectors, although women often dominate segments of the post-harvesting stage of fisheries value chains. Also there is a risk that local fisher communities could be effectively excluded from participating in the design and implementation phases due a number of factors, including distance from key meeting venues (mostly at fisheries agencies headquarters) and lack of financial resources to travel to meetings along with opportunity costs from lost days' fishing, and lack of experience/voice in effectively communicating concerns

		and views to Government decision-makers on fisheries issues. Mitigation: Special attention will be paid to ensuring that social and cultural barriers do not prevent women from effectively participating in the project. Targets for the involvement of women in the project will be set at the PPG stage and detailed in the Project Document (with gender-specific indicators and targets within the project logframe). The project will focus on promoting participation of women, especially in trainings and workshops, and pilot projects (there may be opportunities for women-led small business development under Component 3). A project-specific Gender Action Plan (GAP, following the FAO model and template) will be developed during the PPG phase and a gender specialist will be employed as part of the project management team (details to be developed during the PPG stage). Similarly, a Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Plan will be developed and applied during both the PPG phase and during implementation to facilitate stakeholder participation. In terms of local community participation, GEF resources will be made available for local fisher engagement and where physical attendance is not possible, the project will make efforts to establish or strengthen digital communications with representatives of key fisher communities involved in the project.
Other	Moderate	Risk: the current conflict in Sudan may prevent the project operating and engaging with fisheries stakeholders at national and local levels. Mitigation: Sudan does not have significant fisheries in the Red

		Sea (compared to other countries) and national level activities e.g. under Component 3, will be minimised until the security situation in the country and usual government operations have returned to normal. In addition, the regional level activities proposed by the RedSeaFish project, for example, the regional fisheries management plans, are not expected to be delivered until the third or fourth year of the project and Sudan's involvement in these is not critical until this time. In addition, it is worth noting that many of the project's regional level activities are likely to take place remotely (at least initially) using online communication tools (e.g. Teams) which may provide an opportunity for some level of engagement by some fisheries stakeholders in Sudan. Consequently, Sudan's temporary absence from the project until the conflict is resolved will not greatly impact delivery of RedSeaFish project results in the first 1-2 years of the project. In addition, the project team will take an adaptive management approach to Sudan's involvement, with regular reviews of the situation in Sudan to identify opportunities for relevant individuals and government and non-government groups to participate either face-to-face or remotely. Also, project-related regional meetings e.g. training workshops, Project Steering Committee meetings will not take place in Sudan (or any other country) where conflict arises or where it continues to exist.
Financial Risks for NGI projects		
Overall Risk Rating	Low	All the risk Categories analyzed above indicate a LOW rating.

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

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Alignment with GEF-8 programming

The proposed project aligns with the GEF-8 International Waters Focal Area Objective 1: Accelerate joint action to support Sustainable Blue Economic Development, through contributing to the collective management of key elements of the Red Sea marine environment (mostly fisheries), promoting regional and national marine policy and institutional reforms to address overfishing of shared Red Sea fisheries thereby advancing sustainable blue economy opportunities in the region. The project will foster collaboration among the national agencies responsible for fisheries and national and regional bodies (such as PERSGA) addressing broader environmental management on a key element to protect and restore marine biodiversity in the Red Sea, and stimulate greater private sector engagement (especially through the semi-industrial fisheries operating in the region). The project will principally address IW 1-2 - Advancing sustainable fisheries management, through improved management strategies and practices, and improved governance mechanisms particularly for shared stocks in the Red Sea, as well as IW 1-1 – Sustaining healthy blue ecosystems, with more inclusive engagement of local users of the marine resources (co-management opportunities). The project will also contribute to the Biodiversity Focal Area through helping to reduce the loss of ETP species caught as bycatch in Red Sea fisheries. The project will also seek to mainstream climate change considerations (captured through integration of international best practices into regional and national fisheries policy and management) to support climate change resilience efforts particularly for SSF.

