

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION3

 Project Summary4

 Project Description Overview4

PROJECT OUTLINE8

A. PROJECT RATIONALE8

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION11

 Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.....30

 Core Indicators45

 Key Risks49

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES51

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS52

 Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.....52

 Stakeholder Engagement53

 Private Sector53

 Environmental and Social Safeguards53

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS54

 Knowledge management54

 Socio-economic Benefits54

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES55

 GEF Financing Table55

 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)55

 Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation.....56

 Focal Area Elements56

 Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type.....56

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS57

 Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):.....57

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK.....58

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)64

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES65

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING.....67

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE68

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS78

General Project Information

Project Title

Restoration and Preservation of Key Biodiversity Areas and Ecosystems in Anbar Province, Iraq.

Region

Europe and Central Asia

GEF Project ID

11426

Country(ies)

Iraq

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

UNDP

GEF Agency Project ID

9697

Project Executing Entity(s)

UNDP

Project Executing Type

GEF Agency

GEF Focal Area (s)

Multi Focal Area

Submission Date

5/5/2025

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

48

GEF Project Grant: (a)

5,722,146.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

543,604.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

6,265,750.00

Total Co-financing

12,000,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

150,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

14,250.00

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

6,430,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Taxonomy

Sea Grasses, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Participation, Partnership, Consultation, Communications, Education, Awareness Raising, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Targeted Research, Theory of change, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Focal Areas, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Biodiversity, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Biomes, Wetlands, Tropical Dry Forests, Forest, Drylands, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Pasture Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods, Climate Change Mitigation, Renewable Energy

Rio Markers

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

Project Summary

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

The Anbar Province (hereafter Anbar, or Anbar Governorate), located in Western Iraq, faces urgent needs for sustainable biodiversity management and ecosystem restoration. Over 50% of its natural landscapes are experiencing increasing land degradation and the interplay of climate change with unsustainable farming and land management practices has eroded biodiversity, as well as affected vegetative and agricultural yields; thus amplifying poverty risks among vulnerable groups whose livelihoods depend on land resources. The project aims to confront this baseline situation by enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management practices at both the national and governorate levels. At the national level, the project will address gaps in biodiversity conservation and apply an integrated approach for national policy reforms by strengthening institutional capacities and systems for integrated landscape management. At the governorate level in Anbar, the project will support conservation of species and habitats that are unique to western Iraq. The project will achieve this in several ways, namely through establishing two new biodiversity Protected Areas totaling about 579,467 hectares, improving management of 10,850,686 hectares of landscapes in other areas of Anbar Governorate, restoring 500 hectares with date palm agroforestry, introducing sustainable landscape management and conservation practices and frameworks, and enhancing local environmental knowledge regarding the value of ecosystem services. The project activities will provide benefits to a total of 225,000 individuals, with women comprising 50% of this beneficiary group.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To enhance the resilience of Anbar's ecosystems by restoring and conserving key biodiversity areas, and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management into land use policies, strategies and practices

Project Components

1: Enabling environment established at national and sub-national levels (Anbar Governorate) to enhance integrated natural resources management and facilitate increased investments in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, sustainable use and restoration

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
750,000.00	1,572,836.00

Outcome:

1.1: Strengthened policies, regulatory and governance frameworks for effective biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration

Output:

1.1.1: Enhanced legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for inclusive and integrated management of biodiversity, critical landscapes, and ecosystems

1.1.2: Establishment of a participatory and gender-responsive national spatial and land use planning framework in support of an Integrated Land Use Plan for Anbar Governorate.

1.1.3: Establishment of a provincial strategy and finance plan for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration strategy and finance plan aligned with national efforts to create Iraq's Biodiversity Finance Plan

1.1.4: Improved financial framework to protect Anbar's biodiversity and ecosystems

2: PAs established and Anbar Province KBA management strengthened through comprehensive planning, financing, and adaptive co-management approaches

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,050,000.00	6,396,203.00

Outcome:

2.1: Ecosystem assessments and valuation of targeted PAs and KBAs, for effective evidence-based management decision-making to strengthen protection and conservation status of species, critical habitats and ecosystems

Indicator 7: Percentage completion of composite ecological integrity assessments based on inventories, threat assessments, calculated biodiversity indices, and ecosystem service valuations in targeted PAs and KBAs

Target: 100%

Indicator 8: Percentage of completion of demographic data for local communities in and around proposed Protected Areas.

Target: 100%

2.2: New PAs established, management plans developed and operational capacities in place for effective PA management in Anbar Governorate

Indicator 9: Number of new Protected Areas Established

Target: 2 new Protected Areas Established (579,467 hectares designated as national protected areas (GEF Core Indicator 1.1))

Indicator 10: Number of Management Plans completed

Target: 2

Indicator 4: Greenhouse gas emissions reduced/avoided (tCO2e) (GEF Climate Change Core Indicator 6.5)

Target: 7,638,450 tonnes CO2e

Output:

2.1.1: Enhanced understanding of the nature and value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all potentially protected areas in Anbar Province (i.e., Haditha Wetlands & Baghdadi; Tharthar Lake & Al-Hebei Fields; Habbaniya Lake, and Qadissiya Lake)

2.1.2: Improved technical framework for sustainable management of rangelands, woodlands, wetlands, and protected areas

2.2.1: Strong local community consensus for the designation of two new protected areas

2.2.2: Sustainable management plans developed for 2 protected areas through an inclusive process, with key priority actions implemented in each protected area

2.2.3: Adoption of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) for monitoring the effectiveness of management plan implementation and to inform future management decisions in the two new protected areas

2.2.4: Enhanced local and national capacity for sustainable management of protected areas

2.1.3: Increased organizational learning, information sharing, and collaboration among government decisionmakers on biodiversity conservation planning

2.1.4: Empowered local communities, CSOs, youth and women's groups for sustainable biodiversity management and protection

3: Integrated Landscape Management and enhanced resilience of natural resource-based livelihoods in Anbar Governorate

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,250,000.00	2,621,396.00

Outcome:

3.1: Rangelands, woodlands, and wetlands under improved practices including in production sectors

Indicator 11: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production system

Target: 10,850,686 hectares (GEF Core Indicator 4.3)

Indicator 12: Number of individuals and organizations involved in landscapes under sustainable land management in production system

Target: 1,000 individuals

Output:

3.1.1: Restoration of degraded landscapes and ecosystems (forests, rangelands, wetlands) in Anbar using nature-based solutions and the active involvement of local communities

3.1.2: Enhanced capacity of local actors/individuals, community groups and SMMEs to collaborate with government agencies in co-management of protected and rehabilitated biodiversity areas

3.2.1: Installation of a set of renewable energy pilot projects aimed at providing clean energy options for sustainable farming and agri-food solutions

3.2.2: Awareness raised about alternative income generation opportunities targeting women and female-headed households

3.2.3: Enhanced capacity for marketing for local agroecological goods and services, including those linked to conservation and restoration investments

4. Social and Environmental Standards Safeguards

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
302,044.00	350,310.00

Outcome:

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

Indicator 16: Knowledge sharing system for communicating lessons learned and project results/impacts

Target: 1

Indicator 17: Number of individuals participating in knowledge sharing events to foster networking collaboration opportunities Target: 500 men and 500 women

4.2: Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF SES policies realized

Indicator 18: Percentage activity completion rate

Target: 100%

Indicator 19: Percentage of identified risks assessed for impact and likelihood Target: 100% of identified risks assessed for impact and likelihood

Output:

4.1.1: Enhanced knowledge sharing system for communicating lessons learned and project results/impacts

4.2.2: An effective project-level safeguards and risk management plan that ensures stakeholder engagement and empowers women and youth

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
100,000.00	492,820.00

Outcome:

An effective project M&E plan for monitoring progress and identifying management issues

Output:

An effective project M&E plan for monitoring progress and identifying management issues

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1: Enabling environment established at national and sub-national levels (Anbar Governorate) to enhance integrated natural resources management and facilitate increased investments in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, sustainable use and restoration	750,000.00	1,572,836.00
2: PAs established and Anbar Province KBA management strengthened through comprehensive planning, financing, and adaptive co-management approaches	3,050,000.00	6,396,203.00
3: Integrated Landscape Management and enhanced resilience of natural resource-based livelihoods in Anbar Governorate	1,250,000.00	2,621,396.00
4. Social and Environmental Standards Safeguards	302,044.00	350,310.00
M&E	100,000.00	492,820.00
Subtotal	5,452,044.00	11,433,565.00
Project Management Cost	270,102.00	566,435.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	5,722,146.00	12,000,000.00

Please provide Justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

The Al Anbar Governorate (hereafter Anbar) is located in western Iraq and is the largest governorate in the country by area (see **Figure 1**). The region features diverse landscapes including arid deserts, and river valleys along the Upper Euphrates River basin. The climate is classified as arid or semi-arid, with extremely hot summers with temperatures often exceeding 40°C and mild winters. Average annual precipitation levels are low, usually less than 200 mm, and occur primarily between November and April, leading to dry conditions throughout most of the region.

While the western and southern parts of the governorate are part of the larger Arabian Desert Ecoregion, the Euphrates River flows through the northern and eastern part of Anbar, creating fertile river valleys that support a lush environment. These areas support diverse flora that thrive in more humid conditions such as various reeds, narrow-leaved cattail, various grasses, Euphrates poplar and a species of willow. Wildlife also flourishes compared to the neighboring arid regions with birds often inhabiting riparian zones. These river valley areas attract migratory birds from Eurasia during winter like herons, storks, and ducks, with 159 species of birds having been identified of which 34 are considered to be of conservation concern, including

eight that are globally threatened. Moreover, there are several indigenous carp-like fish species that are present in Euphrates waterways (*Carasobarbus luteus*, *Aphaniops stoliczkanus*, *Esmaeilius sophiae*, *Cyprinion kais*). There are also several lakes in this region, including Qadissiya Lake, al-Habbaniyah, Lake Tharthar, and Razaza Lake that are important areas to support flora and animal/fish fauna and sustaining biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services. Taken together, these characteristics highlight how vital river valleys along the Euphrates are for sustaining biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services within Anbar amidst its broader more arid and mountainous landscapes throughout the governorate.



figure 1: Map of Iraq and Anbar Governorate.

Protecting Anbar's biodiversity throughout its various landscapes is facing several significant development challenges that hinder its conservation and sustainable use. These challenges encompass both socio-economic and political factors. While political factors such as ongoing political instability and conflict have diverted attention away from biodiversity conservation efforts amid pressing security needs, the foremost challenge is socioeconomic in nature. That is, urbanization, infrastructure development, and unsustainable agricultural expansion have resulted in extensive land degradation and habitat destruction. Wetlands, forests, orchards, and other natural habitats continue to be converted for agriculture or urban development leading to significant habitat loss for many species. Industrial discharges, untreated sewage entering waterways, agricultural runoff (including pesticides), and waste management issues have contributed to pollution that harms Anbar biodiversity in both its aquatic and terrestrial environments.

Regarding its aquatic environment, water resources in the governorate continue to be under severe pressure due to over-extraction of water for agriculture and domestic use, dam construction, and regional water disputes with neighboring countries. The Euphrates has experienced significant reductions in flow - of up to 40% compared to their flow in the 1970s - with significant impacts on ecosystems that depend on these resources. Lakes in Anbar are also impacted by direct sewage discharge from adjacent villages, particularly al-Habbaniyah Lake. As a result, there have been steep declines in fish populations, which have been compounded by the unsustainable harvesting of fish stocks. Moreover, climate change, which is expected to reduce annual rainfall by 10% by 2040, will probably further exacerbate stress on aquatic ecosystems in Anbar's lakes and river valleys.

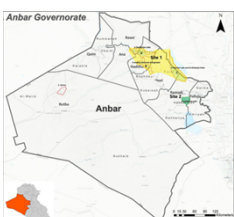
Regarding its terrestrial environment, unsustainable land use practices such as poaching, unsustainable tourism, and overgrazing by livestock are prevalent issues in Anbar that have degraded land quality and led to biodiversity loss. Poaching in Anbar, particularly of large mammals, game birds, and raptors like the Saker Falcon and Peregrine Falcon during winter, pose a significant threat which has had a profound adverse impact on biodiversity. Historically, Anbar was a haven for Arabian Sand Gazelle, which were often seen near the eastern side of the Euphrates. However, due to intense hunting, their sightings have now become rare. Unsustainable tourism in Anbar, particularly the Habbaniyah tourism village, has a pronounced harmful effect on local ecosystems. The influx of visitors during spring and summer has led to significant environmental degradation, with vast amounts of solid waste, including cans and plastics, littering the area and surrounding Habbaniyah lake. When combined with ongoing desertification processes and the intensification of soil erosion, these factors have resulted in the severe loss of habitats for many native flora/fauna species that depend on intact terrestrial ecosystems.

Rural communities in Anbar have been particularly affected by the decline in aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. This is because they are heavily reliant on natural resources and the ecosystem services they provide, a reliance that has intensified with a lack of formal job opportunities available for young people in the region. The average rural household in the region is typically large, about 6.3 individuals, and the rural population is continuing to grow at a rate greater than 2% per year. In certain areas, there is also deep and chronic poverty, which is exacerbated by ongoing internal conflicts, climate change impacts (e.g., more frequent sandstorms), chronic water shortages, and continuing desertification. These challenges have hindered the potential for sustainable rain-fed and irrigated agriculture, livestock production, and other stable income avenues for rural households.

Finally, there are several institutional barriers that continue to hinder progress in conservation and sustainable management. First, there is an inadequate institutional and legal framework in Iraq for biodiversity conservation, Sustainable Land Management (SLM), and Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM). This is largely due to past years of conflict, followed by international sanctions, unrest and terrorism, leading to low institutional capacity and governance structures for environmental management. Most current laws and regulations on land management are reactive, weakly implemented, and largely unenforced. There is also a lack of technical capacity and data collection/analysis that could inform the development of biodiversity regulatory framework together with effective enforcement mechanisms for biodiversity protection.

Without the proposed project, the baseline situation described above will continue to generate cumulative adverse environmental impacts, including the amplification of land degradation contributing to deepening biodiversity loss, including possible extinctions of already threatened species, reducing overall ecosystem resilience; jeopardizing the ecosystem goods and services critical for livelihoods and climate resilience for local communities. Moreover, environmental degradation will continue to exacerbate threats to human well-being, further compounding the socio-economic situation of already poor households and communities leading to loss of livelihoods; deepening food and water insecurity; health problems; increased susceptibility of local communities to climate risks and hazards; and increased potential for climatic displacements. Finally, the absence of strong technical expertise, research capacity, and effective land use planning and integrated landscape management strategies will greatly compound the cost and complexity of any future remedial efforts.

In addressing the above baseline situation, the project will bolster Anbar's natural ecosystems against the challenges of climate change and unsustainable use and weak management. The project has been designed as a holistic and integrated set of activities to increase the resilience of key ecosystems by mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem management considerations into environmental land use planning, land management policies, strategies and practices, and livelihoods activities of natural-resource dependent communities, ensuring sensitivity and responsiveness to women's empowerment challenges. The project will directly address the drivers of environmental degradation and/or climate vulnerabilities in Anbar relative to other potential project designs that are less holistic and cross-cutting. When complete and fully implemented, the project will have established a new paradigm within Anbar for sustainable biodiversity management that builds resilience to future climate change and establishes a policy/regulatory framework to address mounting socio-economic pressures.



One of the key outcomes of the project is the establishment of the first Protected Areas Network (PAN) in western Iraq. Specifically, the project will establish two new Protected Areas (PAs) in the Anbar Governorate as shown in the Figure at right. PA Site 1 (yellow-shaded area in the Figure) is comprised of three (3) subsidiary Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) which are geographically monotonous and connected to one another. PA Site 2 (see green-shaded area in the Figure) is comprised of one (1) KBA which is an important wetland. The total area of the new PAs is 579,467 hectares. With these two new PAs, the national PAN area size will increase to about 1,341,347 hectares.

The new PAs encompass flora and fauna species of global significance. First, the PAs lie within two main ecoregions, the Mesopotamian shrub desert and the Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian xeric shrublands, of global conservation significance due to their unique ecological role and position within the culturally and historically important Fertile Crescent, as well as their unique biodiversity, arid adaptation, and the lessons they offer for sustainable resource management. Second, the sites are important for breeding, wintering, and passage for bird species, with the endangered Sociable Lapwing (*vanellus gregarius*) recorded as a passage migrant in the eastern part of Haditha in PA Site 1, and home to many biome-restricted bird species that rely on the PAs for breeding, wintering, and passage. Third, the new PAs encompass floral and faunal species endemic to the western desert of Iraq. For fish species, this includes the Critically Endangered Haditha Cave Garra (*Garra widdowsoni*) and Critically Endangered Haditha Cave Barb (*Caecocypris basimi*). For mammals, this includes the Near Threatened Striped Hyaena (*Hyaena hyaena*) and the Near Threatened Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra*. Additionally, there are numerous near-endemic plant species in the PAs such as *Allium vinicolor* and *Onopordum canum*, which have conservation significance.

The project is transformative and innovative because it goes beyond typical conservation efforts and creates fundamental, system-wide changes that benefit biodiversity and human well-being in the Anbar governorate. The project's transformative socio-economic benefits extend beyond biodiversity conservation goals, to regenerate landscapes to also support livelihoods and human well-being, by enhancing food and water security. The project's transformative environmental benefits are derived from the strategic focus on key biodiversity areas for intervention, resulting in a revitalization of both landscapes and stakeholder communities that depend on them. The project's innovative women's empowerment approach ensures that both men and women benefit from conserved and restored landscapes and ecosystems, and participate in jobs, employment and livelihoods opportunities generated by these investments. Moreover, by fostering a harmonious relationship between communities and their environment, the project serves as a proactive measure to mitigate potential conflicts and curb out-migration driven by resource degradation and scarcity.

The project has been designed in consultation with, and the involvement of, government agencies at both the national and governorate level, as well as with local land management stakeholders. Country ownership is established through the partnership between the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the highest government entity responsible for environmental protection and safeguarding species and habitats through policy and regulations, and the UNDP acting in its role as Lead agency and the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM). The MoE will act as a coordinating body across ministries that have a stake both in the restoration of degraded landscapes in Anbar as well as the development of sustainable biodiversity management plans that offer co-benefits for agricultural production, national land use planning, eco-tourism, and renewable energy applications. Other project partners include the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Planning (MoP), Governorate of Anbar (GoA), Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities (MOCTA), and well as environmental NGOs and CSOs.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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

The Theory of Change (ToC) for the project is shown in **Figure 2**. Further to Figure 2, the following theory of change statement can be made: IF the project’s integrated biodiversity policy, protected area, restoration, and training activities effectively reduce climatic, security, and other risks to biodiversity in Anbar, THEN the project’s sustainability objectives will be met, resulting in a) enhanced resilience of terrestrial/aquatic biodiversity in new PAs and KBAs in Anbar Governorate; b) enhanced capacity to find, select, organize, distribute, and share vital information regarding the value of ecosystem services; c) reduced risks to biodiversity through trainings, knowledge management, and sustainable management practices; d) increased biodiversity and ecosystem services provided in restored landscapes; e) improved decision-making and enhanced conservation outcomes from integrated management approach; f) women’s empowerment through awareness-raising of alternative income strategies; g) increased access to renewable energy solutions for sustainable farming; and h) increased national/regional planning frameworks and policies for biodiversity information-sharing and protection.

