

# Integrated Management For Ecosystem Services Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Land, Water Management in Syria

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**  
12275  
**Countries**  
Syria  
**Project Name**  
Integrated Management For Ecosystem Services Restoration, Biodiversity  
Conservation, Sustainable Land, Water Management in Syria  
**Agencies**  
UNDP  
**Date received by PM**  
2/2/2026  
**Review completed by PM**  
4/5/2026  
**Program Manager**  
Alla Ljungman  
**Focal Area**  
Land Degradation  
**Project Type**  
MSP

## **GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET**

### **1. General Project Information / Eligibility**

**a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?**

**b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?**

Secretariat's Comments

**April 7, 2026**

Addressed. Cleared.

**April 6, 2026**

As part of our GEF-wide effort, we are working with agencies to streamline and refine project titles. For this project, we suggest updating the title to: "Integrated Management For Ecosystem Services Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Land, Water Management in Syria". Please note that a new LoE is not required; however, kindly inform the OFP of these changes.

**April 2, 2026**

Noted. Cleared.

**February 18, 2026**

a) The project is eligible for GEF financing. The project interventions are in general well aligned with Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA) GEF-8 programming directions. However, please make sure it is clearly aligned with the LDFA Objective 3, "Address desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues, particularly in drylands," LDFA Objective 2, "Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration," via programming of funds (the GEF Financing Table still includes climate change mitigation programming, however, there is no relevant GEBs).

b) Yes.

**February 9, 2026**

Please note that the PIF cannot be reviewed until the GEF "programming of funds" accurately reflect the funds availability and the amounts allocated by the OFP.

## 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
UNDP	GET	Syria	Multi Focal Area	NGI	Grant	1,504,700	142,946.5	1,647,646.5
UNDP	GET	Syria	Multi Focal Area	NGI	Grant	2,599,900	246,990.5	2,846,890.5
UNDP	GET	Syria	Multi Focal Area	NGI	Grant	885,400	84,113	969,513
<b>Total GEF Resources(\$)</b>						<b>4,990,000.00</b>	<b>474,050.00</b>	<b>5,464,050.00</b>

## Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$) ⓘ 150,000  
PPG Agency Fee (\$) 14,250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds ⓘ	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
UNDP	GET	Syria	Multi Focal Area	NGI	Grant	50,000	4,750	54,750
UNDP	GET	Syria	Multi Focal Area	NGI	Grant	50,000	4,750	54,750
UNDP	GET	Syria	Multi Focal Area	NGI	Grant	50,000	4,750	54,750
<b>Total PPG Amount</b>						<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>14,250.00</b>	<b>164,250.00</b>

Also please note that at the time of PIF the title in Portal must match that in LoE. It can be changed later.

We will review the completeness and accuracy of the information once the PIF reaches us.

## Agency's Comments

UNDP, 7 April 2026

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Thank you for the suggestion regarding the project title. The project title has been updated to ?Integrated Management For Ecosystem Services Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Land, Water Management in Syria.? The OFP has been informed of this update.

UNDP, 25 March 2026

The PIF has been strengthened to clearly demonstrate alignment with LDFA Objectives 2 and 3. The project contributes to LDFA Objective 2 through restoration of 5,000 hectares of degraded land and improved land management across 10,500 hectares of surrounding landscapes. It contributes to LDFA Objective 3 through the development of an implementation-oriented Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy that integrates drought-resilient land restoration and sustainable land management approaches. GEF resources are programmed primarily under LDFA Objectives 2 and 3, with investments directed toward landscape restoration (Component 2) and strengthening enabling conditions for drought-resilient land management and LDN implementation (Component 1). Climate change mitigation is not a targeted objective of the project, and Core Indicator 6 has been removed in GEF Financing Table. The comments have been addressed in the various sections of the PIF document including page 4 (Project Summary), pages 24-25, 29 and 30 (Theory of Change) and page 56 (Alignment with GEF-8 Programming).

10 February 2026

Thank you for your comment. We confirm that the GEF ?programming of funds? has been updated to accurately reflect the funds availability and the amounts allocated by the OFP. Please see the image below.

## PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS ⓘ

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds ⓘ	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$) ⓘ	Total GEF Financing	
UNDP	GET	Syria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,689,726.00	255,524.00	2,945,250.00	
UNDP	GET	Syria	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	1,437,032.00	136,518.00	1,573,550.00	
UNDP	GET	Syria	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-1	Grant	863,242.00	82,008.00	945,250.00	
<a href="#">Add New</a>						<b>Total GEF Resources(\$)</b>	<b>4,990,000.00</b>	<b>474,050.00</b>	<b>5,464,050.00</b>

## E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG) ⓘ

PPG Required

PPG Amount (\$) ⓘ

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14,250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds ⓘ	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing	
UNDP	GET	Syria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00	
UNDP	GET	Syria	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00	
UNDP	GET	Syria	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-1	Grant	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00	
<a href="#">Add New</a>						<b>Total PPG Amount(\$)</b>	<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>14,250.00</b>	<b>164,250.00</b>

In addition, the project title in the Portal and the PIF are now aligned with the title indicated in the Letter of Endorsement (LoE). Any subsequent changes to the title will be addressed at a later stage in accordance with GEF procedures.

## 2. Project Summary

**Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected results?**

Secretariat's Comments

April 2, 2026

Cleared.

### **February 18, 2026**

The project summary is generally well-written and concise. It clearly identifies the problem (rapid land degradation in Latakia Governorate driven by wildfires, drought, conflict-related pressures, and institutional fragmentation), the project objective (to reverse land degradation and strengthen drought-resilient land management through integrated, community-driven approaches), and the three strategic pathways (institutional strengthening, field-level restoration, and resilient livelihoods). The expected GEBs are quantified and aligned with the Results framework.

#### Agency's Comments

##### **3 Indicative Project Overview**

**3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?**

**b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

##### **April 2, 2026**

Cleared: a)-b) Noted.

##### **February 18, 2026**

a) Yes. The project objective is clear, concise, and measurable. It is appropriately linked to the Land Degradation Focal Area (LD-3 and LD-2).

b) The project is structured around four components, which are logically sequenced and mutually reinforcing. The components are well-aligned with the core indicators (CI 3.2, 4.1, 4.3, and 11) and the Theory of Change. The outputs are sufficiently defined for a PIF. Component 1 is relatively modestly funded (\$300,000) given the ambitious scope of institutional reform envisaged in a post-conflict, fragmented governance environment. The Agency should confirm that this allocation is realistic for delivering the inter-ministerial platform, GIS system, and national framework.

#### Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

b. The Component 1 budget has been revised in consultation with the MoLAE, with GEF financing adjusted to reflect the agreed scope and available co-financing (page 5 in the Indicative Project Overview table). The revised allocation (GEF financing amount USD 459,762 and Co-financing USD 1,194,605) focuses on priority enabling environmental functions, including development of the LDN strategy, strengthening coordination arrangements, and targeted capacity development. The scope of activities has been aligned with the revised budget to ensure feasibility within the MSP framework.

**3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?**

## Secretariat's Comments

**April 2, 2026**

Cleared: 1.-3. Noted

**February 18, 2026**

(1) Gender dimensions are well-integrated throughout the project. The project targets at least 50% participation by women and youth across all activities, establishes gender quotas for co-management committees, supports women-led nurseries and enterprises, and commits to a Gender Action Plan (GAP) during the PPG phase.

(2) Knowledge management is addressed through a project-level KM strategy, restoration toolkits, gender/conflict-sensitive guidance notes, and peer-to-peer learning exchanges. M&E is given a dedicated component 4, which includes a results-based M&E system, GIS-based tracking, participatory community monitoring, and a terminal evaluation with gender/youth-disaggregated findings. The overall approach to these cross-cutting themes is appropriate.

It is recommended that KM includes lessons learned from this project and how they will be shared with other GEF-financed projects in the region and with the UNCCD PRAIS reporting system. Also, the D-SLM practiced can be captured directly on the WOCAT database website: <https://wocat.net/en/global-slm-database/slm-practices-technologies-and-approaches/>

(3) EGF resources allocated to M&E represents 6.3% - the cap for projects up to \$5 million is 5%. Please revise

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)						
M&E	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4.1: Effective monitoring and adaptive implementation	Output 4.1.1: Design and implementation of a results-based M&E system aligned with GEF indicators and core project targets.	GET	302,381.00	584,203.00
		Indicator: TE delivered on time and according to expected quality	Output 4.1.2: Terminal evaluation carried out with clear gender/youth-disaggregated findings.			
		Target: TE and PIR independent quality ratings 5 or better)				
				Sub Total (\$)	4,752,381.00	12,469,017.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	237,619.00	562,555.00

## Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

1. Thank you for your comment. A Gender Action Plan will be developed during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase and integrated into the project design.
2. The Knowledge Management section has been strengthened to clarify how lessons learned will be shared with other GEF-financed projects and global knowledge platforms. The project will contribute to knowledge exchange among restoration initiatives and will support reporting through the UNCCD PRAIS reporting system where relevant. Sustainable land management practices demonstrated through the project will also be documented and shared through the WOCAT global SLM database (page 41 at PIF document).