Alignment with regional priorities

The project will support delivery of key priorities of the Strategic Action Program for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (RSGA-SAP, 1999-2003), particularly activities related to Component 1 - 'Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Regional Co-operation' and Component 3 – 'Sustainable Use and Management of Living Marine Resources', but also Component 6 – 'Public Awareness and Participation'. The project also supports delivery of the updated Protocol concerning Cooperation in Management of Fisheries and Mariculture in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (although the Protocol has still not been ratified). The project will also contribute to the Regional Priority Frameworks of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE) and the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF), in particular: (i) FAO-RNE Regional Priority Framework: Priority 3 Greening agriculture, water, scarcity and climate action; and (ii) FAO-RAF Regional Priority Framework: Sustainable agrifood production systems and Climate action and sustainable natural resource management. The project will address sustainable management of fisheries resources which is a key component of this Priority, and specifically aligns with FAO interventions aimed at protecting and restoring natural resources by raising awareness of their state and implementing effective management of fisheries.

At the 28th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held in March 2009, endorsed by the 30th FAO regional conference for the near East and North Africa (2010), some members called for the establishment of an RFB. COFI called on FAO to support this initiative at subsequent sessions. The project supports the future establishment of this RFMO through facilitating collaboration between Red Sea countries on the management of key fisheries stocks of regional importance, establishment of an initial institutional body (working group) to address technical aspects of regional fisheries management and build capacity of the member countries to engage in joint regional-level fisheries management activities.

Alignment with national priorities

The project objectives and activities are in alignment with the following national level policies and legislation:

- Djibouti: relevant fisheries legislation includes Loi n°187/AN/02/4ème L portant Code des pêches. Décret n° 2007-0014/PR/MAEM pris en application de la Loi n° 187/AN/02/4ème L du 09 septembre 2002 portant Code des Pêche. 2007-01-17 and Arrêté n° 2007-0034/PR/MAEM portant réglementation de l'exploitation des espèces récifales;
- Egypt: relevant legislation for fisheries includes Law no. 146 of 2021 for the protection and development of lakes and fisheries, and Act no 124 of 1983 on Fishing, Aquatic Life and Aquaculture as well as a number of implementing regulations;
- Eritrea: relevant priorities in the fisheries sector include (i) strengthen resource management practices to ensure environmental sustainability, and (ii) increase the profitability of artisanal fisheries by strengthening rural cooperatives and linking them to high-value export markets. Relevant legislation for fisheries include two proclamations: The Fisheries (176/2014) and The Fishery Product (105/1998) Proclamations and five regulations: The Foreign Fishing Vessel (38/1998), The National Fishing Vessel (39/1998), The Fishery Product (40/1998), The Fishery Product Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (41/1998) and The Potable Water regulations (42/1998).
- Jordan: relevant fisheries legislation includes the Law on the Organization of Fishing (No. 25 of 1943), implemented by Fishing Regulation No. 1 of 1945 and Fishing Regulation No. 1 of 1944;
- Saudi Arabia: relevant fisheries legislation includes Cabinet Resolution No.431/2021 on the approval of the Agriculture Law, Implementing Regulations of the Act on Fishing, exploitation, and protection of the marine life in the territorial waters of Saudi Arabia issued by Resolution No.21911 of 1988;
- Sudan: relevant fisheries legislation includes Marine Fisheries Ordnance of Steering Committee Meeting 1937 (amended in 1975 and 1978) and Marine Fisheries Regulations 1960;
- Yemen: national priorities include the National Fish Strategy 2012-2025, Programme 1: Effective Institutional Structures with efficient legal frameworks and Fisheries Information Systems, Programme 3: Enhanced sectoral capacities and Improved national, regional and international collaborations, Programme 4: Sustainable Resource Management with effective MCS and VMS systems, and Programme 9: Enhanced women role and participation. Relevant legislation for fisheries is Law no. 146 of 2006 regulates industrial fishing types and Law no. 2 of 2006 exploitation of fish resources.

Additionally, the project is in line with many priorities and objectives of the FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPF) for Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen.

According to the country focal points on the project technical working group, there are no major national policies or regulations which would conflict with intended outcomes of the project.

Contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

2030 Targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	GEF TF core indicators	RedSeaFish project links
TARGET 5: Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and	8	The RedSeaFish project will contribute to ensuring sustainable fisheries mainly through:

2030 Targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	GEF TF core indicators	RedSeaFish project links
legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.		***Component 2: Strengthening collaborative EAF-based fisheries management for key shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea***, particularly through the development of regional fisheries managements plans for target species, and ***Component 3. Improving national regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity to manage shared or priority Red Sea fisheries sustainably*** through improved national fisheries management plans and improved tools to address bycatch of threatened marine fauna and Monitoring Control and Surveillance capacity.
TARGET 9 Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.	8	The project will contribute to ensuring sustainable fisheries mainly through: ***Component 2: Strengthening collaborative EAF-based fisheries management for key shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea***, particularly through the development of participatory regional fisheries managements plans for target species, and ***Component 3. Improving national regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity to manage shared or priority Red Sea fisheries sustainably*** through improved national fisheries management plans that will be developed under co-management arrangements with local fisher communities along the Red Sea.
TARGET 10 Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long- term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.	5	The project will contribute to ensuring sustainable fisheries mainly through: ***Component 2: Strengthening collaborative EAF-based fisheries management for key shared or priority fisheries in the Red Sea***, particularly through the development of participatory regional fisheries managements plans for target species based on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), and ***Component 3. Improving national regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity to manage shared or priority Red Sea fisheries sustainably*** through improved national fisheries management plans and building capacity to deliver EAF
TARGET 20 Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South- South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening	No core indicator	Capacity building and improved access to effective approaches to managing fisheries more sustainably will be mainly achieved through the development of regional indicators for sustainable development and use of Red Sea marine capture fisheries and improving fisheries data for decision-making under ***Component 1: Strengthening fisheries data and management information systems for effective national and regional sustainable fisheries management in the Red Sea***, and especially through ***Component 3. Improving national regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity to manage shared or***

2030 Targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	GEF TF core indicators	RedSeaFish project links
scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.		***priority Red Sea fisheries sustainably*****,** which has a focus on capacity building and technology/tools transfer, including improving monitoring regimes.
TARGET 21 Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.	No core indicator	Data and knowledge for decision-makers will be delivered through ***Component 1: Strengthening fisheries data and management information systems for effective national and regional sustainable fisheries management in the Red Sea*****,** as well as ***Component 4 Improving knowledge and awareness to support sustainable fisheries in the Red Sea, lesson learning and project management*** with its focus on Knowledge Management and lesson learning.
TARGET 23 Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.	11	Gender equality will be ensured through the project's gender-responsive approach, captured through the project Gender Action Plan, with special attention, for instance, ensuring there are gender-specific opportunities offered for participation in all project activities and benefits.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

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

Unfortunately, direct consultations with local fisher communities along the Red Sea (of which there are many thousands) was not possible during the PIF period due to limited financial resources and timeframe. However, this group is a key target group (there will be specific focus on those most involved in the targe, prioritized fisheries (see above)) for the PPG phase when a ring-fenced funds will be made available to ensure their active participation in the project design and implementation (note that specific activities to develop fisheries co-management with local communities are identified under project Component 3). Nevertheless, the design of the project is based on nationally and regionally agreed priorities for fisheries management, priorities that have been endorsed by non-government groups.

Brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations
Consultations on the project design at the PIF stage were held with each of the national fisheries agencies, the relevant national FAO Country Offices, and with other related projects including initial contact with the proposed UNEP-GEF HESBERSGA project, and the World Bank funded, UNDP-led funded SFISH project in Yemen. Initial discussions included assessment of the current situation, identification of specific needs and prioritization of project needs and activities based on an outline project concept document. The proposed project was presented at two virtual meetings to the national country partners on 21 December 2022 and 25 January 2023, and a series of meetings of the project technical working group, comprising focal points and other staff from each of the national fisheries agencies and other related fisheries experts and advisers, that has been addressing the technical aspects of the project design, were held during the period December – February 2023. The PIF team also held meetings with individual fisheries agency focal points and fisheries experts on specific issues related to the development of the PIF. Participants at the meetings are listed in the Annex H below. Discussions have also been with several international bodies over the period December 2022 and March 2023, such as The World Bank on opportunities for collaboration between ongoing and planned projects as well as potential co-financing.