The ToC is based on the component, outcomes, outputs, and activities needed to overcome some key aspects of the Baseline situation in the Anbar governorate. First, Anbar is home to unique biodiversity attributed to its biogeography consisting of two main ecoregions that exist only in limited parts of the Middle East and Asia (i.e., the Mesopotamian shrub desert ecoregion and the Arabian Desert and East Sahero-Arabian xeric shrublands ecoregion). The former ecoregion has a vulnerable conservation status, whereas the latter is listed as Critical/Endangered. Second, the area holds three of the largest seasonal transboundary streambeds in the Middle East which are of great historical and ecological importance, namely the Wadi Horan (Iraq–Jordan), Wadi Badeat Al Sham (Iraq–Syria) and Wadi Arar (Iraq–KSA). Third, the area contains four of the biggest water bodies in the Middle East (Thathar Lake; Habaniyah Lake; Qadissiyah Lake; Razzaza Lake) and these are of great ecological and climatic importance. Fourth, the area has been subjected to severe land degradation due to nomadic overgrazing, off-road vehicles disturbance, urbanization and construction, and tourist activities, all of which have contributed to a severe loss of

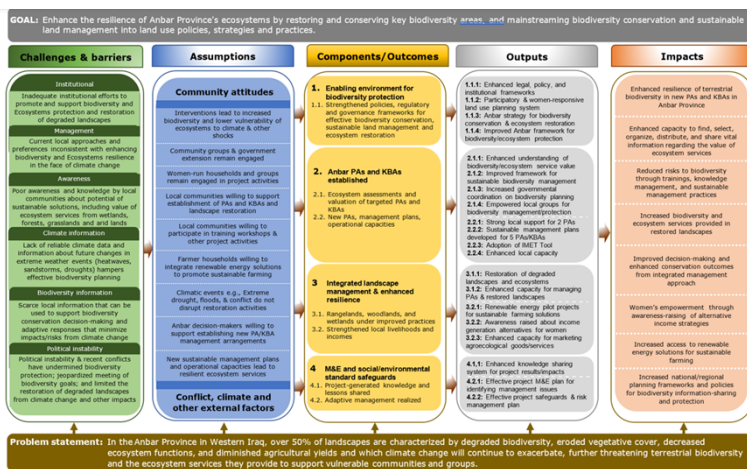


figure 2: Theory Change

vegetation in semi-desert areas. Finally, there are several barriers to effective biodiversity management including 1) lack of a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for biodiversity conservation, Sustainable Land Management (SLM), and Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM); 2) lack of

adequate scientific, social and economic data for developing biodiversity conservation and management action plans; 3) lack of prioritization on capacity building initiatives; and 4) lack of demonstration of best international practices on biodiversity conservation in the context of climate risks, and SLM.

The ToC directly accounts for the Baseline situation and reflects an approach that integrates several key aspects based on the specific context, goals, and stakeholders of Anbar. First, a site-based conservation approach was employed that focuses on protecting and restoring specific habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes that are critical for biodiversity in Anbar. Second, there is a complementary focus on developing and implementing improved management practices to restore degraded areas in coordination with local communities who will be involved in conservation efforts through education and participatory decision-making. Third, the approach includes a focus on policy and advocacy efforts through coordination with local/national governments and policymakers to strengthen environmental laws and regulations for the protection of critical habitats.

Fourth, the approach includes research and monitoring activities to gather data on species populations, habitat conditions, threats, biodiversity indices, and ecological processes. Fifth, several best practices and lessons learned that have emerged from the implementation of biodiversity conservation projects globally have been integrated into project design, including involving local communities in conservation efforts; using an adaptive management framework that allows for iterative learning; addressing biodiversity threats holistically; and promoting cross-sector partnerships to enhance resource sharing, expertise access, and policy alignment. Finally, the approach reflects the principles of restoration ecology and ecosystem-based adaptation wherein restoration projects are aimed at rehabilitating degraded ecosystems or reintroducing native species using techniques such as reforestation, wetland restoration, or invasive species management.

Components and outcomes

Through its four components and seven outcomes, the project will overcome the challenges inherent in the baseline situation previously described. The project has been designed to overcome the range of challenges to biodiversity protection and conservation - institutional, management-related, awareness-related, unavailability of useable applicable climate/biodiversity information; political instability - through a multi-faceted, women-responsive and participatory process anchored to a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach for addressing the environmental challenges facing Anbar Governorate as well as the nation.

Component 1 establishes an enabling environment at the national and Anbar levels to enhance integrated natural resources management and facilitate increased investments in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, sustainable use and restoration. This will be achieved by ensuring that policy development and institutional frameworks are inclusive, with active participation and leadership from both women and men, and that barriers to women's engagement in governance and decision making are addressed. By developing an enabling framework and prioritizing policy coherence across governorate and national scales, the project will establish biodiversity conservation principles for areas in Iraq of globally biodiversity significance. Working with different ministries, multiple stakeholders and local communities it will build on local needs to develop sustainable practices and new livelihoods consistent with preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Component 2 establishes new PAs in Anbar and the strengthening of KBA management through comprehensive planning, financing, and adaptive co-management approaches. Women and men from local communities will be equitably involved in the planning, management, and monitoring of these areas, with targeted efforts to support women's access to information, training, and leadership roles. By introducing these new PAs, the project will protect species and habitats; maintain ecosystem services; enhance ecological networks through expanding and connecting protected areas; and produce global environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration.

Component 3 establishes Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) practices for enhancing the resilience of natural resource-based livelihoods in Anbar Governorate. This includes promoting equal access for women and men to resources, training and benefits from sustainable land management and alternative livelihoods, as well as supporting women's entrepreneurship and participation in community-based management structures. By introducing ILM practices, the project will enhance the resilience of natural resource-based livelihoods in Anbar by fostering collaboration, promoting sustainable resource use, and improving ecosystem services which in turn can lead to increased food security, improved water availability, and enhanced economic opportunities for communities in Anbar who rely on natural resources.

The last component ensures the application of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Social and Environmental Standards Safeguards for all project activities, with sex disaggregated data collection and gender-sensitive indicators to monitor equitable participation and benefit-sharing.

There are seven OUTCOMES for the proposed project across the four COMPONENTS. Outcome 1.1 is a set of strengthened policies, regulatory and governance frameworks for effective biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration., developed through participatory processes. Outcome 2.1 is a set of ecosystem assessments and valuations of targeted Protected Areas (PAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). Outcome 2.2 is the establishment of new PAs, management plans, and operational capacities., with both women and man involved in capacity building and management activities. Outcome 3.1 is a set of improved practices for biodiversity protection in rangelands, woodlands, and wetlands. Outcome 3.2 is strengthened local livelihoods and incomes from sustainable use practices and alternative income generating activities that alleviate pressure on natural resources, enhance productivity, and build climate resilience., with specific initiatives to support women's entrepreneurship. Outcome 4.1 is project-generated knowledge and lessons that are shared across institutions. The seventh and final Outcome 4.2 is adaptive management of project activities that is aligned and consistent with UNDP and GEF standards

Outputs and activities

There are four (4) outputs under the first outcome (Outcome 1.1: Strengthened policies, regulatory and governance frameworks for effective biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration). The aim of these outputs is to ensure the development of strengthened policies, regulatory and governance frameworks for effective biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration.

- The first output (Output 1.1.1: Enhanced legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for inclusive and integrated management of biodiversity, critical landscapes, and ecosystems) focuses on enhancing legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for biodiversity management which aims to support ongoing national efforts in the development of an effective governance structure that supports the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Throughout this process, women will be actively engaged as members of policy review panels, legal drafting teams, and institutional mapping groups, ensuring their priorities and knowledge are reflected in the new frameworks. Women will participate as both contributors and reviewers in the identification of legal and regulatory gaps, and will be included in consultations and validation workshops. To achieve this output, four major activities will be undertaken, all of which aim to leverage synergies from ongoing biodiversity and land use management projects to support and strengthen their implementation strategy.

The first activity focuses on identifying existing laws and regulations related to biodiversity, land use, water resources, forestry, etc., to identify gaps and inconsistencies. Women's legal rights and access to resources will be specifically assessed, and women's organizations will be consulted to ensure their perspectives are included. This will involve a) producing a detailed inventory of existing laws and regulations relevant to biodiversity, land use, water resources, and forestry, including national legislation as well as regional or local policies in Anbar; b) developing a structured database categorizing the identified laws by themes (e.g., biodiversity conservation, water management), jurisdictions (national vs. local), and types of instruments (laws, regulations, guidelines); and c) preparing a gap analysis report that identifies specific gaps in coverage or enforcement mechanisms in current laws and regulations related to biodiversity protection and sustainable resource management.

The second activity focuses on undertaking policy/regulatory analysis to evaluate effectiveness of current legal, regulatory, and policy frameworks in promoting integrated management of ecosystems and landscapes, including an analysis of how current frameworks impact women's participation and benefit sharing. This will involve a) establishing a policy analysis framework for evaluating the effectiveness of existing policies and regulations concerning integrated management in Anbar, including specific

evaluation criteria such as coherence with sustainability goals, stakeholder participation mechanisms, implementation capacity, etc; and b) conducting an effectiveness assessment report that documents the extent to which current legal frameworks promote integrated ecosystem management in Anbar based on the evaluation criteria proposed in the policy analysis framework.

The third activity focuses on identifying best practices through a review of successful case studies from other regions that have effectively managed biodiversity through the establishment of legal, policy, and institutional frameworks. Case studies will highlight women's leadership and participation in biodiversity governance, and lessons learned will inform the design of Anbar's frameworks. This will involve a) conducting a literature review report that summarizes existing research and publications related to biodiversity management frameworks to provide context for understanding the importance of legal and policy frameworks in promoting biodiversity; b) developing a set of case study selection criteria for use in selecting case studies from different regions to ensure relevance to Anbar, ensuring that these cases have successfully demonstrated effective biodiversity management; and c) preparing a best practices synthesis report that distills lessons learned from the selected case studies into identifiable best practices for legal, policy, and institutional arrangements that effectively support biodiversity management in Anbar.

The last activity focuses on conducting institutional mapping to identify key institutions involved in biodiversity management at local, national, and regional levels and establishing cross sectoral coordination mechanisms. Women will be mapped as key stakeholders, and their representation in institutional structures will be strengthened through targeted outreach and capacity-building. This will involve a) developing an institutional mapping framework that outlines the methodologies and criteria for conducting institutional mapping, including definitions of key terms, objectives of the mapping process, and the scope of institutions to be examined; b) preparing a data collection plan that describes how data will be collected from various sources (e.g., interviews, surveys, existing literature) to identify relevant institutions and stakeholders involved in biodiversity management; c) identifying key institutions at local, national, and regional levels that play a role in biodiversity management, including government agencies, NGOs, research organizations, community groups, and private sector entities; and d) preparing a stakeholder analysis report regarding the roles and influence of each institution within the broader context of biodiversity management in Anbar including their relationships with other stakeholders, making use of mapping visualizations/diagrams to illustrate the relationships among different institutions involved in biodiversity conservation efforts to help clarify networks and/or collaborations

A common theme across these activities is the identification of any policies, subsidies, incentives, or institutional practices that may be potentially harmful to biodiversity. Iraq has recently (October 2024) adopted its brand-new Biodiversity Targets according to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMF) and is currently implementing a Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) where an Institutional and Policies Review (IPR) report as well as Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER) reports are being prepared to identify and analyze biodiversity-related harmful subsidies and expenditures. This parallel activity is key because Iraq has not adopted KMF Target 18 (Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity).

- The second output (i.e., Output 1.1.2: Establishment of a participatory and women-responsive national spatial and land use planning framework in support of an Integrated Land Use Plan for Anbar Governorate) aims to ensure that diverse stakeholders, particularly women, have a meaningful role in decision-making processes regarding land use. Women will be actively involved as decision-makers, managers, communicators, and both trainees and trainers throughout the planning process. Their representation will be ensured in all stakeholder forums and planning committees, and women will be supported to take on leadership roles in both the design and implementation of the framework. To achieve this output, three major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on identifying key stakeholders, including local communities, indigenous peoples, government agencies, NGOs, private sector representatives, and academia. This will involve a) developing a stakeholder mapping framework that outlines the methodology, objectives, and criteria for stakeholder identification and engagement for gender-response land use planning, including definitions of key terms relevant to land use planning; and b) developing a comprehensive stakeholder list and profiles of identified stakeholders relevant to national spatial and land use planning, including government institutions (national, regional, local), community-based organizations, NGOs focused on environmental issues, private sector representatives, academic/research institutions, indigenous groups and local communities. Profiles will include information such as Institutional mandates/mission, key personnel/contact details, relevant experience/expertise in land use or spatial planning, interests related to integrated land management, etc. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying women's groups and female leaders, ensuring their inclusion as key stakeholders. Targeted outreach and invitations will be used to encourage women's participation, and women's organizations will be consulted to ensure their perspectives and needs are addressed.

The second activity focuses on facilitating a collective visioning exercise among stakeholders to explore aspirations regarding biodiversity conservation and equitable land use planning schemes, with clear ground rules for ecological integrity, social equity, and women's participation. This will involve a) conducting a visioning exercise framework that outlines the objectives, scope,

methodology, ground rules for participation that emphasize women's involvement, and anticipated outcomes of the collective visioning exercises; b) convening of up to 3 visioning workshops in Anbar with structured agendas outlining the schedule of activities within each workshop focused on creating space for individual reflections followed by group discussions, with summary reports prepared after each workshop; and c) preparing a collective vision synthesis document that captures the key visions articulated by stakeholders regarding biodiversity conservation and equitable land use planning as a result of the workshops, including a prioritization matrix of stakeholder aspirations to clarify immediate vs long-term goals in land use planning in Anbar. Women will co-facilitate these exercises, contribute to consensus-building, and serve as spokespersons and communicators in public events and workshops. Their voices will be amplified in all communications, and their leadership in group discussions will be encouraged and supported.

The last activity focuses on creating guidelines that incorporate best practices for women-responsive sustainable use of land including standards for assessing the impacts of proposed land uses on biodiversity as well as on different communities. This will involve a) preparing a guideline framework report that outlines the purpose, goals, scope, and structure of the guidelines, including definitions of key terms related to gender-responsive sustainable land use; b) developing community consultation guidelines that details effective processes for engaging diverse community members (including women) in consultations regarding proposed land uses and emphasizes the need to ensure representation from all social groups involved or affected; and c) developing a framework/template that stakeholders can use when new land uses are proposed which outlines how new land use plans should address both biodiversity impacts as well as considerations relevant to social equity (particularly focusing on women). Women will be involved as both contributors and reviewers of these guidelines, ensuring their traditional knowledge, priorities, and practical experiences are embedded in the planning framework. Women will also participate as both trainees and trainers in capacity-building workshops related to land use planning, environmental assessment, and participatory decision-making.

Moreover, the role of private sector representatives is central to the development of a sustainable land use plan for Anbar in the second Output and will be integrated into all of the above activities. There are numerous opportunities for private sector entities to contribute to ecosystem protection, untapped to date, that will be explored during the visioning exercise. Opportunities such as reducing and managing business land use footprints; reducing the volume of toxic chemicals in value chains; directly participating in restoration activities to repair past harms; adopting circular solutions to source recycled materials; and cultivating biodiversity-friendly organizational cultures will be explored, among others. In this way, the project offers one of the first opportunities in Iraq for conducting such a wide-ranging review of the various ways businesses can be involved in protecting and managing biodiversity in Anbar.

- The third output (i.e., Output 1.1.3: Establishment of a provincial strategy and finance plan for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration aligned with national efforts to create Iraq's Biodiversity Finance Plan) focuses on the development of an Anbar-specific strategy and financing plan for biodiversity conservation & ecosystem restoration which aims to apply a multi-faceted approach tailored to the unique ecological, social, and economic context of the Anbar region. Women will be engaged as decision-makers, managers, trainees, and trainers throughout the strategy and finance plan development process. Their participation will be actively promoted in all planning, consultation, and validation activities to ensure that women's perspectives, priorities, and economic empowerment are fully integrated into the strategy and financing mechanisms.

To achieve this output, two major activities will be undertaken, both of which aim to leverage synergies from ongoing biodiversity and land use management projects to support and strengthen their implementation strategy.

The first activity will involve convening a stakeholder engagement workshop to involve local communities in the planning process and to raise awareness about the value of ecosystems services and solicit inputs regarding restoration strategies and options. This will involve a) producing interactive activities/tools to enable participants to visualize ecosystems/services in their area along with potential restoration options; utilizing group exercises designed around problem-solving scenarios related directly back toward enhancing understanding surrounding ecological contributions community livelihoods; and b) convening of 1 workshop in Anbar using the interactive activities/tools to raise awareness about the value of ecosystems services and solicit inputs regarding restoration strategies and options, with a summary reports prepared after the workshop. Special emphasis will be placed on ensuring women's participation as both attendees and facilitators in these workshops. Women's groups and female leaders will be specifically invited and supported to share their views on restoration priorities, sustainable livelihoods, and income-generating opportunities. Women will also be featured as communicators and spokespersons during these events, and their stories and experiences will be highlighted in project communications.