3. The M&E allocation has been revised to comply with the 5% cap for Medium-Sized Projects (USD 237,619). The M&E component focuses on project-level results monitoring, reporting, and evaluation, resulting in a revised allocation of approximately 5% of the GEF financing (page 12 in the Indicative Project Overview table).

**3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?**

**b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?**

**c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?**

Secretariat's Comments

**April 2, 2026**

Cleared.

**February 18, 2026**

a) Yes.

b) Yes. The co-financing contribution to PMC (70%) is proportionally higher than the GEF contribution (30%).

c) GEF resources allocated to M&E represents 4.99% while co-financing resources allocated to PMC only represents 4.5%. The 4.99% for a co-financing amount of \$12,403,017 is \$618,910. Please amend.

	Sub Total (\$)	4,752,381.00	12,403,017.00
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>			
	GEF	237,619.00	562,555.00
	Sub Total(\$)	237,619.00	562,555.00
	Total Project Cost(\$)	4,990,000.00	12,965,572.00

Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

b. The co-financing contribution to Project Management Costs (PMC) has been proportionally allocated and is now reflected as USD 617,408.

c. Thank you for your comment. The GEF resources allocated to Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) account for 5% of the project financing (USD 237,619), while co-financing allocated to M&E also represents 5% and is now reflected as USD 617,408.

#### 4 Project Outline

##### A. Project Rationale

##### 4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

**a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?**

**b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?**

Secretariat's Comments

**April 2, 2026**

Cleared.

It is noted that the situation analysis was strengthened to reflect the fragile and conflict-affected context of Syria.

**February 18, 2026**

a) The context presents a clear systems-level picture of land degradation in Latakia Governorate, integrating biophysical drivers (wildfires, drought, erosion), socio-economic pressures (conflict legacy, displacement, poverty), and governance failures (fragmented mandates, data gaps).

b) Yes. Barriers are clearly identified across governance, technical, social, and conflict-related dimensions. Enablers are also identified, including existing national strategies (National Strategy for Drought Management, LDN Target Setting Programme), technical expertise within the Ministry of Agriculture, and alignment with UNCCD priorities. The barrier analysis is sufficiently detailed for a PIF.

Agency's Comments

#### **4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT**

**a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?**

**b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?**

**c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?**

**d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments

**April 2, 2026**

Cleared.

**February 18, 2026**

a) The PIF provides a reasonable justification for the integrated landscape approach, framing it as a "tipping-point" intervention to prevent irreversible ecological collapse. The rationale for combining institutional strengthening, field-level restoration, and livelihood support is logical. However, the PIF does not explicitly compare the selected approach against alternative options (e.g., a purely technical restoration approach, a purely policy intervention, or a private sector model). A brief discussion of why alternative approaches were not selected would strengthen the justification.

b) Yes. The project explicitly addresses resilience through the use of drought- and fire-resilient native species, soil and water conservation structures, and the establishment of a GIS-based early warning and monitoring system. The livelihood diversification component reduces community dependence on degraded natural resources, which is a key driver of long-term resilience. The project's focus on institutional capacity building also contributes to adaptive governance.

c) The PIF references several ongoing initiatives with which the project will coordinate: the Whole-of-Syria Early Recovery Strategy (ERS 2024?2028), the UN Joint Programme (UNJP 2.0), the FIRMO Forest and Fire Monitoring Observatory, and potential alignment with the Islamic Development Bank's Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership.

d) Stakeholders are adequately described (ministries, CSOs, etc.). There is a gap on private sector stakeholders engagement at the PIF stage. Given the livelihood and enterprise components, private sector mapping and engagement during the PPG phase is advisable.

## Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

- a. A paragraph has been added to the Project Rationale (page 21, PIF document) explaining why the selected integrated landscape approach was chosen over alternative options such as purely technical restoration interventions, policy-only institutional reforms, or private-sector-led restoration models. The revised text clarifies that the integrated approach was selected because it addresses both ecological and socio-economic drivers of land degradation in the fragile and post-conflict context of Latakia.
- b. Thank you and the comment is noted.
- c. Thank you.
- d. The Stakeholder Engagement section (page 23, PIF document) has been strengthened to clarify that private sector mapping and engagement will be undertaken during the PPG phase. The project will identify potential actors involved in restoration supply chains, sustainable land management practices, and land-based enterprises (e.g., nurseries, agroforestry value chains, microfinance institutions, and small-scale ecotourism operators) and explore opportunities to strengthen market linkages and sustainability of restoration-linked livelihoods.

## 5 B. Project Description

### 5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

**a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?**

**b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?**

## Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

a) Yes, the Theory of Change (ToC) is appropriate for a PIF stage. The ToC is presented both narratively and diagrammatically (page 31). The causal logic is clear contributing to LDN outcomes.

b) Yes. Outputs are clearly defined for each component and are sufficiently specific for a PIF. They are logically linked to the outcomes and the overall objective.

Agency's Comments

#### **5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING**

**Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?**

Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

Yes.

Agency's Comments

#### **5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

**a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?**

**b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).**

**c) is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area**

**d) are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments

**April 2, 2026**

Cleared.

**February 18, 2026**

a) Yes.

b) There is no other GEF-financed projects in the area at this moment.

c) Yes, the PIF identifies several initiatives for coordination.

d) The KM approach is described and includes restoration toolkits, gender/conflict-sensitive guidance notes, technical briefs, field manuals, and peer-to-peer learning exchanges.

Agency's Comments

**5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?**

**b) Are the project's indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?**

Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

a) Yes, the project reports four core indicators.

b) Yes.

Agency's Comments

**5.5 NGI Only: Is there a justification of financial structure and use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?**

Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

N/A

Agency's Comments

**5.6 RISKS**

**a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category?**

**b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?**

**c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

a) The risk assessment is comprehensive and covers all relevant categories. The overall risk rating of Substantial is appropriate for a post-conflict, climate-stressed context.

b) TBC

c) We note that UNDP attached Social and Environmental Offline Screening Template, and an overall ESS risk is classified as Moderate. For effective project implementation, it is critical to have strong engagement with vulnerable population including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and ethnic minority groups in the project area particularly Component 2 and 3.

(1) Syria is a country listed on the WBG FY26 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations. Please ensure conducting conflict and fragility assessment and integrating mitigation measures including capacity building activities and collaboration with local partners into the project design during PPG.

(2) There are several ethnic and religious communities with long-standing historical presences in the Latakia Governorate of Syria. Please ensure in-depth consultations with vulnerable ethnic minority groups and IDPs during early stage of PPG and integrate results of consultations into the project design.

(3) Please ensure engaging with vulnerable ethnic minority groups and IDPs as project partners, not only as project beneficiaries, particularly Component 2, and

(4) Please consider including monitoring indicators related to capacity building and number of beneficiaries among vulnerable ethnic minority groups and IDPs during PPG.

#### Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

a. Thank you.

b. Thank you.

c1, 2 and 3: Thank you for your comments. The PIF has been strengthened to reflect the fragile and conflict-affected context of Syria (page 23, PIF document). The project will undertake a conflict and fragility assessment during the PPG phase and will ensure inclusive consultations with internally displaced persons (IDPs), vulnerable ethnic minority groups and religious communities, women, and youth in the project area. These groups will be engaged not only as beneficiaries but also as partners in participatory land-use planning, restoration activities, and community co-management arrangements.

c4. Thank you for the suggestion. The project will incorporate monitoring indicators related to capacity building, including the number of beneficiaries by using disaggregated data from vulnerable ethnic minority groups and internally displaced persons (IDPs), during the PPG phase (page 40, PIF document).

#### 5.7 Qualitative assessment

**a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?**

**b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?**

**c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

a)-c) Yes.

#### Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

The PIF has been revised to strengthen alignment with LDFA Objectives 2 and 3. Restoration interventions covering 5,000 hectares directly support LDFA Objective 2, while the LDN strategy and drought-resilient land management approaches under Component 1 support LDFA Objective 3 by addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought in dryland ecosystems. Alignment is reflected consistently across the Theory of Change and financing structure. The comments have been addressed in the various sections of the PIF document including page 4 (Project Summary), pages 24-25, 29 and 30 (Theory of Change) and page 56 (Alignment with GEF-8 Programming).