More in-depth consultations with the key stakeholders will be undertaken during PPG through a series of stakeholder workshops and regular communications with key individuals and stakeholder groups. Two regional workshops (inception and project document finalization) and national consultations will be held to identify and involve the relevant stakeholders. These workshops may be conducted online depending on the Covid restrictions and public health risks at the time. The national fisheries administrations are expected to take a coordinating role during the PPG phase in their project countries, while FAO will coordinate the regional level workshops and activities.

The preliminary stakeholder analysis undertaken during the PIF development phase has been uploaded on the GEF Portal as part of the PIF developed by FAO as Annex H (attached in PDF in the roadmap of the submission), has also been uploaded as a standalone document in the roadmap of the submission for easy reference purposes.

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
FAO	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters: IW-1	Grant	6,192,694.00	588,306.00	6,781,000.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**6,192,694.00**	**588,306.00**	**6,781,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

200000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
FAO	GET	Regional	International Waters	International Waters: IW-1	Grant	200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**	**219,000.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
Total GEF Resources					**0.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
IW-1-1	GET	1,548,174.00	10075000
IW-1-2	GET	4,644,520.00	30225000
Total Project Cost		**6,192,694.00**	**40,300,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6500000
Recipient Country Government	Djibouti - Directorate of Fisheries (Direction de la Pêche); Egypt - Lakes and Fish Resources Protection & Development Agency (LFRPDA); Eritrea - National Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Marine Resources; Jordan – Ministry of Agriculture; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Marine Fisheries Department, Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	17000000

	Water and Agriculture; Sudan - Marine Fisheries Directorate or Marine Fisheries Administration; Yemen - Ministry of Fisheries Wealth.			
Others	Regional Fisheries Bodies	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1500000
Private Sector	Fisheries companies, e.g. Djibouti - Djibah Company, Red Sea Fishing, Al Aoul Group Company; Eritrea - National Fisheries Corporation.	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5000000
Donor Agency	World Bank (USD 5,000,000), UNIDO (USD 1,000,000), others (WorldFish, IFAD, WWF) combined total of USD2,500,000 (only possible to give detailed breakdown at PPG phase).	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	8500000
Others	The Study and Research Center of Djibouti (Laboratory of marine biology); Mai Nefhi College of Science (Eritrea); College of Fisheries Technology and Aquaculture, Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime transport (Egypt); National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Red Sea Branch, Red Sea (Egypt).	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1500000
Civil Society Organization	A variety of NGOs will be involved in project activities, mostly local or national, e.g. National Union of Eritrean Women and National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (Eritrea), Abu Salama Association in the Red Sea (Egypt) Fishing and processing cooperatives (Eritrea) and local fisher communities benefiting involved in project activities (Djibouti, Egypt, Saudi Arabia).	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000
Total Co-financing				**40,300,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

N/A

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Jeffrey Griffin	4/11/2023	Lorenzo Paolo Galbiati	+393333981370	lorenzo.galbiati@fao.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Dini Abdallah Omar	Djibouti-GEF Operational Focal Point-Secretary General	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	3/8/2023

Kibrom Asmerom Weldegebriel	Eritrea-GEF Operational Focal Point-Acting Director General	Ministry of Land, Water and Environment	3/15/2023
Mr. Faisal S. Obaid Al Thalabi	Yemen-GEF Operational Focal Point-Acting Chairman of Environment Protection Authority	Ministry of Water and Environment	4/9/2023
Dr. Ali Abo Sena	Egypt-GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment	4/11/2023
Mr. Marwan Al-Refai	Jordan-GEF Operational Focal Point-Secretary General.	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.	4/20/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Latitude	20° 33' 54.9" N (20.56524°)
Longitude	38° 34' 38.6" E (38.57739°)
Min. Lat	12° 28' 7" N (12.4686°)
Min. Long	32° 20' 27" E (32.3408°)
Max. Lat	30° 0' 19" N (30.0053°)
Max. Long	43° 29' 5" E (43.4847°)

Source: https://www.marineregions.org/gazetteer.php?p=details&id=8562

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title
FAO ESS Risk Identification Risk Certification RedSeaFish

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	Significant Objective 1	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

The Taxonomy worksheet is attached as PDF file in the roadmap of the submission.