The second and last activity focuses on the formulation of an actionable restoration and finance plan with specific objectives based on assessment findings, stakeholder input, and scientific guidelines. This will involve a) preparing a baseline assessment report on a review of current conditions in the targeted Protected Areas (PAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) based on quantitative and qualitative data collection on the current ecological status, socio-economic conditions, and existing resources; together with an analysis of the review findings to identify critical areas needing restoration in Anbar due to habitat degradation and/or biodiversity loss; b) developing a stakeholder engagement report based on workshops and consultations with relevant

stakeholders including local communities, government agencies, NGOs, scientists, and business entities to gather input on restoration priorities, barriers experiences, and aspirations; c) development of an actionable restoration plan that) identifies restoration techniques suitable for Anbar PAs and KBAs based on research into best practices and scientific guidelines for effective restoration methods tailored to conditions and ecosystems in Anbar; and describes a restoration action plan, including the monitoring and evaluation framework, the communication strategy for local stakeholders, a risk assessment, and contingency plan; and d) development of an actionable finance plan that provides a detailed and comprehensive budget estimate for the actionable restoration plan for Anbar PAs and KBAs including, but not limited to, personnel, equipment, materials, site preparation/management, monitoring, permitting, and public engagement; identifies and evaluates the viability of potential funding sources such as grants, loans, partnerships, and private investments to support implementation efforts; and establishes a finance plan for restoration activities that is closely aligned with the parallel national biodiversity finance strategy development process underway. Women will be involved as both contributors and reviewers of the finance plan, ensuring their economic activities and needs are reflected in the design of restoration actions and financing mechanisms. Women will be prioritized as trainees in capacity-building sessions on finance, restoration, and business planning, and some will serve as trainers or peer educators for other women and community members. The plan will also include targeted initiatives to support women's entrepreneurship, access to finance, and leadership in ecosystem restoration and conservation enterprises.

- The fourth and final output (i.e., Output 1.1.4: Improved financial framework to protect Anbar's biodiversity and ecosystems) under Outcome 1.1, focuses on improving the financial framework for biodiversity/ecosystem protection in Anbar through the application of a comprehensive approach that encompasses knowledge generation, policy review, ecosystem valuation, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and the development of practical business plans. Women will be engaged as decision-makers, managers, trainees, trainers, and entrepreneurs throughout this process. Their participation and leadership will be actively promoted in all activities to ensure that women's perspectives, priorities, and economic empowerment are fully integrated into the financial framework and related mechanisms.

To achieve this output, four major activities will be undertaken, all of which aim to leverage synergies from ongoing UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BioFin) and biodiversity and land use management projects to support and strengthen their implementation strategy.

The first activity focuses on developing case studies on international best practices about biodiversity restoration trends over time that connect these trends with successful funding approaches. This will involve a) developing a case study framework that describes the components to be included in each case study (e.g., background information, objectives, methodologies used, outcomes achieved, funding sources and strategies); b) identifying selection criteria for selecting case studies based on relevance to biodiversity restoration efforts, innovation in approaches taken (including community engagement), geographic diversity, effectiveness of funding mechanisms employed, and others; and c) developing case study narratives for each selected case study which cover relevant aspects such as context/background information; specific restoration targets; innovative techniques implemented; measurable outcomes achieved; lessons learned throughout implementation phases inclusive challenges faced along the way. A funding analysis will be included for each narrative assessing funding strategies utilized—detailing types of funds accessed (public/private sector grants crowdfunding etc.), partnership models developed leveraging resources collaborative synergies created, and overall impacts observed related financing mechanisms fostering sustainability scalability programs long-term viability. Case studies will specifically highlight women's roles in successful finance and restoration projects, and women will be involved as contributors and reviewers of these case studies.

The second activity focuses on performing economic analyses to quantify the monetary value of biodiversity ecosystem services to support investment in conservation efforts. This will involve a) developing a methodology framework report that outlines the methodology(ies) to be used for valuing ecosystem services (e.g., contingent valuation, hedonic pricing, production functions), including a justification of the chosen method(s) based on Anbar-specific considerations; b) producing an ecosystem services inventory report for Anbar that documents specific biodiversity-related ecosystem services present within the province (e.g., pollination, water filtration) that will be valued as part of the analysis; and c) preparing an economic valuation report that calculates monetary values associated with each identified ecosystem service in Anbar using appropriate methodologies as outlined in the previous deliverables; including scenarios or case studies where relevant. Women's economic activities and contributions to ecosystem services will be specifically valued and documented, and women will participate in the analysis and validation of these findings.

The third activity focuses on the development of a technical report on the range of innovative finance mechanisms (e.g., Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), Conservation Bonds, Green Investment Funds) and initial screening/ranking for the most suitable finance approach. This will involve a) producing a detailed inventory of innovative financing mechanisms for protecting biodiversity and ecosystems in Anbar; and b) preparing an assessment report of the relevance of each identified innovative finance mechanism relative to Anbar conditions, including a prioritization of financing approaches.

The last activity focuses on the development of sustainable business plans that outline projected income streams generated through restoration activities (e.g., eco-tourism) ensuring long-term viability beyond initial funding. This will involve a)

conducting a market analysis that defines the demographic and psychographic profiles of beneficiaries of potential on restoration activities; analyzes potential market trends in eco-tourism and restoration activities; and identifies potential threats and barriers; b) developing a business model framework that provides a detailed breakdown of how future income from biodiversity restoration measures will be generated through various streams (e.g., tours, workshops, merchandise), including a description of partnerships with local communities or organizations for mutual benefit; and c) producing an operational plan that outlines logistics for implementation restoration activities (e.g., location selection, necessary permits), provides details on infrastructure needs (facilities for lodging/tourist services) and staff requirements, and establishes financial projections of revenue from various streams, with pricing strategies based on the previous market analysis. Women will be involved as business leaders, managers, and entrepreneurs in these plans, and specific initiatives will be included to support women's entrepreneurship, access to finance, and leadership in ecosystem restoration and conservation enterprises.

There are four (4) outputs under the second outcome (Outcome 2.1: Ecosystem assessments and valuation of targeted PAs and KBAs, for effective evidence-based management decision-making to strengthen protection and conservation status of species, critical habitats and ecosystems). The aim of these outputs is to develop a set of ecosystem assessments, valuations and management framework for the targeted PAs and KBAs. Women will be actively engaged as decision-makers, technical contributors, managers, trainees, trainers, and communicators throughout all activities and outputs, ensuring their knowledge, priorities, and perspectives are fully integrated into ecosystem assessment, valuation, and management processes.

- The first output (Output 2.1.1: Enhanced understanding of the nature and value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all potentially protected areas in Anbar Governorate (i.e., Haditha Wetlands & Baghdadi; Tharthar Lake & Al-Dhebaeji Fields; Habbaniya Lake, and Qadissiya Lake) focuses on enhancing the understanding of biodiversity/ecosystem service value which aims to apply a multifaceted approach to increase awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of the value of ecosystem services and concepts among stakeholders. Women will be involved in all stages as both data collectors and analysts, and as key informants for socio-economic and cultural profiles. Their traditional knowledge and use of ecosystem services will be documented and valued, and women will be featured as spokespersons and communicators during awareness-raising activities. To achieve this output, five major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on the development of ecological (i.e., species list, habitat types, landscape characteristics) and socio-economic (i.e., demography, local economy, cultural values, governance) profiles for all potentially proposed protected areas. This will involve a) developing a species inventory that consists of a comprehensive list of flora and fauna species, including endemic, threatened, and invasive species as well as information on species distribution, population estimates, and conservation status; b) producing detailed habitat maps identifying different habitat types (e.g., forests, wetlands, grasslands) indicating habitat quality and extent as well as geospatial analysis of landscape features such as topography, soil types, water bodies, ecological corridors or critical habitats; c) calculating various biodiversity indices (e.g., Shannon-Wiener Index, Simpson's Diversity Index) to quantify biodiversity levels and identify biodiversity hotspots within the protected areas; and d) developing socio-economic profiles of potentially protected areas including demographic data (e.g., population density, age distribution, gender ratio, historical trends, projections for future growth); local economy (e.g., agriculture, tourism economic activities, employment statistics); assessment of dependence on natural resources for livelihoods; cultural values/practices related to biodiversity conservation. Private sector companies will be approached to support the above activities, particularly data development to identify and map species, habitats, and ecosystem types within and around protected areas. The information developed from such efforts will be used to assess biodiversity health, identify threats, and prioritize conservation efforts. Women will participate in data collection, interviews, and focus groups, ensuring their perspectives and roles in ecosystem use and governance are reflected.

The second activity focuses on conducting biodiversity threat assessments of all potentially protected areas to identify threats; analyze impacts on different species and ecosystems; and prioritize threats – all in coordination with local communities, conservationists, scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders. This will involve a) developing a stakeholder engagement plan that provides a detailed strategy on how various stakeholders will be engaged throughout the assessment process, including identification of key stakeholders, their roles and responsibilities, and methods for effective communication; b) conducting a biodiversity threat assessment framework/methodology to identify and categorize threats (e.g., direct vs. indirect threats) and establish guidelines on data collection techniques such as surveys, interviews, workshops with local communities and government agencies; and c) producing a threat assessment report that provides comprehensive documentation that correlates all identified threats (e.g., habitat destruction, climate change) with assembled data and provides an analysis detailing how each identified threat impacts specific species and ecosystems within the area, making use of indicators such as population trends or ecosystem health metrics to quantify current impacts and project future potential impacts. Women will be included as stakeholders and technical contributors in threat assessment workshops and decision-making, and their knowledge of local threats and adaptation strategies will be integrated.

The third activity focuses on quantifying the economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all potentially protected areas in monetary terms using the methodologies and guidance provided by The Economics of Ecosystems and

Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative. This will involve a) developing a conceptual framework report that provides a clear outline of the rationale behind valuing ecosystems services and biodiversity in the potential protected areas including a description of how the assessment aligns with TEEB principles, emphasizing ecological interconnections, social equity, and sustainable development; b) establishing a data collection protocol report that establishes the methodology to be used for collecting both qualitative data (community perceptions) and quantitative data (economic metrics) in the potential protected areas, including a review of TEEB-endorsed approaches (e.g., market pricing methods, contingent valuation, cost-benefit analysis, hedonic pricing) and how these will be applied during the valuation process; and c) preparing an economic valuation report that estimates the monetary value associated with identified ecosystem services within the potential protected areas through the use of the TEEB-endorsed method(s) identified in the data collection protocol report. Women's contributions to ecosystem services, including unpaid and subsistence work, will be specifically valued and highlighted in economic analyses.

The fourth activity focuses on the development of a set of priority management measures to protect biodiversity, critical landscapes and ecosystems in all potential areas, based on the results of the profiles, threat assessments, and ecosystem service valuations. This will involve a) developing a management objectives framework that outlines clearly defined objectives tailored toward protecting biodiversity across the potential protected areas in Anbar, including short-term and long-term goals aligned with sustainable practices and national policies; b) assembling an actionable catalogue of priority management measures that identifies and ranks specific management measures aimed at protecting biodiversity in the protected areas (e.g., habitat restoration initiatives; invasive species control plans; new sustainable land-use planning policies; community-led conservation programs); and c) preparing an implementation strategy report that outlines how the highest ranked management measures will be implemented effectively over different timelines (short-term vs long-term), including the identification of responsible parties involved in implementing these measures along with resource allocation requirements in the protected areas.

The last activity focuses on conducting a multi-criteria assessment process among key stakeholders to identify highest priority potential areas to be designated as new protected areas, with the total new protected area covering around 579,467 hectares (Annex 3 provides a description and location of these areas). This will involve a) preparing a stakeholder engagement plan that outlines a comprehensive strategy detailing how stakeholders will be identified, engaged, and involved throughout the MCA process, including a schedule of meetings, workshops, or consultations to gather input from diverse stakeholder groups (e.g., local communities, government agencies, conservation organizations, private sector companies); b) preparing a criteria development report that outlines the criteria to be used in assessing potential areas for protection and any weighting factors to be used. Criteria should consider ecological value (biodiversity richness), social importance (cultural significance), economic viability (sustainable use potential), feasibility of protection (legal status), and threats facing each area (i.e., the results previous activities); and c) conducting stakeholder workshops and feedback summary reports that document findings from stakeholder MCA workshops where quantitative assessments were conducted for each candidate site against the weighted criteria including scoring results based on stakeholder inputs reflecting their values/preferences. Women's groups and female leaders will be specifically included in these multi-criteria assessments and consensus-building processes.

- The second output (Output 2.1.2: Improved technical framework for sustainable management of rangelands, woodlands, wetlands, and protected areas) focuses on the development of an improved framework for sustainable biodiversity management that seeks to balance ecological health, economic viability, and social equity. Women will be included as technical experts, reviewers, and trainers in the development of guidelines and decision-support tools, and their participation in consultations and capacity-building activities will be actively promoted. To achieve this output, three major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on conducting consultations among governmental stakeholders to identify specific needs, challenges, and gaps in current decision-making processes related to best practices in sustainable biodiversity management. This will involve a) implementing a national-level needs assessment questionnaire/survey that identifies specific information desired from government stakeholders regarding perceived needs and challenges associated with decision-making processes in managing biodiversity; and b) developing a summary report documenting discussions held during stakeholder consultation including key points raised by participants concerning their experiences managing biodiversity as well as specific needs, challenges, and gaps in current decision-making processes. In particular, this activity will focus on the identification and analysis of policies in sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, and fisheries that may have unintended negative consequences for biodiversity, as well as the identification of any perverse incentives that encourage actions that degrade biodiversity, such as subsidies that lead to resource overexploitation. Women will be included as participants and facilitators in these consultations, and their expertise and experiences will be documented and integrated into the findings.

The second activity focuses on developing a comprehensive set of technical guidelines for future conservation and sustainable management of rangelands, woodlands, wetlands, and protected areas. This will involve a) developing draft and finalized versions of an outline for the technical guideline report that provides an organized framework detailing the main sections/topics that will be covered in the guidelines (e.g., goals/objectives; principles; strategies; monitoring indicators) and which reflects the knowledge gained from previous project activities (i.e., consultations, assessment, valuations, etc); b) conducting guideline

development workshops/meetings for discussing the technical guidelines outline as well as facilitation materials aimed at discussing potential draft content with stakeholders, with reports for each workshop summarizing discussions held and captures stakeholder feedback on contents of proposed technical guidelines; and c) producing a technical guidelines document (first and final draft) that represents a comprehensive draft of technical guidelines addressing various aspects of conservation practices tailored for rangelands, woodlands wetlands protected areas that incorporates scientific insights and stakeholder input. Women will be involved as both contributors and reviewers of these guidelines, and gender-responsive best practices will be included.

The last activity focuses on codifying the technical guidelines into a set of decision-support tools to inform the design and implementation of restoration measures and interventions. This will involve a) developing a framework for decision-support tools that outlines the scope, purpose, target audience(s), and key functionalities needed in the decision-support tools; b) producing technical guidelines codification document that translates technical guidelines into structured formats suitable for integration into a software tool that applies user-friendly interface design principles to guide users through processes for choosing among options available for biodiversity management and restoration; and c) developing training materials/guidelines that are designed to equip end-users for how to effectively use the developed decision-support tool, including tutorials and case studies. Women will be trained as both users and trainers of these decision-support tools, and training sessions will be designed to be accessible and relevant to women's roles in natural resource management.

- The third output (Output 2.1.3: Increased organizational learning, information sharing, and collaboration among government decisionmakers on biodiversity conservation planning) focuses on increased governmental coordination on biodiversity planning across relevant institutions and agencies which is crucial for effective and sustainable management of biodiversity and involves policy alignment, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and the establishment of collaborative frameworks. Women will be actively engaged as decision-makers, technical experts, trainees, trainers, and communicators throughout the development and use of information platforms and collaborative frameworks, ensuring that their knowledge, perspectives, and priorities are fully integrated into government biodiversity planning and information sharing. To achieve this output, three major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on the design of a strategy for the development of an interactive digital platform and information database on biodiversity and ecosystems, including objectives, scope, data inventory, user interface design, database structure/design, and standardization protocols. This will involve preparing a scoping report that clearly defines goals of what the interactive platform aims to achieve (e.g., increase awareness, facilitate research collaboration, provide data access), target audiences (researchers, policymakers, educators), geographic coverage (local/national), and types of data included (species databases, habitat maps), with specific objectives related to user engagement and data dissemination. Women will participate in the design and review of the platform, ensuring it is user-friendly and accessible to female staff and stakeholders, including those with limited digital literacy.

The second activity focuses on developing an interactive digital platform and information database on Anbar's biodiversity and ecosystems to store, analyze and share data and information and inform sustainable management decisions. This will involve a) producing functional requirement specifications that provide a detailed description of the features needed in the digital platform for the Anbar province (e.g., data entry forms; search functionalities; analytical tools; interactive mapping; data interoperability, etc), its database architecture design governing access and security; b) developing a user interface design mock-up of the Anbar digital platform adhering to best practices promoting intuitive engagement across skill levels and demonstrating layout, navigation elements, data storage capabilities, and visualization features; and c) finalization of the Anbar digital platform based on stakeholder feedback gathered from workshops, meetings, and beta testing. Women will be involved as both contributors and users of the database, and their data collection and analytical skills will be strengthened through targeted training.

The last activity focuses on conducting training workshops for government agencies and extension offices on the contents, use, and potential applications of the interactive digital platform and information database. This will involve a) developing a training strategy that outlines objectives, schedule, training modules (e.g., introduction to the platform, data entry procedures), and timelines; b) developing a user manual that provides step-by-step instructions on using the digital platform effectively; and c) one training workshop for government personnel in Anbar on the use of the digital platform based on the user manual developed. Women will be prioritized as both trainees and trainers in these workshops, and their participation will be encouraged through targeted outreach and capacity-building efforts. Women will also serve as communicators and facilitators in knowledge-sharing sessions, ensuring that information is disseminated in ways that reach both male and female stakeholders.

- The fourth and final output (Output 2.1.4: Empowered local communities, CSOs, youth and women's groups for sustainable biodiversity management and protection) under Outcome 2.1 focuses on empowering local groups for biodiversity management/protection after the project is complete in order to ensure the sustainability of biodiversity conservation efforts and the long-term health of ecosystems in Anbar. Women, including those from local communities and CSOs, will be engaged as decision-makers, managers, trainers, communicators, and knowledge holders throughout all activities, ensuring their

leadership and empowerment for long-term biodiversity management. To achieve this output, three major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on organizing awareness-raising sessions on biodiversity conservation, sustainable practices, and ecosystem management tailored for different local community groups. This will involve a) the development of awareness-raising materials tailored to local communities in Anbar, including easy-to-read handouts summarizing key concepts about biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices relevant to their environment, as well as visual aids such as infographics, posters, or charts illustrating important statistics or concepts related to ecosystem management; and b) conducting three awareness-raising workshops in Anbar which include interactive activities (e.g., practical demonstrations showcasing sustainable practices like native planting techniques), group discussions to share experiences with biodiversity challenges in their areas, and engagement around awareness-raising materials developed. Women will be both participants and facilitators in these sessions, and women's experiences and traditional knowledge will be highlighted in educational materials and community discussions.