#### **6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities**

##### **6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?**

Secretariat's Comments

**April 2, 2026**

Cleared.

**February 18, 2026**

Giving the target interventions, the project is aligned with LDFA, however, please make sure it is clearly aligned LDFA Objective 3, ?Address desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues, particularly in drylands,? LDFA Objective 2, ?Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration,?

Agency's Comments

##### **6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)**

Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

Yes.

Agency's Comments

##### **6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e. BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?**

Secretariat's Comments

**April 2, 2026**

Cleared.

**February 18, 2026**

It is noted that while the PIF references the Kunming-Montreal GBF and notes that the project improves management of 5,900 ha for biodiversity (CI 4.1) and restores 5,000 ha of forest (CI

3.2), it does not explicitly identify which of the 23 GBF targets the project contributes to. Please add.

#### Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

The PIF has been revised (page 56-57, PIF document) to explicitly identify the project's contribution to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The project contributes particularly to GBF Target 2 (restoration of degraded ecosystems) and Target 10 (sustainable management of agriculture and forestry systems) through restoration of 5,000 hectares of degraded land and improved sustainable land management across 10,500 hectares of surrounding landscapes. The project also contributes to GBF Target 8 through ecosystem-based adaptation measures that strengthen resilience to drought and climate variability.

### 7 D. Policy Requirements

#### 7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

#### Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

Yes.

#### Agency's Comments

**7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

**April 2, 2026**

Cleared.

**February 18, 2026**

A stakeholder consultation list is provided, covering the period June 4 to August 20, 2025. However, please clarify which specific Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities have been consulted in during the project design phase. Please also elaborate on the potential roles of different stakeholders related to project objective and components, including civil society, local communities and community-based organization, women and youth groups.

#### Agency's Comments

UND, 25 March 2026

The Stakeholder section (page 23, 24 and 59, PIF document) has been strengthened to clarify the roles of key stakeholders across project components. Government institutions provide policy oversight and technical implementation support, while civil society organizations and community groups play active roles in participatory planning, land restoration, and co-management arrangements (particularly under Components 2 and 3). Women and youth are explicitly engaged as beneficiaries and partners through quotas, leadership roles, and targeted

livelihood support. Consultations conducted during the PIF phase included communities in Latakia Governorate (Rabia, Rihana, Kastal Mouaf, Aliman, and Almishrfa), and further stakeholder mapping and engagement, including with vulnerable groups, will be undertaken during the PPG phase.

## **8 Annexes**

### **Annex A: Financing Tables**

**8.1 Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**

**STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

Yes.

Agency's Comments

**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

Yes.

Agency's Comments

**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments

**SCCF A (SIDS)?**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments

**SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments

**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments

**8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?**

Secretariat's Comments

**February 18, 2026**

Yes.

Agency's Comments

**8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?**

Secretariat's Comments

**March 2, 2026**

Yes at PIF. Please note that the co-financing letters will need to be presented at CEO Approval.

Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

Thank you for your comment. Co-financing sources, types, and indicative amounts have been fully detailed in the PIF, including contributions from the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, and UNDP. These are consistent with GEF co-financing requirements. Co-financing commitment letters will be secured, validated and submitted at CEO Endorsement stage in line with GEF policy.

**Annex B: Endorsements**

**8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country? (ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?**

Secretariat's Comments

**March 2, 2026**

Yes.

Agency's Comments

**Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?**

Secretariat's Comments

**March 2, 2026**

Yes.

Agency's Comments

**Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?**

Secretariat's Comments Yes.

Agency's Comments

**8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?**

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

**Annex C: Project Location**

**8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?**

Secretariat's Comments

**March 2, 2026**

Yes.

Agency's Comments

**Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating**

**8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?**

Secretariat's Comments

**March 2, 2026**

No, please upload.

Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

The pre-SESP has been uploaded to the GEF Portal.