The second activity focuses on developing and implementing a programme to use various communication channels (social media, local radio, community events) to disseminate easy-to-understand guides or information that explains biodiversity concepts, conservation strategies, and the importance of ecosystem services and their specific threats. This will involve a) developing a communication strategy outlining objectives, target audiences, messaging frameworks, channels to be used (social media, local radio, community events), key messages, and metrics for success; and b) conducting social media campaigns/posts tailored for platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram with engaging visuals and other infographic materials developed that convey key messages effectively over time using relevant hashtags to reach wider audiences. Women will be featured as spokespersons in media campaigns, co-host community radio segments, and co-lead social media outreach. Communication materials will be designed to be accessible and relevant to women, and feedback mechanisms will ensure women's voices are heard and acted upon.

The last activity focuses on increasing local involvement in decision-making by including representatives from local communities, especially women's groups and youth leaders, in environmental decision-making processes to contribute to land-use planning or conservation programs that affect them directly. This will involve a) producing a participation framework that establishes clear guidelines outlining how community input will be solicited and incorporated into decision-making processes; b) implementing community-based monitoring programs that empowers locals to collect data on biodiversity indicators (e.g., species counts) or habitat conditions. with training of communities in monitoring techniques to foster ownership over biodiversity management; and c) conducting public meetings where community members can discuss land-use plans or conservation strategies and engage with decision-makers, thereby providing safe spaces for sharing concerns, knowledge sharing among participants. Women will be supported to take on leadership roles in local conservation committees, participate in land-use planning forums, and serve as trainers and peer educators for other women and youth in their communities.

There are four (4) outputs under the third outcome (Outcome 2.2: New PAs established, management plans developed and operational capacities in place for effective PA management in Anbar Governorate). The aim of these outputs is to contribute to the establishment of two new PAs in Anbar, as well as the development of management plans for the new PAs and the strengthening of operational capacities for effective management of the new PAs. Women will be actively engaged as decision-makers, managers, trainers, trainees, and communicators throughout all activities and outputs, ensuring their knowledge, leadership, and perspectives are fully integrated into the establishment, planning, and management of protected areas.

- The first output (Output 2.2.1: Strong local community consensus for the designation of two new protected areas) focuses on developing strong local support for the 2 new PAs through community engagement, education and awareness-raising, and building trust and relationships. Women will be specifically targeted and supported to participate in consensus-building processes, awareness-raising workshops, and dialogue platforms. Their concerns, knowledge, and priorities will be solicited and integrated into the design and justification of the new PAs. Women will also serve as facilitators, spokespersons, and peer educators in community engagement activities, ensuring that female community members are informed and empowered to contribute. To achieve the first output, three major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on convening awareness-raising workshops to inform local stakeholders about the proposed protected areas' significance and create a platform for dialogue where concerns can be voiced. This will involve a) the development of comprehensive dossiers based on gathered data on the two protected area sites alongside indigenous/local perspectives reflecting community input gained through previous awareness-raising workshops; b) conducting public meetings in Anbar where community members can review and discuss the gathered information on the proposed protected areas; and c) producing summary reports from each public meeting in Anbar documenting the results of community engagement on the proposed protected areas. Women will be both participants and facilitators in these workshops, and materials will be designed to be accessible and relevant to female audiences.

The second activity focuses on working closely with local government officials seeking their endorsement before submission to increase prospects of successful designation. This will involve a) development of a government engagement strategy that outlines how local government officials will be engaged throughout the process, including meeting schedules, communication methods, and feedback mechanisms; b) producing a briefing document that summarizes the importance of the proposed protected areas, including ecological significance, potential benefits for the community (e.g., tourism, recreation), alignment with local conservation goals, evidence of local community support, and consistency with relevant laws and policies concerning land-use planning and conservation at both national/provincial levels; and c) conducting collaborative meetings with local government officials, where protected area proponents can present findings/data while providing opportunities for back-and-forth dialogue to foster trust relationships. Women will be included in meetings with local officials and will be encouraged to take on advocacy and leadership roles in securing endorsements.

The last activity focuses on ensuring the effectiveness of ongoing communication channels to facilitate revision of the dossiers based upon any feedback received during preliminary reviews by designated authorities. This will involve a) holding follow-up meetings with local government officials to address any questions and/or issues emerging from the government review process for designation of the two protected areas; and b) producing summary reports from each meeting documenting the results of government engagement on the two proposed protected areas. Women will be involved in reviewing and revising dossiers and will be featured in communication materials and feedback sessions.

- The second output (Output 2.2.2: Sustainable management plans developed for 2 protected and key biodiversity areas through an inclusive process, with key priority actions implemented in each protected area) focuses on the development of sustainable management plans developed for the existing and new PAs and other KBAs which aims to implement a comprehensive, systematic process to develop practical plans that conserve biodiversity while meeting the needs of local communities and stakeholders. Women will be included as decision-makers, technical experts, managers, and trainers in the management planning process. Their participation will be actively promoted in stakeholder consultations, technical working groups, and implementation teams. Women's traditional knowledge and priorities will be reflected in management plans, and they will play leading roles in implementing priority actions, particularly those related to community engagement, sustainable livelihoods, and resource use. To achieve this output, three major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on designing and implementing a process for developing effective management plans for 2 PAs in Anbar. This will involve a) development of a comprehensive, multi-step strategy for developing effective management plans for the 2 protected areas, including situation analysis, stakeholder engagement, visioning and goal setting, data collection, strategic planning, financial gap analysis, resource requirements and funding strategy – user fees, partnerships with tourism operators, and priority action formulation; b) holding collaborative meetings with local government officials and community leaders from the 2 protected areas to discuss key proposed elements of the individual management plans and solicit feedback on any issues of concern; and c) development of draft management plans for each of the 2 protected areas that includes essential components (e.g., vision/mission statements, goals/objectives, strategic and high priority actions, implementation timelines, resource requirements, monitoring & evaluation indicators, community involvement, etc). Women will be included in planning committees and technical teams, and their leadership in drafting and reviewing management plans will be supported.

The second activity focuses on the finalization of the management plans, including resource allocation requirements for implementation. This will involve a) preparation of a risk assessment report that identifies potential risks (ecological, social, economic) associated with implementing each of the draft management plans, including potential risk mitigation measures; b) holding collaborative meetings with national government officials to discuss the individual management plans and associated resource requirements, soliciting feedback on highest priority actions and any issues of concern; and c) development of final management plans for each of the 2 protected areas that incorporates feedback received from all stakeholders.

The last activity focuses on implementing the highest priority actions identified in the management plans for each protected area. This will involve a) development of an implementation action plan that outlines specific activities, timelines, responsible parties, required resources (human and financial), and benchmarks for each high-priority action for each protected area; b) conducting systematic site surveys before and after restoration activities to document baseline conditions and establish a basis to account for changes over time (e.g., species presence/absence, population counts); and c) assembly of photographic evidence of before-and-after landscapes of each protected area site pre- and post-restoration, with geotagging images to help locate them on maps. Women will be involved as both managers and field staff in the implementation of these actions, and women-responsive monitoring will be included to track women's participation and benefits.

- The third output (Output 2.2.3: Adoption of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) for monitoring the effectiveness of management plan implementation and to inform future management decisions in the two new protected areas) focuses on Adoption of the IMET Tool in government biodiversity conservation planning in order to ensure a comprehensive, holistic and adaptive management approach for future biodiversity planning and conservation efforts in Anbar and the nation. Women will be trained as both users and trainers of the IMET tool, and their participation in monitoring and evaluation teams will be actively promoted. Their feedback and insights will be used to inform adaptive management decisions,

and sex-disaggregated data will be collected to ensure equitable participation and benefit-sharing. To achieve this output, two major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on the development of policies that mandate the utilization of IMET as part of regular reporting and decision-making processes within the governance structures of the two new protected areas. This will involve a) producing an assessment report of existing biodiversity protection/management policies and tools in use in Anbar to identify gaps or opportunities for integration with IMET through consultations with government agencies, local communities, and NGOs; and b) development of a policy framework for IMET that establishes a set of policies associated with each protected area—defining boundaries, permissible activities (e.g., tourism versus extractive uses), enforcement measures in case of violations, monitoring and reporting protocols, and engagement with local communities. Women will be included in the policy development process and will participate in training and awareness sessions on IMET.

The second activity focuses on the establishment of implementation modalities for IMET assessments in conjunction with other planning processes in the two new protected areas. This will involve a) the development of a set of standard operating procedures that outline how and when to apply IMET assessments in conjunction with other local/national biodiversity planning processes; and b) development of an implementation framework report that clearly defines goals for IMET implementation in the two new protected areas (e.g., improved decision-making, enhanced conservation outcomes, alignment with IUCN Green Listing Criteria), short- and long-term biodiversity targets, institutional roles and responsibilities, national/provincial coordination arrangements, etc. Women will be part of IMET assessment teams and will help train others in its application.

- The fourth and final output (Output 2.2.4: Enhanced local and national capacity for sustainable management of protected areas) under Outcome 2.2 focuses on enhancing local capacity for biodiversity protection through the design and implementation of a training program among key governmental stakeholders at the Anbar and federal levels. Women will be prioritized as both trainees and trainers in all capacity-building activities. Their leadership in training sessions will be supported, and women's groups and female professionals will be targeted for participation. Training materials and formats will be designed to be accessible and relevant to women, and follow-up support will be provided to ensure women's continued engagement and advancement in PA management roles. To achieve this output, two major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on the design of a targeted training program that addresses practical and hands-on methods and tools for tracking the effectiveness of management plans. This will involve a) an assessment of protected area management capacity at both the national and Anbar Province levels, including an analysis of any past assessments for insight into historical strengths/weaknesses and baseline gender assessment among rangers at project sites; and b) development of a training strategy that outlines objectives, schedule, training modules and timelines for tracking the impacts of the implementation of biodiversity management plans. Women will be involved in the design and delivery of the training program, and gender-sensitive indicators will be included to monitor women's participation and progress.

The second activity focuses on the implementation of the training program among key governmental stakeholders at the Anbar and federal levels, leveraging various formats such as virtual workshops. This will involve a) development of a training delivery plan outlining logistics for conducting the training sessions—format (e.g., workshops or online modules), duration, implementation schedules, local/national target participants, locations, resource requirements, facilitator job descriptions, etc; b) development of initial and finalized versions of training materials and resources, including training manuals, handouts, presentations, case studies from successful biodiversity projects, etc; and c) up to 5 capacity building workshops together with an evaluation mechanism to assess both participant feedback and changes in behaviors/attitudes. Women will be supported to participate in both in-person and virtual training sessions, and their feedback will be solicited to improve future training activities.

There are two (2) outputs under the fourth outcome (Outcome 3.1: Rangelands, woodlands, and wetlands under improved practices including in production sectors). The aim of these outputs is to enhance ecosystem health, promote sustainable resource use, restore/rehabilitate degraded lands, and build resilience of terrestrial biodiversity in Anbar to climate change. Women will be actively engaged as decision-makers, managers, trainers, trainees, and communicators throughout all activities and outputs, ensuring their knowledge, leadership, and perspectives are fully integrated into the restoration, sustainable use, and management of rangelands, woodlands, and wetlands.

- The first output (Output 3.1.1: Restoration of degraded landscapes and ecosystems (forests, rangelands, wetlands) in Anbar using nature-based solutions and the active involvement of local communities) focuses on engaging local stakeholders in the co-development of sustainable land management practices across 11,430,153 hectares of degraded landscapes and ecosystems across Anbar. Of this total area, the project will restore 500 hectares of degraded rangeland land by replanting it with indigenous species. For the remaining 10,850,686 hectares, the project will prepare an implementation plan for future restoration activities. Actual restoration activities during the project will be focused on passive restoration techniques identified in the implementation plan such as ceasing activities that cause harm, introducing rotation grazing on rangelands to allow vegetation

to recover between grazing periods, using only native grasses, groundcovers, and other zero-cost options. To achieve this output, two major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on the design of a community-led improved practices plan for degraded landscapes and ecosystems in Anbar that actively engages both men and women in various type of improved practices activities (i.e. soil conservation and water harvesting techniques, assisted natural regeneration). This will involve a) the development of a technical sourcebook of viable restoration measures to protect biodiversity, critical landscapes and ecosystems in the Anbar context, including the identification of any common practices by local communities that are harmful to biodiversity; b) a spatial analysis of degraded forests, rangelands, wetlands in Anbar to identify high priority landscapes in urgent need of restoration activities and identification of potential indigenous species for replanting; and c) up to 5 awareness-raising workshops for community members on sustainable land management practices such as agroforestry, soil conservation techniques, native species propagation, including gender-sensitive training focusing on leadership skills for both men and women. Women will be included in the design and leadership of these plans, and their specific roles and contributions will be recognized and supported. Women's organizations and female leaders will be consulted to ensure the plan addresses gender-specific needs and opportunities. The second activity focuses on the implementation of the community-led improved practices plan for the highest priority degraded landscapes and ecosystems in Anbar, engaging both men and women in the improved practices activities. Women will be prioritized for training in restoration techniques and will serve as both trainees and trainers for other community members. Their participation will be tracked through sex-disaggregated data, and communication materials will highlight women's achievements and leadership in restoration efforts.

The second activity focuses on the development a community-led improved practices plan for the highest priority degraded landscapes and ecosystems in Anbar, engaging both men and women in the improved practices activities. This will involve a) production of a detailed implementation action plan outlining specific restoration activities (e.g., nature-based solutions, tree planting initiatives, indigenous species selection for replanting, elimination of perverse incentives and harmful policies), targeted restoration areas, timelines for implementation, responsible parties involved in each implementation task, resource requirements (financial & material), and roles/numbers of stakeholders to be involved, by gender; b) implementation of zero-cost improved management practices for 11,850,686 hectares of degraded landscapes and ecosystems (forests, rangelands, wetlands) in Anbar Province in accordance with the implementation action plan, with the restoration of 500 hectares by replanted with indigenous species; and c) development of a monitoring and evaluation framework report that establishes post-project monitoring and evaluation protocols, including specification of the methods, indicators, data requirements, reporting frequency, etc to assess the impact of the implementation action plan over time.

- The second and final output (Output 3.1.2: Enhanced capacity of local actors/individuals, community groups and SMMEs to collaborate with government agencies in co-management of protected and rehabilitated biodiversity areas) under Outcome 3.1 focuses on the development of an enhanced capacity of local actors/individuals, community groups and SMMEs to collaborate with government agencies in the co-management of protected and rehabilitated biodiversity areas across Anbar Governorate. Women will be engaged as decision-makers, managers, trainers, trainees, and communicators in all capacity-building activities and co-management structures, ensuring their empowerment and leadership in sustainable biodiversity management. To achieve this output, two major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on undertaking a capacity assessment of local actors/individuals, community groups and SMMEs regarding effective engagement in protected area management activities and in communal and production landscapes where new sustainable management practices will be introduced. This will involve a) preparing a stakeholder mapping report that identifies and categorized local actors (individuals, community groups, SMMEs) whose livelihoods are linked to natural resource extraction or biodiversity management, including an assessment of the roles of men and women within these groups to understand participation levels; b) development of a capacity assessment framework that outlines criteria for assessing capacities related to biodiversity management (e.g., technical skills, resources available), ensuring the framework incorporates gender-specific indicators to evaluate both men's and women's capabilities; and c) preparing a baseline capacity assessment report based on analysis of data collected from stakeholders to generate a comprehensive report on current capabilities regarding biodiversity management, with an emphasis on differences in capacity between genders regarding access to resources such as training opportunities or financial support. The capacity assessment will include a gender analysis to identify barriers and opportunities for women's participation and leadership, and will inform targeted interventions to support women's empowerment.

The second activity focuses on implementing a training program among key community stakeholders in Anbar on practical ways for community groups to be involved in the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems. This will involve a) development of a structured training curriculum that covers essential topics, including materials developed during previous project activities (i.e., ecosystem services and functions, biodiversity conservation strategies, sustainable resource management practices, community-led monitoring and evaluation methods) and includes high-quality training materials (e.g., participant handbooks or guides, slides/videos, case studies showcasing successful local initiatives, infographics summarizing key concepts,

etc); b) production of a resource toolkit tailored for community groups/facilitators that outlines effective teaching strategies, session plans, and tips for fostering participation among members on best practices in biodiversity conservation, including guides on future policy advocacy; and c) up to 5 participatory and hands-on workshops including field trip(s) to observe and learn from existing community-led biodiversity projects regarding experiences such as tree planting events or restoration activities. Women will be prioritized as both trainees and trainers in the program, and training materials will be adapted to be accessible and relevant to women's roles and needs. Women will also serve as peer educators and mentors for other women and youth.

There are three (3) outputs under the fifth outcome (Outcome 3.2: Strengthened local livelihoods and incomes from sustainable use practices and alternative income generating activities that alleviate pressure on natural resources, enhance productivity, and build climate resilience). The aim of these outputs is to contribute to reducing resource pressure on landscapes in Anbar, as well as enhancing economic resilience, increasing productivity, and building climate resilience among local communities. Women, especially those from female-headed households, will be actively engaged as decision-makers, managers, trainers, trainees, entrepreneurs, and communicators throughout all activities and outputs, ensuring their economic empowerment, leadership, and perspectives are fully integrated into livelihood development, climate resilience, and sustainable resource use.

- The first output (Output 3.2.1: Installation of a set of renewable energy pilot projects aimed at providing clean energy options for sustainable farming and agri-food solutions) focuses on the installation of a set of renewable energy pilot projects aimed at providing clean energy options for sustainable farming and agri-food solutions which will involve preliminary technical planning, stakeholder engagement, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Women and female-headed households will be specifically targeted for improved energy access, and their needs and priorities will be incorporated into the design and implementation of the pilot program. Women will participate as both decision-makers and end-users in the planning and rollout of renewable energy interventions, and will be prioritized for training in the operation and maintenance of these systems. Women will also serve as trainers and peer educators for other women in their communities, and communication materials will highlight women's leadership and success in adopting clean energy solutions. To achieve this output, one major activity will be undertaken.

The sole activity focuses on designing and implementing a pilot program for a set of demonstration renewable energy interventions in Anbar that provides improved energy access for women and female-headed households and meets community needs in targeted locations (i.e., 3 solar PV pilot programs that promote climate smart agriculture and sustainable livestock-raising). This will involve a) producing a technical sourcebook of information on viable renewable energy technologies that promote climate smart agriculture and sustainable livestock-raising, suitable tailored for the Anbar context; b) up to 5 awareness-raising workshops to inform local stakeholders about the range of renewable energy technologies for sustainable farming and agri-food solutions and solicit feedback on pilot project options; c) installation plan for up to 5 pilot renewable energy systems in Anbar that details logistics around installing chosen technologies, including selection criteria for locations, procurement processes, installation timelines with designated teams or trained local technicians, and a monitoring & evaluation framework; and d) an implemented renewable energy pilot program in the targeted locations. Women will be engaged in all stages of the pilot program, from needs assessment and site selection to installation, monitoring, and evaluation. Their feedback will be solicited and incorporated to ensure the interventions are effective and sustainable.

- The second output (Output 3.2.2: Awareness raised about alternative income generation opportunities targeting women and female-headed households) focuses on awareness-raising about alternative income generation opportunities targeting women and female-headed households which aims to apply a strategic approach combining education, community engagement, capacity building, and resource provision. Women will be engaged as both participants and facilitators in awareness-raising sessions, and their experiences and success stories will be featured in communication materials. Women will be prioritized for training in alternative income-generating activities, entrepreneurship, and business development, and will serve as trainers and mentors for other women. The program will ensure that women have access to resources, information, and support networks needed to pursue new livelihood opportunities. To achieve this output, one major activity will be undertaken.

This sole activity focuses on designing and implementing a pilot program for alternative income generation in Anbar that provides improved livelihood opportunities for women and female-headed households in targeted locations. This will involve a) developing a technical sourcebook of information on alternative livelihood and income generating activities (e.g., eco-tourism, beekeeping, handicrafts, etc) in a format suitable for local communities; up to 5 awareness-raising workshops to inform local stakeholders about the range of alternative livelihood and income generating activities, with a focus on women and female-headed households and solicit feedback on potential options; c) development of an installation plan for up to 3 pilot projects on date palm agroforestry in Anbar that describes both design aspects (pilot project goals/objectives, site selection/assessment, layout of how date palms will be integrated with other crops) and implementation logistics (e.g., sapling procurement, soil preparation, water management, involvement from community members in every phase, monitoring & evaluation framework); and d) the implementation of the date palm agroforestry pilot projects in the targeted locations.

Women's groups and female leaders will be consulted in the design of the program, and their feedback will inform the selection of income-generating activities and support services.

- The third and final output (Output 3.2.3: Enhanced capacity for marketing for local agroecological goods and services, including those linked to conservation and restoration investments) focuses on the development of enhanced capacity for marketing for local agroecological goods and services, including those linked to conservation and restoration investments, and which aims to strengthen the ability of producers and communities in Anbar to effectively market their products while promoting sustainability and biodiversity protection principles. Women will be engaged as both trainees and trainers in marketing and business development activities, and will be supported to establish or join cooperatives and partnerships that improve their bargaining power and market access. Training materials and sessions will be tailored to women's needs and roles in agroecological production, and women's achievements in marketing and business will be highlighted in communication campaigns. To achieve this output, one major activity will be undertaken.

This sole activity focuses on designing and implementing a training program focused on how to establish cooperatives or partnerships aimed at improving bargaining power within the marketplace for agroecological goods and services, including those linked to conservation and restoration investments. This will involve a) producing a technical sourcebook of information on establishing cooperatives and partnerships for marketing local agroecological goods and services, including legal frameworks and registration processes, accounting principles relevant to cooperative management, techniques for effective negotiation with suppliers/buyers to maximize benefits, etc); b) preparing a market research report that estimates market demand in Anbar and surrounding regions for sustainable agroecological products, including an analysis of consumer trends & preferences, agroecological product pricing strategies, etc); c) producing a value chain mapping report for agroecological goods in Anbar that identifies key players (i.e., producers, processors, distributors) and their roles; d) preparing a structured training curriculum that covers essential topics, includes high-quality training materials (e.g., participant handbooks or guides, slides/videos, case studies showcasing successful local initiatives, infographics summarizing key concepts, etc, and implementation timelines; and e) up to 5 training workshops focused on how to establish cooperatives or partnerships aimed at improving bargaining power within the marketplace for agroecological goods and services, including those linked to conservation and restoration investments. Women will be prioritized for participation in the training program, and their leadership in cooperatives and partnerships will be supported and promoted. Women will also serve as peer educators and mentors for other women and youth in their communities.

There is one (1) output under the sixth outcome (Outcome 4.1: Project-generated knowledge and lessons shared, and results and impact communicated and disseminated for wider learning). The key aims of the output is to foster a learning culture among project participants, increase accountability and transparency, and enhance the collective impact of project activities. Women will be actively engaged as decision-makers, knowledge holders, communicators, trainers, and trainees throughout all knowledge sharing and dissemination activities, ensuring that their experiences, perspectives, and lessons learned are fully integrated and visible in all project knowledge products and learning events.

- The sole output (Output 4.1.1: Enhanced knowledge sharing system for communicating lessons learned and project results/impacts) will achieve these aims by developing an enhanced knowledge sharing system for communicating lessons learned and project results and impacts. Women will be involved in the design and management of the knowledge sharing system, and their stories and achievements will be featured in case studies, reports, and communications. To achieve the only output, two major activities will be undertaken.

The first activity focuses on developing a knowledge management framework to showcase real-life impacts of the project. This will involve a) preparing a report on a knowledge management framework that establishes processes to document and share experiences, case studies, best practices, and challenges faced during project implementation, including technology platforms (e.g., intranets or collaborative tools) that allow easy access to information resources; b) producing written narratives and/or video testimonials from beneficiaries or stakeholders highlighting how the project has affected their lives or communities, including specific data points illustrating impacts (e.g., increased income, improved landscapes); and c) developing case studies of the pilot projects (i.e., renewable energy, date palm agroforestry) and other project interventions that provide comprehensive accounts, including background information, challenges faced/overcome, data results before/after implementation, personal testimonies, and other relevant content. Women will contribute to the development of this framework as both contributors and reviewers, ensuring that gender-specific impacts and successes are documented and shared.

The second activity focuses on organizing knowledge sharing events that bring together different stakeholders to share insights and exchange ideas, fostering networking collaboration opportunities. This will involve a) preparing a report on strategic ways to leverage multiple media options (e.g., articles, blog posts, podcasts, webinars, social media platforms) for disseminating content and promoting networking around biodiversity conservation; and b) up to 5 sharing events focused on communicating lessons learned and project results/impacts. Women will be prioritized as both participants and facilitators in these events, and their leadership in panel discussions, workshops, and peer learning sessions will be supported. Communication materials and

event formats will be designed to be accessible and relevant to women, and feedback mechanisms will ensure women’s voices are heard and acted upon.

There are two (2) outputs under the seventh and final outcome (Outcome 4.2: Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and SES policies realized). The key aim of the outputs is to ensure an enabling environment for adaptive management, as well as close alignment with M&E frameworks, risk mitigation strategies, and knowledge management best practices. Women will be engaged as decision-makers, managers, trainers, trainees, and communicators in all monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management activities, ensuring their participation and leadership in project review, learning, and adaptation processes.

- The first output (Output 4.2.1: An effective project M&E plan for monitoring progress and identifying management issues) focuses on the development of an effective project M&E plan for monitoring progress and identifying management issues. Women will be included in the design, implementation, and review of the M&E plan, and sex-disaggregated indicators will be developed to track women’s participation, benefits, and leadership. Women will be trained as both users and trainers of M&E tools and methodologies, and their feedback will inform adaptive management decisions.

To achieve this output, one major activity will be undertaken that focuses on designing and implementing the actual project M&E plan. Sub-activities include the development of key performance indicators, defining data collection methods, and assigning roles and responsibilities among the project team. This activity is closely aligned with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy which established requirements for M&E for GEF-funded activities covering project design, application of M&E at the project level, and project evaluation. Women will be assigned key roles in M&E teams and will participate in data collection, analysis, and reporting.

- The second and final output under Outcome 4.2 focuses on the development of an effective project-level safeguards and risk management plan that ensures stakeholder engagement and empowers women and youth. Women will be engaged as decision-makers, managers, and communicators in the design and implementation of the safeguards and risk management plan, and their perspectives will be integrated into risk identification, mitigation, and response strategies.

To achieve the second output, one major activity will be undertaken. This activity focuses on designing and implementing the project safeguards and risk management plan. Sub-activities include the development of a stakeholder engagement and communication plan, as well as developing a robust documentation protocol that ensures all evidence and decisions related to safeguards are recorded properly. Women will be prioritized for participation in stakeholder engagement activities, and communication tools and channels will be designed to reach and empower women, including through women’s groups, community workshops, radio programs, and digital platforms. Women will also serve as trainers and peer educators in risk management and safeguards, and their leadership in these areas will be promoted and recognized.

Combined, these components, outputs, and activities will ensure that the project produces global environmental benefits associated with reducing land degradation, improving the provision of agro-ecosystem goods and services, and conserving natural resources in productive landscapes. Moreover, the project will generate knowledge about climate risks and hazards that affect terrestrial/aquatic biodiversity in Anbar; identify synergies between income-earning livelihood options and biodiversity conservation; and establish monetary estimates of the value of ecosystem services that can be used in future biodiversity conservation planning across Iraq. This knowledge will be managed and exchanged through conservation mainstreaming, awareness-raising and training events and will be captured by workshop report to benefit future projects.

Table 1 below shows the GEF component budget over time together with M&E costs and PMC.

Table 1: GEF component budget over time (US\$)

Component	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	GEF (\$)
1: Enabling environment established at national and sub-national levels (Anbar Province) to enhance integrated natural resources management and facilitate increased investments in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, sustainable use and restoration	\$165,000	\$150,000	\$145,000	\$145,000	\$145,000	750,000
2: PAs established and Anbar Province KBA management strengthened through comprehensive planning, financing, and adaptive co-management approaches	\$717,750	\$645,000	\$645,000	\$545,000	\$497,250	3,050,000
3: Integrated Landscape Management and enhanced resilience of natural resource-based livelihoods in Anbar Province	\$102,000	\$465,817	\$497,000	\$92,000	\$93,183	1,250,000
4: Realized Monitoring, Evaluation, and Social and Environmental Standards Safeguards	\$59,600	\$54,600	\$59,600	\$64,600	\$63,644	302,044
Monitoring and evaluation	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$35,000	100,000
Project management	\$52,020	\$52,020	\$57,020	\$52,020	\$57,020	270,102
Total	\$1,106,370	\$1,377,437	\$1,438,620	\$908,620	\$891,097	5,722,146

The project scope described above represents a set of activities that will not take place in the absence of the proposed project. With GEF support, the project will promote sustainable land management practices and achieve enhanced biodiversity conservation outcomes that not only pose local and national benefits but also global benefits. Specifically, there will be Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) achieved through the sustainable land management practices and biodiversity conservation activities introduced by the project such as protecting threatened or endangered species and their habitats; conserving globally important ecosystems such as the wetlands in the PAs; improving ecosystem services that benefit the global environment such as carbon sequestration. This means that GEF funding will be applied to the additional costs associated with transforming the project from one with only local or national benefits into one that delivers global environmental benefits. Moreover, there is good potential for the project's interventions, including the sustainable land management practices, to be sustained and scaled up beyond the project's duration thereby ensuring future GEBs.

In addition, the implementation of the project's activities offers multiple adaptation benefits by enhancing ecosystem resilience and improving livelihoods, as briefly described in the bullets below based on the practices expected to be developed in the various action plans.

- *Reduced vulnerability to climate change:* Sustainable land management practices, such as restoring wetlands, can help mitigate the impacts of climate change by regulating water flows, reducing erosion, and sequestering carbon. These actions can make communities and ecosystems in Anbar less vulnerable to extreme weather events like floods, droughts, and heat waves.
- *Enhanced food security:* By promoting biodiversity in Anbar's agricultural systems and improving soil health, the sustainable land management practices introduced will lead to more resilient and productive agricultural systems in the governorate, thus enhancing local food security and reducing future vulnerability to climate-related crop failures.
- *Ecosystem resilience:* Biodiversity conservation will contribute to ecosystem resilience by protecting the diversity of ecosystems. Such ecosystems are better able to withstand and recover from disturbances, such as climate change impacts, ensuring the continued provision of essential ecosystem services like clean water, pollination, and pest control to local communities.
- *Improved soil health:* Practices such as agroforestry will enhance soil structure, fertility, and water retention capacity. This improved soil health can increase local crop yields, reduce erosion, and make the land more resilient to extreme weather events like recurrent drought.

Finally, the range of project activities will lead produce several socioeconomic benefits as briefly described in the bullets below.

- *Enhanced local livelihoods:* The project aims to improve the livelihoods and incomes of local communities through sustainable use practices and the introduction of renewable energy pilot projects.
- *Increased economic resilience:* By reducing resource pressure on landscapes and enhancing economic resilience, the project can help communities better withstand economic shocks.
- *Improved productivity:* The project aims to enhance productivity in Anbar communities through improved resource management.
- *Built climate resilience:* The project seeks to build climate resilience among local communities by strengthening the capacity of ecosystems on which they depend to withstand climate impacts.

- *Improved relationship between communities and surrounding environment:* By fostering a more harmonious relationship between nature and local communities, the project proactively curbs out-migration driven by resource degradation and scarcity.
- *Women's empowerment:* The project specifically targets women and female-headed households in Anbar with ensuring their opportunities for participation in decision-making processes across all project activities.
- *Empowerment of local groups:* The project empowers local communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), youth, and women's groups for sustainable biodiversity management and protection.
- *Capacity building:* The project provides opportunities for awareness-raising, community engagement, and capacity building at the local level regarding measures to improve ecosystem resilience.

Table 2 below provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholder groups during project implementation.

Table 2: Stakeholder roles and responsibilities

Stakeholder group	Expected Role in Project
UNDP Iraq	UNDP Iraq is a major partner of the Government of Iraq (GoI) in its efforts to build resilience and address the vulnerabilities and shocks originating from environmental degradation, natural hazards and climate change. UNDP Iraq has established a dedicated programme team on environment, climate change and energy to build capacities of the Iraqi authorities in tackling the pressing environmental challenges in the country.
Ministry of Environment	As the highest government entity responsible for environmental protection and in charge of overseeing land management and protected areas. MoE is responsible for the development of protected areas within Iraq, with the aim of safeguarding species and habitats through policy and regulations.
Governates of Anbar	Governates have the authority to prepare provincial development plans, as well as to design and implement capital projects to improve service delivery conditions.
Ministry of Planning	Ministry of Planning is responsible for management of public and private activities in all sectors. MoP will provide support and assistance on the design of the program for SLM capacity development and awareness raising on sustainable agricultural practices. Moreover, MoP is the main governmental entity for providing advice and reports to the government of Iraq and has a very important resource of data (Central Statistical Organization)
Ministry of Agriculture	As the Ministry responsible for management of public and private agriculture sectoral activities with an ongoing project aimed at implementing the national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. MoA will provide support and assistance on the design of the program for SLM capacity development and awareness raising on sustainable agricultural practices. Moreover, MoA will support farmers and land users in improving the technology used for agricultural production and livestock keeping, with the aim of increasing capacity for sustainable land management.
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities	As the government Ministry responsible for the promotion of ecotourism, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities will be involved in the project aspects related to mainstreaming of biodiversity into tourism.
Ministry of Science and Technology	Provide scientific advice in project aspects associated with the installation of renewable energy pilot projects.
UN Environment	Lead agency for implementing a GEF project in Iraq, and the work under this project will be coordinated with UNDP to ensure harmony and consistency in setting up PA management.
Environmental NGOs	Key local Environmental NGOs that have been worked in the project area in the scopes of field biodiversity conservation, mainstreaming, data collection and research, and landscapes management including (Iraqi Green Climate Organization and Nature Iraq). Those are potential partners in delivering the research component given their experience in delivering similar surveys.
Anbar Women's Associations	Local NGOs associated with women affairs and local socio-economic development such as (Shams Al Anbar for Women and Children and Iraqi Organization for Women and Future).
Private Sector	Private sector groups such as solar energy and their allies associated with the development strategies in Anbar Governorate, contributions to ecosystem protection, and other potential activities associated with protecting and managing biodiversity in Anbar.
Academia (University of Anbar)	Along with Ministry of Science and Technology, supporting academic research methodologies, grey data provision and technical support.

Stakeholder group	Expected Role in Project
Local communities	Those including the local tribal communities of the Arabian tribes (farmers, fishermen, hunters, Bedo nomads and open-ground shepherds) inhabiting the surrounding areas of KBAs and PAs in the Upper Euphrates River Basin especially those occupying the cities of Haditha, Barwana, Baghdadi.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects' governance mechanism

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

The Implementing Partner is responsible for:

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

A rapid options analysis has been conducted during PPG formulation process to identify potential execution support modalities as follows:

- **Non-Government Organizations:** While engaging NGOs as the RPA could be a viable alternative, this approach is not preferred by the GoI as it does little to build government capacity. International NGOs also pose higher operational costs due to security risks and consultancy rates. Local NGOs, while more cost-effective, generally do not meet HACT requirements but can be engaged through Low Value Grants (LVGs). This ensures national NGOs can still contribute under the DIM modality.
- **Other UN Agencies:** On KBA related issues, two UN agencies may be concerned: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The UNEP is a non-resident agency and has no representation in Iraq. This fact in itself presents a risk of slowing down the implementation of the project. The expertise provided by FAO in Iraq remains very specific and focuses on sustainable management of natural resources, including promotion of smart agricultural practices, protection of biodiversity and improved resilience through support to professional agricultural

organizations and vulnerable populations. Due to its specific mandate in the agriculture sector, FAO in Iraq does not have the technical expertise to support this project.

- **Private sector/Consultancy firms:** The private sector, through specialized consultancy firms, can be considered as a potential provider of support services if they succeed in mobilizing the necessary expertise. However, this option is not considered as optimal and efficient given the high costs of such services from for-profit entities.

Project stakeholders and target groups

To ensure equal and full representation at both the federal and governate levels, a project steering committee was formed during the PPG phase. This committee consists of diverse stakeholders, including representatives from federal and governate governments, local community members, and non-governmental organizations. The steering committee played a crucial role in guiding the project development by providing local knowledge and validating information. Additionally, they helped ensure that local and culturally sensitive perspectives are taken into account during both project development and implementation. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan report provides additional details about project stakeholders and target groups.

UNDP

UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing the project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project steering committee and attends Project steering committee meetings as a non-voting member.

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

Given the low capacity of the GoI, particularly the MoE, and the complexities of Iraq's public financial regulations, DIM remains the most practical option. **In addition, Iraq has been and is currently on the FY25 and FY26 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations under the Conflict Category. The list and policy can be found at [Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations](#). This is an exceptional case that justifies an exception to GEF policy to allow execution support based on the fact that the project will be implemented in a Fragile and Conflict-affected Situation.**

While NIM could theoretically enhance government ownership, the high fiduciary risks, especially under the current Macro Assessment, make it less feasible. Notably, GoI has already approved UNDP as the delivery partner for its GEF-7 POPS project under a single-source DIM arrangement, demonstrating their trust in this modality. Under this arrangement, the World Bank acts as the Implementing Entity, with GoI as the executing entity and UNDP delivering 95% of the project activities. The World Bank and UNDP have also agreed to adopt an assisted NIM approach within the DIM framework, balancing risk management with capacity-building for GoI.