**Annex E: Rio Markers**

**8.8 Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?**

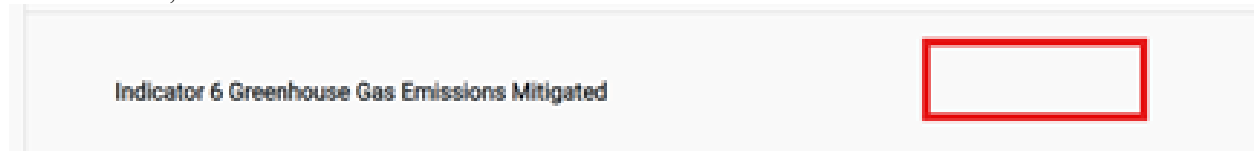
Secretariat's Comments

**April 2, 2026**

Cleared.

**March 2, 2026**

We noted that the Rio Marker for Climate Change Mitigation is 0 when \$863,242 will target CCM1-1 - also, the core indicator 6 has no value.



**ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS**

Climate Change Mitigation No Contribution 0	Climate Change Adaptation Significant Objective 1	Biodiversity No Contribution 0	Land Degradation Principal Objective 2
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Agency's Comments

25 March 2026

Climate change mitigation is not a targeted objective of the project. While restoration activities may result in incidental carbon sequestration benefits, these are not monitored or reported as mitigation outcomes. Therefore, Core Indicator 6 (GHG emissions mitigated) is not applicable and has been marked as N/A in the Core Indicator table (page 47, PIF document). The Rio Marker scores remain unchanged (page 74 and 79, PIF document).

**Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet**

**8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?**

Secretariat's Comments

**March 2, 2026**

Yes

Agency's Comments

**Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes**

**8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments

**9 GEFSEC Decision**

**9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?**

Secretariat's Comments

**April 7, 2026**

The additional comment to update the title, in line with the GEF-wide effort to streamline and refine project titles in collaboration with the Agencies, has been addressed. The revised title has been communicated to the OFP. As the PIF had already been cleared from both technical and policy perspectives, it is now recommended for PPG approval.

**April 6, 2026**

As part of our GEF-wide effort, we are working with agencies to streamline and refine project titles. For this project, we suggest updating the title to: ?Integrated Management For

Ecosystem Services Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Land, Water Management in Syria?. Please note that a new LoE is not required; however, kindly inform the OFP of these changes

**April 2, 2026**

All comments have been addressed. The PIF is technically cleared and recommended for PPG approval. The remaining comments (summarized in the 9.2 section of this Review Sheet) have been acknowledged by the Agency for addressing during PPG phase.

**March 9, 2026**

Not yet.

**February 9, 2026**

Please note that the PIF cannot be reviewed until the GEF "programming of funds" accurately reflect the funds availability and the amounts allocated by the OFP.

Also please note that at the time of PIF the title in Portal must match that in LoE. It can be changed later.

We will review the completeness and accuracy of the information once the PIF reaches us.

Agency's Comments

UNDP, 7 April 2026

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Thank you for the suggestion regarding the project title. The project title has been updated to ?Integrated Management For Ecosystem Services Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Land, Water Management in Syria.? The OFP has been informed of this update.

UNDP, 25 March 2026

Thank you for your comments and all comments have been duly addressed.

10 February 2026

Thank you for your comment. Please see the agency response under Section 1.b of the General Project Information.

**9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval**

Secretariat's Comments

**During the PPG phase:**

conducting conflict and fragility assessment and integrating mitigation measures including capacity building activities and collaboration with local partners into the project design during PPG.

ensure in-depth consultations with vulnerable ethnic minority groups and IDPs during early stage of PPG and integrate results of consultations into the project design.

consider including monitoring indicators related to capacity building and number of beneficiaries among vulnerable ethnic minority groups and IDPs

**March 3, 2026**

(1) Given the livelihood and enterprise components, please make sure private sector mapping and engagement is taking place during PPG phase.

(2) Please consider including monitoring indicators related to capacity building and number of beneficiaries among vulnerable ethnic minority groups and IDPs during PPG.

Agency's Comments

UNDP, 25 March 2026

1 and 2. Private sector engagement will be further developed during the PPG phase through structured mapping of relevant actors in restoration supply chains and land-based enterprises, including microfinance institutions, agroforestry value chains, and nature-based livelihoods. In addition, monitoring systems will incorporate indicators related to participation and benefits among vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), with disaggregated data collected where feasible. These elements will be further elaborated during the PPG phase.

**Review Dates**

	<b>PIF Review</b>	<b>Agency Response</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>3/12/2026</b>	<b>2/10/2026</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/2/2026</b>	<b>3/25/2026</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/7/2026</b>	<b>4/7/2026</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		