The UNDP country office has the capacity within its Operations Unit to deliver economical and efficient project support services through long-established and well-tested mechanisms and procedures in line with GEF and UNDP's Programmes and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) framework. The quality assurance of

services and personnel provided using UNDP procedures and criteria is preferred by the Government because of UNDP’s transparency and competitiveness and the robust accountability framework and oversight policies in place. UNDP has been delivering to Government at the right time, in accordance with correct specifications, and at competitive and responsive prices and does not face restrictions in conducting international procurements. UNDP has access to a large pool of international service providers, including through use of its GPN Roster of pre-vetted experts and global Long-Term Agreements.

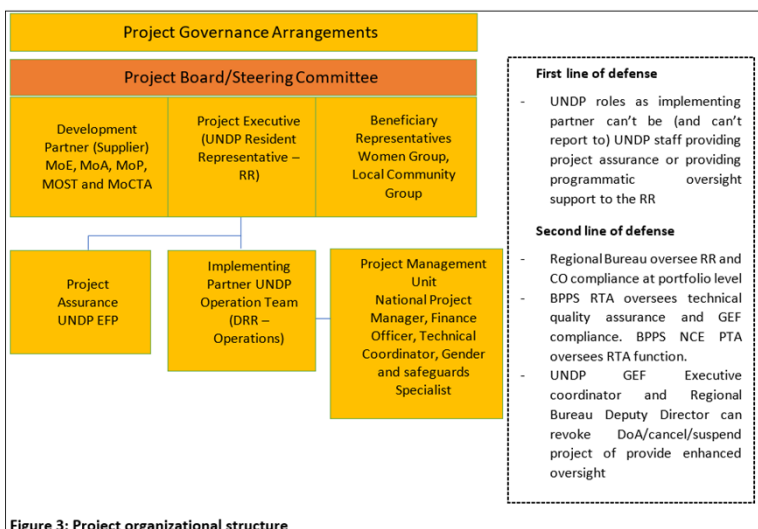
Section 2: Project governance structure

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

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

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

- Resident Representative (RR)
- Deputy Resident Representative (DRR-Programme)
- Environment Programme Analyst
- Monitoring & Evaluation specialist
- Programme Associate



The following personnels are planned to provide execution support and will not be covered by the GEF grant.

Finance Manager and HACT focal point

- Procurement specialist
- HR analyst

The project governance structure is shown in **Figure 3**.

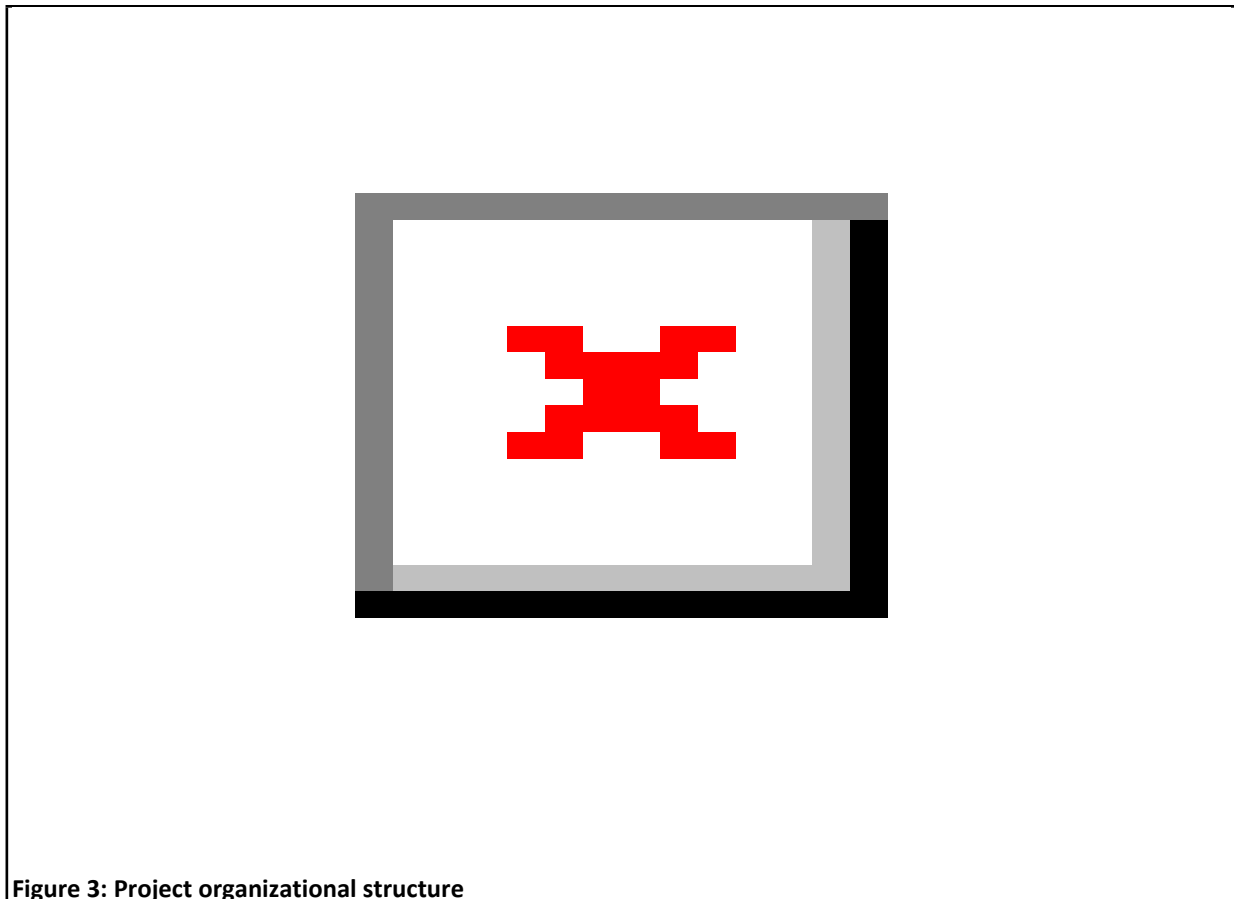


Figure 3: Project organizational structure

Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-à-vis UNDP representation on the project board: As noted in the [Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies](#), in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

UNDP’s implementation oversight role in the project – as represented in the Project steering committee and via the Project Assurance function – is performed by the Deputy Resident Representative

Programme and the Team Leader of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Team UNDP Iraq, respectively. UNDP’s execution role in the project is performed by the Anbar KBA Project Manager (to be recruited), who will report to the Deputy Resident Representative Operations.

Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure

The project's governance arrangements are illustrated in the above organigram (Figure 3). All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project steering committee is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

The Project steering committee for the wider Anbar KBA project will serve as the decision-making structure (Project steering committee) also for the GEF-financed project, providing overall direction to the project through the weekly Project steering committee meetings.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the Project steering committee are as follows:

High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ["Provide Oversight"](#) section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the Project steering committee and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project steering committee reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project steering committee is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ["Manage Change"](#) section of the POPP).

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

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

The responsibilities of the Project steering committee are as follows:

- Consensus decision making:
- The Project steering committee provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
 - Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;
 - The Project steering committee is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.

- In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project steering committee decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
- In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.
- **Oversee project execution:**
 - Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
 - Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
 - Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
 - Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
 - Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
 - Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
 - Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
 - Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.
 - **Risk Management:**
 - Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
 - Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.
 - Address project-level grievances.
 - **Coordination:**
 - Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.

- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

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

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

B. Project Assurance

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

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

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

C. Project Management – Execution of the project

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

The project team receives directions from the Project steering committee and provides updates and reports to the Project steering committee in the pursuit of project objectives, timeframes, and partnerships.

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

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

Yes

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

Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects' governance mechanism

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

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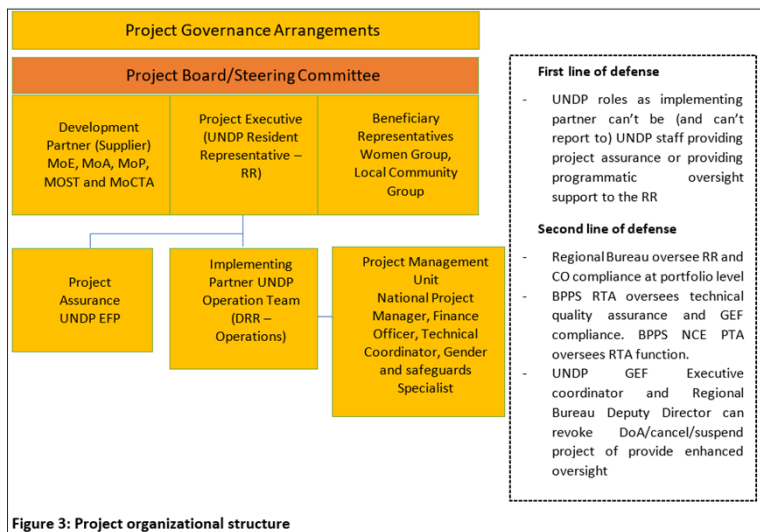
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UNDP Execution Role: The GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) has requested UNDP to execute the project activities (Annex 2). If the GEF agrees, UNDP will execute the project under the DIM modality. No project execution costs will be charged to the GEF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

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

- Resident Representative (RR)
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- Environment Programme Analyst
- Monitoring & Evaluation specialist
- Programme Associate



The following personnels are planned to provide execution support and will not be covered by the GEF grant. Finance Manager and HACT focal point

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- HR analyst

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UNDP's implementation oversight role in the project – as represented in the Project steering committee and via the Project Assurance function – is performed by the Deputy Resident Representative

Programme and the Team Leader of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Team UNDP Iraq, respectively. UNDP's execution role in the project is performed by the Anbar KBA Project Manager (to be recruited), who will report to the Deputy Resident Representative Operations.

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and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project steering committee reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project steering committee is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the [“Manage Change”](#) section of the POPP).

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

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

The responsibilities of the Project steering committee are as follows:

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

- Agree on project manager’s tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager’s tolerances are exceeded.
- Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
- Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
- Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
- Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
- Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
- Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.
- Risk Management:
 - Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
 - Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project’s area of influence that have implications for the project.
 - Address project-level grievances.
- Coordination:
 - Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
 - Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

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

- **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project steering committee. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it

must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation. The Project Executive is the Resident Representative of UNDP, Iraq.

- **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project steering committee. The Beneficiary representative is: the Ministry of Agriculture. The GEF Operational Focal Point will be co-opted into this Project steering committee to represent the government's interest in the GEF-financed part of the operation. The UNDP Country Office (UNDP Resident Representative) will also ensure that all necessary information and updates are shared with the GEF OFP via other means, including exchange of letters and reports outside of Project steering committee meetings.
- **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner is the various ministries from Iraq.

B. Project Assurance

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

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

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

C. Project Management – Execution of the project

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

The project team receives directions from the Project steering committee and provides updates and reports to the Project steering committee in the pursuit of project objectives, timeframes, and partnerships.

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

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project will exploit synergies with ongoing policies and projects, including potential for cooperation and sharing of expertise. At the policy level, the project will build upon the commitment by the Iraqi government to biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability as evidenced by the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2015-2020), which outlined 23 strategic national biodiversity targets and 34 actions spanning five years. Various Ministries, notably the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, have collaborated with multilateral and bilateral agencies on numerous projects to address environmental degradation challenges. Iraq has developed several national policies and strategies concerning climate change, environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable agriculture. Additionally, it has ratified numerous international agreements. Several initiatives have been undertaken to bolster Iraq's efforts in shaping national policies, strategies, and plans for environmental conservation and sustainable growth. Notably, the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan of Iraq, unveiled in June 2013, was a collaborative effort between Ministry of Environment, UNEP, and UNDP. GEF-funded projects through UNEP have also been instrumental in the development of Iraq's NBSAP 2015-2020 and the National Capacity Self-Assessment.

At the project level, the project will build upon several ongoing or previously implemented efforts in Iraq and account for the lessons learnt. Specifically, the project will coordinate with several project initiatives are briefly outlined in the bullets below.

- Sustainable Land Management for Improved Livelihoods in Degraded Areas of Iraq project (GEF6, \$3.5 million; implemented by FAO) which aimed to reverse land degradation, and sustainably manage land and water in Southern Iraq's deteriorated marshland ecosystems, enhancing ecosystem resilience and improving livelihoods. The lessons learned and good practices, particularly involving local communities in decision-making processes, are reflected in Components 3 and 4.
- Promotion of Integrated Biodiversity Conservation and Land Degradation Neutrality in Highly Degraded Landscapes of Iraq (GEF 7, \$4.5 million; implemented by UNEP) which targeted sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation in two Key Biodiversity Areas, Razzaza and Sawa lakes in South and Central Iraq, aiming to integrate these practices into national policies, creating a supportive institutional, legal, policy and economic environment for Protected Areas (Components 1, 2 and 3).
- Iraq Marshlands Restoration Project (\$11 million, Japan; implemented by UNEP) which aimed to re-flood the marshes, promote sustainable resource management, and improve the livelihoods of the Marsh Arab communities while conserving the unique biodiversity of the area. The project provided several valuable lessons on good practices in the field of environmental restoration, community development, and sustainable resource management which have been incorporated into project design (Components 2 and 3).
- Human and Biodiversity Resilience (Canada, \$3.6 million, 2023-2026; implemented by UNDP) which focuses on an assessment of ecosystems of the Central Marshes, and among others, enforcing regulations and laws on sustainable hunting and fishing. When complete, the project will provide

lessons from the ecosystem assessments that can be inform interventions for conducting similar studies and assessments in Anbar such as enforcement of laws on sustainable hunting and fishing (Component 1).

- Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (GEF-7, \$263,000, 2023-2025; implemented by UNDP) which aims to fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by providing financial and technical support to Iraq to the Convention on Biological Diversity in their work to review and align their national targets, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, policy frameworks, monitoring frameworks and finance with the Global Biodiversity Framework, all of which are relevant to Component 1.
- Global Biodiversity Finance Program (GEF-8, 2023-2027; implemented by UNDP) which aims to enable countries to mobilize resources at scale to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by supporting baseline diagnostics, capacity building, institutional arrangements, and development of biodiversity financing plans. Specific finance outcomes include: expenditures realigned to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity and make positive contributions towards biodiversity; future expenditures that have a negative impact on biodiversity avoided; generation of new financing targeted towards biodiversity; and cost-efficiencies made to current conservation practices that release additional finance for biodiversity. Component 1 will coordinate closely with this Program to ensure that planned development of the Anbar Province Biodiversity and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy and Finance Plan builds on national level work, including the studies, assessments and expenditure reviews and outcomes of policy dialogues that will result from this national process.

Core Indicators

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

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
388847	579467	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
388847	579467	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
Habbaniya Lake		Protected Landscape/Seascape	388,847.00	45,390.00		
Qadissiya Lake; Haditha Wetlands & Baghdadi; and the western part of		Protected Landscape/Seascape		534,077.00		

Tharthar Lake and
Al-Dhebaeji Fields

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	500	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Rangeland and pasture		500.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
11430153	10850686	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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11,430,153.00			
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Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	10,850,686.00		

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

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

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	17960	7638450	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	17,960	7,638,450		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025	2026		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

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

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

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

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	112,500	112,500		
Male	112,500	112,500		
Total	225,000	225,000	0	0

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

For the core Indicator on terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management, the project will establish 2 new PAs. PA Site 1 is comprised of three subsidiary KBA sites, namely Qadissiya Lake (no WDPA ID available); Haditha Wetlands & Baghdadi (WDPA ID 555587181); and the western part of Tharthar Lake and Al-Dhebaeji Fields (WDPA ID 17322). Each of these KBAs are geographically connected to one another with a combined area of approximately 534,077 hectares. PA Site 2 is comprised of one KBA site, namely Habbaniya Lake (no WDPA ID available). covering an area of 45,390 hectares. Combined, the total area of PA Site 1 and PA Site 2 is 579,467 hectares (CI 1.1).

The composition of the new protected area differs slightly from the PIF profile. The proposed changes better align with the overall goals and objectives of the project in several ways. First, they reflect feedback received during consultations with stakeholders and enhance project buy-in and effectiveness for conserving key biodiversity areas. Second, no new risks were identified associated with expanding the spatial coverage of protected areas. Finally, the change will contribute to the long-term sustainability of project outcomes, especially by increasing the area of land subject to improved biodiversity management practices.

For the core Indicator on the area of landscapes under improved practices, the project will engage local stakeholders in the co-development of sustainable land management practices across 11,430,153 hectares of degraded landscapes and ecosystems across Anbar. Of this total area, the project will restore 500 hectares of degraded rangeland land by replanting it with indigenous species (CI 3.1). Of the remaining 10,850,686 hectares (CI 4.3), the project will prepare a plan for future restoration activities. This will involve a) conducting a spatial analysis of degraded forests, rangelands, wetlands in Anbar to identify high priority landscapes in urgent need of restoration activities; b) convening several awareness-raising workshops for community members on sustainable land management practices such as agroforestry, soil conservation techniques, rotational livestock grazing, native species propagation, including gender-sensitive training focusing on leadership skills for both men and women; c) developing an implementation plan that outlines specific restoration activities (e.g., nature-based solutions, tree planting initiatives, assisted natural regeneration, indigenous species selection for replanting), targeted restoration areas, timelines for implementation, responsible parties involved in each implementation task, resource requirements (financial & material), and roles/numbers of stakeholders to be involved, by gender; and d) developing a monitoring and evaluation framework report that establishes methods, indicators, data requirements, reporting frequency, to assess the impact of future restoration interventions. The implementation of sustainable land management practices will be limited to passive restoration techniques such as ceasing

activities that cause harm, introducing rotation grazing on rangelands to allow vegetation to recover between grazing periods, using only native grasses, groundcovers, shrubs for soil stabilization, and other zero-cost options emerging from the plan for future restoration activities.

For the core Indicator on Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated, the Environmental externalities Accounting Tool (EX-ACT) was applied to estimate the outcomes of the project’s sustainable biodiversity management interventions on GHG emissions. A series of conservative assumptions were incorporated into the EX-ACT tool to establish a low estimate of 7.6 million tonnes of CO₂e sequestered over the life of the project (CI 6.5).

For the core Indicator 11 on people benefiting from GEF-financed investments, the disaggregation by sex was estimated by a combination of demographic data available and the incorporation of activities specifically targeted towards the inclusion of women as beneficiaries.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Increased vulnerability of protected areas to climate change impacts due to the restoration of degraded ecosystems and installation of a set of renewable energy pilot projects aimed at providing clean energy can include activities such as afforestation which increase vulnerability to climate change which can limit the adaptative capacity for local communities to deal with natural disasters. Risk mitigation: The risk will be managed by undertaking a scoped ESIA that will include a climate risk/vulnerability assessment such that adaptive measures will be proposed and included in the resulting ESMP.
Environmental and Social	Substantial	Vulnerable/marginalized stakeholder groups might be excluded or not meaningfully engaged in the planning activities and processes that will be implemented as part of the project due to discrimination, armed groups or poachers, fear of displacement, and inadequate enforcement personnel. Risk mitigation: Mitigation measures include a) increasing local involvement in decision-making through implementing the project’s Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Process Framework; b) developing a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM); c) Undertaking a capacity assessment of local actors/individuals, community groups and SMMEs and providing needed training; d) ensuring participation of all stakeholders in project activities through implementing the SEP and GRM; e) ensuring equal representation of women and men in consultations; f) ensuring technical guidelines reflect and address the identified needs of women; g) integrating sex-disaggregated data into the IMET framework; and h) creating cooperatives that engage women in activities.

Political and Governance	Moderate	Low political interest in the prioritization of sustainable biodiversity management. Mitigation Measure: There will be an emphasis during project on engagement of local authorities through capacity building and awareness-raising activities.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Low political interest in the prioritization of sustainable biodiversity management coupled with frequent changes in leadership and staff turnover in Government agencies render risk as moderate. Mitigation Measure: Several activities in Outcome 1.1 are incorporated into project design that are intended to ensure the mainstreaming of project results into institutional arrangements and policymaking regarding biodiversity management.
Technological	Moderate	Project activities may not be fully aligned with future biodiversity programming other governorates and will need to be carefully structured and communicated to ensure complementarity with other ongoing terrestrial/aquatic focused projects in neighboring governorates. Mitigation Measure: UNDP enjoys good functional relations with all parallel projects, if not directly leading them.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Government in-kind co-financing contributions are not forthcoming in a timely manner. Mitigation Measure: The project is built on a participatory approach with the government which is reflected in project design. The in-kind co-financing levels was negotiated during the PPG phase and will be re-confirmed prior to project launch.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	Change in leadership in relevant government agencies accompanied by high staff turnover. Mitigation Measure: The project will establish a Project Steering Board/Committee to ensure that agreements reached during the PPG Phase remain in place through the duration of the project, with detailed TORs serving as the roadmap for ensuring the capacity for implementation.
Fiduciary	Low	Government management of agreed-upon cash transfers received from UNDP are not managed according to high fiduciary standards. Mitigation Measure: The project is set up under the Direct Implementation modalities which includes strict controls and oversight of the way transferred funds are managed by the government.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Failure of government partners to resolve any conflicts that emerge between public, private and civil society related stakeholders. Mitigation Measure: All relevant stakeholders will be involved from the start to strengthen local commitment to the changes advanced by project activities. The Project Steering Board/Committee will also play an important role in high level coordination and political support for the project.
Other	Low	The project does not anticipate a pipeline of bankable projects or investor ready enterprises. Mitigation Measure: Not applicable.

Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	The project is designed to build upon past and ongoing projects and is supported by the Anbar Governorate to ensure its success. However, given the current political and economic challenges in the country, the overall risk classification is deemed Substantial.
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C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

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

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

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project is aligned specifically with Objective 1 of the GEF-8 Biodiversity focal area strategy, namely to improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems (Goals A and B of the GBF). The project is focused on increasing the resilience of ecosystems in the Anbar Governorate by mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem management considerations into environmental land use planning and land management strategies and practices to achieve goals regarding landscape restoration and sustainable management. The project is closely aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2015-2020) and represents strategic action in pursuit of Iraq’s 23 strategic national biodiversity targets.

The project will represent the first GEF-financed project in Iraq to quantify the economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the new protected areas in monetary terms using the methodologies and guidance provided by the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) initiative. Several innovative activities are integrated into the project design such as adopting the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) for monitoring the effectiveness of implementation of the biodiversity management plan implementation and as a basis to inform future management decisions in the two new protected areas. Moreover, the improved management practices to be developed and applied to over 11 million hectares will serve as examples that can be upscaled to other areas of Iraq.

The project contributes to several targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Specifically, it aligns with Target 1 by supporting the protection of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, which are critical for biodiversity and climate resilience. It also addresses Target 2 by integrating biodiversity considerations into policies and planning processes at both the governorate and national levels, ensuring that sustainable biodiversity management activities are aligned with Iraq’s broader environmental and developmental goals. The project contributes to Target 3 by the establishment of two new protected areas totaling over 400 thousand hectares in coverage. It supports Target 11 by enhancing the effective management of the two new protected areas, directly supporting the adoption and integration of biodiversity protection/management tools for biodiversity conservation and by strengthening the capacity of local communities and stakeholders to participate in biodiversity conservation and sustainable biodiversity management practices. Finally, it contributes to Target 20 by facilitating knowledge sharing and adaptive management and support innovation in land restoration practices. The project will also contribute to UNDP’s Nature Pledge, which underpins the organization’s commitment to support over 140 countries to reach their ambitious targets in the context of the GBF. This is summarized in the table below:

Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	Project alignment with KMGBF targets
<p>TARGET 1 Ensure that all areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.</p>	<p>Activities undertaken under Output 1.1.1 shall support the development of enhanced legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for inclusive and integrated management of biodiversity, critical landscapes, and ecosystems.</p>
<p>TARGET 2 Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.</p>	<p>Activities undertaken as part of Output 3.1.1 will support the restoration of degraded landscapes and ecosystems (forests, rangelands, wetlands) in Anbar using nature-based solutions and the active involvement of local communities, with improved management practices for over 11million hectares of degraded landscapes and ecosystems in accordance with a management plan.</p>
<p>TARGET 3 Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.</p>	<p>Activities undertaken as part of Output 2.2.2 will contribute to the establishment of two new protected areas with sustainable management plans developed for each protected area through an inclusive process that involves local communities and civil society organizations, with key priority actions implemented in each protected area</p>
<p>TARGET 11 Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.</p>	<p>Activities undertaken as part of Output 2.1.1 will provide ecosystem assessments and valuations of the new protected areas in support of effective evidence-based management decision-making to strengthen protection and conservation status of species, critical habitats and ecosystems. These activities will enhance the understanding of local communities of the nature and value of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>
<p>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 scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.</p>	<p>Activities undertaken as part of Output 4.1.1 will lead to an enhanced knowledge sharing system for communicating lessons learned and project results/impacts, including ways to leverage multiple media options such as blog posts, podcasts, webinars, etc for disseminating content and promoting networking around biodiversity conservation.</p>

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only; No

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

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

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	High or Substantial		
	High or Substantial		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

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

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

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

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER). The project's socio-economic benefits will accrue at the individual (household level) as well as at the collective community level and will include the following:

- *Awareness raised.* The project will develop an increased awareness of the value of ecosystem services by local populations to be achieved through the active and direct involvement of the communities affected by, or at risk from degraded landscapes
- *Support to natural resource dependent households.* The project will lead to a reduction of poverty among natural-resource dependent sections of society in Anbar, especially for women and the rural poor.
- *Increased agricultural yields.* The project will improve ecosystem services and enhance local capacities which will lead to increased agricultural yields and result in the voices of women being heard.
- *Knowledge generation.* The project will establish a rigorous monitoring program that will help determine the temporal and spatial distribution of biotic elements of the new PAs, which is a critical gap in current knowledge.

- *Enhanced local capacity.* The project will support capacity building across management institutions, communities, groups, and individuals for protection, conservation, sustainable management and restoration of natural ecosystems, landscapes, and biodiversity for the benefits of nature and people
- *Pilot activities.* The project will demonstrate the role of nature-based solutions as effective tools for restoring nature, building resilience against climate change impacts and for generating socio-economic benefits that can reduce poverty among natural-resource dependent sections of society, especially for women and rural poor

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNDP	GET	Iraq	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-2	Grant	2,689,726.00	255,524.00	2,945,250.00
UNDP	GET	Iraq	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM- 1-1	Grant	863,242.00	82,008.00	945,250.00
UNDP	GET	Iraq	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-3	Grant	2,169,178.00	206,072.00	2,375,250.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						5,722,146.00	543,604.00	6,265,750.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

150000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
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UNDP	GET	Iraq	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-2	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
UNDP	GET	Iraq	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-2	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
UNDP	GET	Iraq	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Iraq	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,000,000.00
UNDP	GET	Iraq	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
UNDP	GET	Iraq	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,430,000.00
Total GEF Resources					6,430,000.00

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-2-1	GET	2,689,726.00	5598760
CCM-1-1	GET	863,242.00	1866250
LD-3	GET	2,169,178.00	4534990
Total Project Cost		5,722,146.00	12,000,000.00

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

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	12000000

Total Co-financing				12,000,000.00
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Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Recurrent expenditures portion of the co-financing:

The total in-kind co-financing amount is USD 12,000,000, all of which will be contributed by the Ministry of Environment. No parallel co-financing from other project is anticipated for the project. Owing to the difficult economic situation of the country and changes in the global donor landscape, the level of confirmed cofinancing is lower than the level anticipated at the PIF stage. The project development team will continue to work on the identification and confirmation of cofinancing options during the review process up to CEO endorsement of the project.

The project ensures long-term cost-effectiveness by establishing a gender-responsive approach to enhancing the legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for inclusive and integrated management of biodiversity, critical landscapes, and ecosystems in the Anbar Governorate. By integrating sustainable biodiversity management principles into policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks (Outcome 1.1), the project reduces future environmental damage and associated restoration costs.

Ecosystem assessments and valuation of targeted PAs and KBAs (Outcome 2.1) will enhance the understanding of the nature and value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the new protected areas (Output 2.1.1); improve the technical framework for sustainable management of rangelands, woodlands, wetlands, and protected areas (Output 2.1.2); increase organizational learning, information sharing, and collaboration among government decisionmakers on biodiversity conservation planning (Output 2.1.3); and empower local communities, CSOs, youth and women’s groups for sustainable biodiversity management and protection (Output 2.1.4). The establishment of two new PAs, together with the development and implementation of sustainable management will improve decision-making; enhance conservation outcomes; and achieve short- and long-term biodiversity targets (Outcome 2.2)

Implementing improved management practices (Outcome 3.1) will involve community-led targeted restoration interventions in degraded landscapes and ecosystems such as forests, rangelands, and wetlands through nature-based solutions, including tree planting initiatives that actively engage both men and women (Output 3.1.1); results in the enhanced capacity of local actors/individuals, community groups and SMMEs to collaborate with government agencies in co-management of protected and rehabilitated biodiversity areas (Output 3.1.2). The strengthening of local livelihoods and incomes from sustainable use practices and alternative income generating activities will alleviate pressure on natural resources, enhance productivity, and build climate resilience (Outcome 3.2).

Finally, the creation of a knowledge management platform (Output 4.1.1) will enhance data-driven decision-making, improving cost efficiency in biodiversity conservation and public awareness initiatives. These integrated approaches ensure sustainable economic and environmental benefits, reducing long-term costs for ecosystem management and resilience building.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	4/24/2025	Nancy Bennet		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	4/24/2025	Min Htut Yin		min.htut.yin@undp.org

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

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

Name of GEF OFF	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Jasim Abdulazeez Humadi	Deputy Ministry for Environment Affairs	Ministry of Environment	9/11/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

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

Project Results Framework						
Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal (s):						
SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere						
SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture						
SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls						
SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all						
SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns						
SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts						
SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss						
Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework: By 2029, people in Iraq, particularly women, girls, youth, and vulnerable populations, live in a clean, healthy, safe, and resilient environment and have increased resilience to climate change impacts and disaster risks (under Strategic priority 3. Environment and climate change resilience in the UN Cooperation Framework Results Matrix)						
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:						
Output 1.2. Capacity of key government institutions to formulate and implement national strategies, policies, and institutional reforms for green and inclusive development (GID) strengthened.						
Output 2.1. Natural resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity and livelihoods						
Output 2.3. Public and private sector institutions can uphold environmental and pollution-related international conventions, legislation, standards, and regulations for a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.						
Project title and Quantum Project Number: Restoration and Conservation of Key Biodiversity Areas and Ecosystems in Anbar Governorate, Iraq						
Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 20 indicators)	Data Source	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Data Collection Methods	Risks/assumptions
Project Objective:	To enhance the resilience of Anbar Governorate's ecosystems by restoring and conserving key biodiversity areas, and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management into land use policies, strategies and practices					
	Mandatory Indicator 1: # of direct project beneficiaries	Project records	0	Direct: 125,000 (over 50% females) Indirect 750,00	Direct: 225,000 (over 50% females) Indirect 1,561,407	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting minutes & records Participatory rural appraisal

	disaggregated by sex (individual people) (GEF Biodiversity Core Indicator #11)			(50% females)	(50% females)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation records Surveys and questionnaires 	
	Mandatory Indicator 2: Area (ha) of protected areas created or under improved management (GEF Biodiversity Core Indicator #1)	Project records	0	200,000	579,467	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geospatial Analysis Field Surveys Transect Sampling Participatory mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse public perceptions Land tenure conflicts Reduced economic opportunities Management barriers
	Mandatory Indicator 3: Area (ha) under sustainable land management practices (GEF Land Degradation Core Indicator #4)	Project records	0	5,000,000	10,850,686	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geospatial Analysis Field Surveys Transect Sampling Participatory mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competition for resources Policy & Regulatory bottlenecks Overreliance on specific techniques Disruption of existing social structures and practices
	Mandatory Indicator 4: Greenhouse gas emissions reduced/avoided (tCO ₂ e) (GEF Climate Change Core Indicator #6)	EX-ACT tool	0	0	7,638,450 tonnes CO ₂ e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline emissions assessment Surveys and questionnaires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaccurate data Measurement challenges in establishing baseline emissions
Project component 1	Enabling environment established at national and sub-national levels (Anbar Governorate) to enhance integrated natural resources management and facilitate increased investments in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, sustainable use and restoration						
Project Outcome 1.1:	Indicator 5: Number of strategies for Protected Areas developed,	Ministry of Environment	12 current strategies	6 current strategies reviewed/updated	12 current strategies reviewed/updated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Inventories Habitat and Ecosystem Assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor data quality Resource Constraints

Strengthened policies, regulatory and governance frameworks for effective biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and ecosystem restoration	updated, or revised						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder Conflicts
	Indicator 6: Timeliness of Updates to biodiversity legal frameworks in response to new scientific evidence or changing environmental conditions	Ministry of Environment	3 current legal frameworks (1- Environmental Protection Law No. 27 of 2009; 2- Wildlife Protection Law No. 7 of 2009	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews and surveys Framework policy analysis against best global practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviewer and/or response bias Logistical challenges Inadequate Engagement with Local Communities Marginalization of vulnerable groups Economic displacement
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1	<p>Output 1.1.1: Enhanced legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for inclusive and integrated management of biodiversity, critical landscapes, and ecosystems (CI 4.3)</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: Establishment of a participatory and women-responsive national spatial and land use planning framework in support of an Integrated Land Use Plan for Anbar Governorate (CI 4.3)</p> <p>Output 1.1.3: Establishment of a provincial strategy and finance plan for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration aligned with national efforts to create Iraq's Biodiversity Finance Plan (Aligned with GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy Objective 3: Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity)</p> <p>Output 1.1.4: Improved financial framework to protect Anbar's biodiversity and ecosystems (Aligned with GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy Objective 3: Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity)</p>					NA	NA
Project component 2	Protected Areas established and Anbar Governorate Key Biodiversity Area management strengthened through comprehensive planning, financing, and adaptive co-management approaches						
Project Outcome 2.1: Ecosystem assessments and valuation of targeted PAs and KBAs, for effective evidence-based management decision-making to strengthen	Indicator 7: Percentage completion of composite ecological integrity assessments based on inventories, threat assessments, calculated biodiversity indices, and ecosystem service valuations in targeted PAs and KBAs	Results of ecological profiles for all potentially protected areas and available biodiversity databases.	0	40%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field surveys Remote sensing Camera traps Habitat Assessment Forms & Checklists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data inaccuracies Rapid environmental changes Resource limitations

protection and conservation status of species, critical habitats and ecosystems	Indicator 8: Percentage of completion of demographic data for local communities in and around proposed Protected Areas.	Results of demographic profiles for all potentially protected areas and available demographic databases.	0	40%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews and Local Knowledge Gathering Participatory Mapping Participatory Rural Appraisal Tracked as contributing ingredient of ecosystem valuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of stakeholder engagement Resistance from local populations Economic displacement
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Output 2.1.1: Enhanced understanding of the nature and value of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all potentially protected areas in Anbar Governorate (i.e., Haditha Wetlands & Baghdadi; Tharthar Lake & Al-Dhebaeji Fields; Habbaniya Lake, and Qadissiya Lake) Output 2.1.2: Improved technical framework for sustainable management of rangelands, woodlands, wetlands, and protected areas Output 2.1.3: Increased organizational learning, information sharing, and collaboration among government decisionmakers on biodiversity conservation planning' (Aligned with GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy Objective 3: Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity) Output 2.1.4: Empowered local communities, CSOs, youth and women's groups for sustainable biodiversity management and protection (Aligned with GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy Objective 3: Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity) 					NA	NA
Project Outcome 2.2 New Protected Areas established, management plans developed and operational capacities in place for effective Protected Area management in Anbar Governorate	Indicator 9: Number of new Protected Areas Established	Ministry of Environment, Anbar Governorate	0	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geospatial Analysis Boundary Delimitation Surveys Legal/Administrative Data Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential Undermining by External Interests Enforcement Challenges Bureaucratic Hurdles
	Indicator 10: Number of Management Plans completed	Results of the management plan development process, including resource allocations for implementation	0	1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community consultations Socio-Economic Assessments Participatory Mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor Communication Strategies Conflicting Interests Inadequate Stakeholder Involvement
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Output 2.2.1: Strong local community consensus for the designation of two new protected areas (CI 1.1) Output 2.2.2: Sustainable management plans developed for 2 protected areas through an inclusive process, with key priority actions implemented in each protected area (CI 1.1) 					NA	NA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Output 2.2.3: Adoption of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) for monitoring the effectiveness of management plan implementation and to inform future management decisions in the two new protected areas (CI 1.1) Output 2.2.4: Enhanced local and national capacity for sustainable management of protected areas (CI 1.1) 						
Project component 3	Integrated Landscape Management and enhanced resilience of natural resource-based livelihoods in Anbar Governorate						
Project Outcome 3.1: Rangelands, woodlands, and wetlands under improved practices including in production sectors	Indicator 11: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production system (GEF Core Indicator 4.3)	Ministry of Environment, Anbar Governorate	0	5,500,00	10,850,686	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field surveys GPS mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological risks (invasive Species, disruption of existing ecosystems) Inadequate planning Lack of local knowledge & expertise
	Indicator 12: Number of individuals and organizations involved in restoration of biodiversity landscapes	Ministry of Environment, Anbar Governorate	0	500	1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community workshop records Surveys and questionnaires Field visits and observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Opposition Coordination challenges Conflicting objectives of groups & individuals
Outputs to achieve Project Outcome 3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Output 3.1.1: Restoration of degraded landscapes and ecosystems (forests, rangelands, wetlands) in Anbar using nature-based solutions and the active involvement of local communities (CI 4.3) Output 3.1.2: Enhanced capacity of local actors/individuals, community groups and SMMEs to collaborate with government agencies in co-management of protected and rehabilitated biodiversity areas (CI 4.3) 					NA	NA
Project Outcome 3.2: Strengthened local livelihoods and incomes from sustainable use practices and alternative income generating activities that alleviate	Indicator 13: Number of renewable energy pilot projects installed for sustainable farming and agri-food solutions		0	1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field visits and observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Use Conflicts Technology unreliability Higher than anticipated initial costs
	Indicator 14: Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration (GEF Core Indicator 3.1)	Project workshop records		250	500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project activity records Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community disappointment if agroforestry expectations not met External support inadequate
			0				

pressure on natural resources, enhance productivity, and build climate resilience							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption of existing ecosystems • Land use conflicts / economic displacement
	Indicator 15: Number of individuals participating land base and training workshops regarding the establishment of cooperatives or partnerships for agroecological goods and services (GEF Core Indicator 11)	Project workshop records	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56,250 men • 56,250 women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 112,500 men • 112,500 women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community workshop records • Surveys and questionnaires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misinformation risk • External support inadequate
Outputs to achieve Project Outcome 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 3.2.1: Installation of a set of renewable energy pilot projects aimed at providing clean energy options for sustainable farming and agri-food solutions (CI 4.3) • Output 3.2.2: Awareness raised about alternative income generation opportunities targeting women and female-headed households • Output 3.2.3: Enhanced capacity for marketing for local agroecological goods and services, including those linked to conservation and restoration investments (CI 4.3) 					NA	NA
Project component 4	Realized Monitoring, Evaluation, and Social and Environmental Standards Safeguards						
Project Outcome 4.1: Project-generated knowledge and lessons shared, and results and impact communicated and disseminated for wider learning	Indicator 16: Knowledge sharing system for communicating lessons learned and project results/impacts	Project records	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 knowledge management framework report for sharing knowledge • Up to 3 written narratives and/or video testimonials from stakeholders • Up to 2 case studies of the pilot projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 6 written narratives and/or video testimonials from stakeholders • Case studies of the pilot projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys and questionnaires • Social media & online platforms analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data privacy and security risks • Resistance to participation • Inadequate quality and relevance of information

	Indicator 17: Number of individuals participating in knowledge sharing events to foster networking collaboration opportunities	Project workshop records	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 men • 250 women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 men • 500 women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community workshop records • Surveys and questionnaires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant disappointment if expectations not met • External support inadequate
Outputs to achieve Project Outcome 4.1	Output 4.1.1: Enhanced knowledge sharing system for communicating lessons learned and project results/impacts (Aligned with GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy Objective 3: Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity)					NA	NA
Project Outcome 4.2: Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and SES policies realized	Indicator 18: Percentage activity completion rate	Project M&E framework/plan report identifying all activities (i.e., indicators, data collection methods, roles & responsibilities)	0%	100%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document Review/Desk Research • Online Data Collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Quality Issues • Poorly Defined Indicators • Lack of adequate stakeholder engagement
	Indicator 19: Percentage of identified risks assessed for impact and likelihood	Project-level safeguards and risk management plan	0%	50%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops/Consultations • Document Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of adequate stakeholder engagement • Incomplete risk identification • Overreliance on quantitative metrics
Outputs to achieve Project Outcome 4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 4.2.1: An effective project M&E plan for monitoring progress and identifying management issues (Aligned with GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy Objective 3: Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity) • Output 4.2.2: An effective project-level safeguards and risk management plan that ensures stakeholder engagement and empowers women and youth (Aligned with GEF-8 Biodiversity Strategy Objective 3: Increase mobilization of domestic resources for biodiversity) 					NA	NA

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

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

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed

International Consultants	102,282.00	18,600.00	79,220.00
Local Consultants	24,500.00	17,348.17	1,334.49
Travel	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Audio Visual & Print Prod Costs	858.00	0.00	0.00
Trainings, workshops	17,360.00	0.00	0.00
Total	150,000.00	35,948.17	80,554.49

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Qadissya Lake	34.4	42.1	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Haditha Wetlands & Baghdadi	33.9	42.5	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Westren Part of Tharthar lake and Al- Dhebaeji Fields	34.3	43.2	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Habbaniya Lake	33.2	43.5	

Location Description:

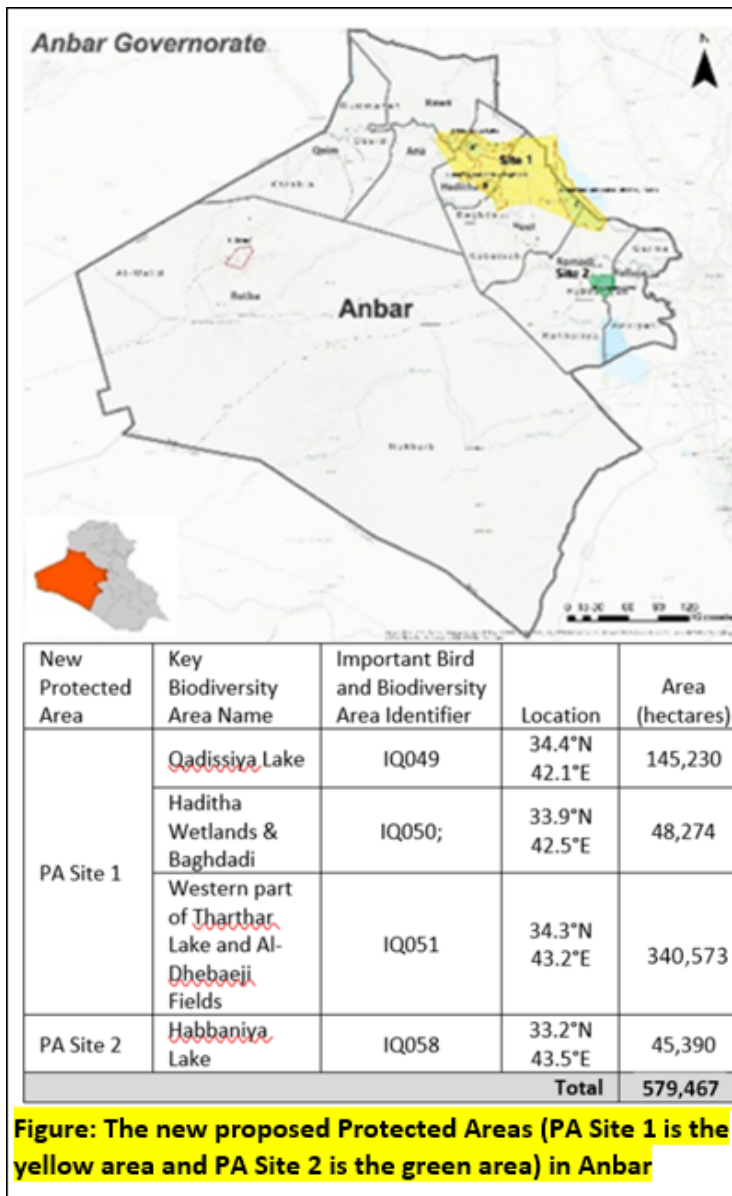
Activity Description:

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

The project will support the Government of Iraq on the establishment of new 1st initial Protected Areas Network (PAN) in western Iraq which be connected to the current PAs in the Middle Euphrates region in central Iraq. By declaring two new PAs, the national PAN area size is expected and extrapolated to expand to about 1,341,347 hectares/3.1% coverage.

The project will establish two new PAs in the Anbar Governorate of western Iraq with a total area of 579,467 hectares. The location of the new protected areas is provided in the map of Figure 3, with additional information provided in the table below the map.

PA Site 1 (yellow-shaded area in Figure at right) is comprised of three (3) subsidiary KBA sites. Each of the KBAs is geographically monotonous and connected to one another and situated in the northeastern part of Anbar. PA Site 2 (see green-shaded area in Figure at right) is comprised of one (1) KBA site, which is an important wetland situated in eastern part of Anbar.



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

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

Title

Gender Action Plan

Annex 7 Stakeholder engagement plan_REV_24

Annex 8 ESMF_REV_SES_24

Annex 5 SESP_REV_14

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)										Total (USD eq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)	
		Component 1	Component 2		Component 3		Component 4		Sub-Total	M&E	PMC			
		Outcome 1	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2	Outcome 4.1	Outcome 4.2	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC			
Equipment	Contract for monitoring equipment associated with Goods & materials (improved practices) with a total contractual value of USD 27,750 in the first year.		27,750							27,750			27,750	UNDP
Equipment	Contract for monitoring equipment associated with Goods & materials (improved practices) with a total contractual value of USD 35,000.			35,000						35,000			35,000	UNDP
Equipment	Contract for Goods & materials (improved practices) with a value of USD 118,779. Total: USD 118,779.				118,779					118,779			118,779	UNDP
Equipment	Contract for Goods & materials (renewable energy installation) USD 145,038 in year 2.					145,038				145,038			145,038	UNDP
Equipment	Expenses associated with Communic & Audio Visual Equip @ \$1,020.4 per year for 5 years.									-		5,102	5,102	UNDP

	and 2 support biodiversity policy USD 380,000 over 5 years: regulatory assessments.												
Contractual Services - Individual	Fees for contractual service (individuals) to support biodiversity policy and regulatory assessments USD 25,000 over 5 years: support biodiversity policy					25,000						25,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Fees for a contractual service (individuals) to support biodiversity policy and regulatory assessments USD 25,000 over 5 years: regulatory assessments					25,000						25,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Fees for contractual service (individuals) to support biodiversity policy and regulatory assessments					15,000						15,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Fees and expenses for individual contractual services supporting biodiversity policy and regulatory assessments @ USD 50,000 over 5 years	50,000										50,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Fees and expenses for individual contractual services supporting biodiversity policy and regulatory assessments @ USD 20,000 per year.		100,000									100,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Fees and expenses for individual contractual services supporting biodiversity policy and regulatory			50,000								50,000	UNDP

	assessments @ USD 10,000 per year.														
Contractual Services - Individual	Fees and expenses for individual contractual services supporting biodiversity policy and regulatory assessments @ USD 5,000 per year.				25,000	25,000						50,000	50,000	UNDP	
Contractual Services - Individual	Fees and expenses for individual contractual services supporting biodiversity policy and regulatory assessments @ USD 1,300 per year.						6,500	6,500					13,000	13,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Contracts for individuals to support biodiversity policy and regulatory assessments @ USD 5,000 per year over 5 years USD 25,000 over 5 years: support biodiversity policy							25,000					25,000	25,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Contracts for individuals to support biodiversity policy and regulatory assessments @ USD 4,000 per year over 5 years USD 20,000 over 5 years: regulatory assessments							20,000					20,000	20,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Fees for 1 Contracts for individuals to support M&E activities @ USD 2,000 per year												10,000	10,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Placement of required local Project Management and Support capacities and systems for project implementation and monitoring. This include Local Project Manager (40												125,000	125,000	UNDP

	weeks/year over 5 years, costing about USD 125,000)												
Contractual Services - Individual	Placement of required local Project Management and Support capacities and systems for project implementation and monitoring. This include Local Project Coordinator (40 weeks/year over 5 years, costing about USD 75,000)										75,000	75,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individual	Placement of required local Project Management and Support capacities and systems for project implementation and monitoring. This include Local Finance officer (40 weeks/year over 5 years, costing about USD 50,000)										50,000	50,000	UNDP
International Consultants	International biodiversity policy and regulatory expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 42,000)	42,000							42,000				UNDP
International Consultants	International stakeholder engagement/safeguards expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 42,000)	42,000							42,000				UNDP
International Consultants	International institutional/legal expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 46,000)	46,000							46,000			46,000	UNDP
International Consultants	International biodiversity ecosystem valuation expert (40 weeks/year over 5 years USD 100,000)		100,000						100,000				UNDP
International Consultants	International biodiversity management expert (40 weeks/year over 5 years USD 100,000)		100,000						100,000				UNDP
International	International stakeholder engagement/saf		100,000						100,000			100,000	UNDP

Consultants	eguards expert (40 weeks/year over 5 years USD 100,000)												
International Consultants	International institutional/legal expert (30 weeks/year over 5 years USD 60,000)			60,000					60,000				UNDP
International Consultants	International biodiversity policy and regulatory expert (30 weeks/year over 5 years USD 60,000)			60,000					60,000				UNDP
	International biodiversity management expert (30 weeks/year over 5 years USD 60,000)			60,000					60,000				UNDP
International Consultants	International biodiversity field data collection expert (40 weeks/year over 5 years USD 70,000)			70,000					70,000			70,000	UNDP
International Consultants	International biodiversity management expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 25,000) - International biodiversity protection policy expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 25,000)				50,000				50,000			50,000	UNDP
International Consultants	2 International renewable energy/smart agriculture experts (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 10,000)					20,000			20,000			20,000	UNDP
International Consultants	2 International date palm experts (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 10,000)					20,000			20,000				UNDP
International Consultants	2 International agroecological markets/services experts (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 5,000)					10,000			10,000				UNDP
International Consultants	International knowledge management expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 50,000).						50,000		50,000			50,000	UNDP

International Consultants	International stakeholder engagement/safeguards expert for consulting services for SESA, scoped ESIA, ESMP and Process Framework (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 100,000) Total: USD 100,000							100,000	100,000			100,000	UNDP
International Consultants	International Consultants for M&E component @ USD 25,000 for MTR in third year and USD 25,000 for TE in the 5th year.							-	50,000			50,000	UNDP
Local Consultant	National biodiversity ecosystem valuation expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 32,000)	32,000							32,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National stakeholder engagement/safeguards expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 32,000)	32,000							32,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National biodiversity policy and regulatory expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 32,000)	32,000							32,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National institutional/legal expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 34,000)	34,000							34,000			34,000	UNDP
Local Consultant	National stakeholder engagement/safeguards expert (30 weeks/year over 5 years USD 60,000)		60,000						60,000			60,000	UNDP
Local Consultant	National biodiversity ecosystem valuation expert (30 weeks/year over 5 years USD 60,000)		60,000						60,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National biodiversity management expert (30 weeks/year over 5 years USD 60,000)		60,000						60,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National biodiversity conservation		60,000						60,000				UNDP

	expert (30 weeks/year over 5 years USD 60,000)												
Local Consultant	National landscape restoration expert (30 weeks/year over 5 years USD 60,000)		60,000						60,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National institutional/legal expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 25,000)			25,000					25,000			25,000	UNDP
Local Consultant	National biodiversity policy and regulatory expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 25,000)			25,000					25,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National stakeholder engagement/safeguards expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 25,000)			25,000					25,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National biodiversity management expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 25,000)			25,000					25,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National biodiversity field data collection expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 25,000)			25,000					25,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National stakeholder engagement/safeguards expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 20,000)				20,000				20,000			20,000	UNDP
Local Consultant	National biodiversity management expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 15,000)				15,000				15,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National landscape restoration expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 15,000)				15,000				15,000				UNDP
Local Consultant	National renewable energy/smart agriculture expert (30 weeks/year over 3 years USD 10,000)					10,000			10,000			10,000	UNDP

Local Consultant	National date palm expert (30 weeks/year over 3 years USD 10,000)					10,000				10,000			UNDP	
Local Consultant	National agroecological markets/services expert (30 weeks/year over 3 years USD 5,000)					5,000				5,000			UNDP	
Local Consultant	National knowledge management expert (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 10,000)						10,000			10,000		10,000	UNDP	
Local Consultant	National stakeholder engagement/safeguards expert for consulting services for SESA, scoped ESIA, ESMP and Process Framework; (20 weeks/year over 5 years USD 25,000)							25,000		25,000		25,000	UNDP	
Office Supplies	Expenses associated with Office supplies and equipment @ \$1,000 per year.									-		5,000	5,000	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	5 workshop-related events @ USD 23,000 per year (USD 115,000 over 5 years)	115,000								115,000		115,000	UNDP	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	5 workshop-related events using @ USD 25,000 per year = USD 125,000 over 5 years		125,000							125,000		125,000	UNDP	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	5 workshop-related events @ USD 30,000 per year = USD 150,000 over 5 years			150,000						150,000		150,000	UNDP	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	10 workshop-related events USD 20,000 per year = USD 100,000 over 5 years				100,000					100,000		100,000	UNDP	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	15 workshop-related events @ USD 20,000 per year = USD 100,000 over 5 years.					100,000				100,000		100,000	UNDP	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	5 workshop-related events USD 29,044 over 5 years.							29,044		29,044		29,044	UNDP	

Training , Worksh ops, Meeting s	Training-related activities for SESA, scoped ESIA, ESMP and Process Framework							5,000	5,000			5,000	UNDP
Training , Worksh ops, Meeting s	Training, Workshops and Confer-related expenses @ USD 6,000 per year.								-	30,000		30,000	UNDP
Travel	Travel expenses for 5 missions conducted by international consultants contracted to perform activities under Component 1 (\$5,000 for each travel).	25,000										25,000	UNDP
Travel	Travel expenses for 10 missions conducted by international consultants contracted to perform activities under Component 2 (5,000 per travel)		50,000									50,000	UNDP
Travel	Travel expenses for 4 missions conducted by international consultants contracted to perform activities under Component 2 (\$5,000 per travel) and 2 mission @ 3,625 per travel = 7,250.			27,250								27,250	UNDP
Travel	Travel expenses for 5 missions conducted by international consultants contracted to perform activities under Component 3 (\$1,000 per travel)				5,000							5,000	UNDP
Travel	Travel expenses for 4 missions conducted by international consultants contracted to perform activities under Component 3 @ 1,000 per travel and 1 mission \$2,183.					6,183						6,183	UNDP

Travel	Travel expenses for 5 missions conducted by international consultants contracted to perform activities under Component 4 @ 1,000 per travel.							5,000	5,000	10,000			10,000	UNDP
Travel	Travel expenses for M&E related site visits										10,000		10,000	UNDP
Other Operating Costs	An estimated audit cost @ USD 5,000 in the third year and USD 5,000 in the fifth year.											10,000	10,000	UNDP
Grand Total		750,000	1,282,750	1,767,250	748,779	501,221	115,544	186,500	5,352,044	100,000	270,102	5,722,146		

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

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