

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**ALG - Tassili Ahaggar Phase 2**

[Basic Data](#_Toc1)

[Overall Ratings](#_Toc2)

[Development Progress](#_Toc3)

[Implementation Progress](#_Toc4)

[Critical Risk Management](#_Toc5)

[Adjustments](#_Toc6)

[Ratings and Overall Assessments](#_Toc7)

[Gender](#_Toc8)

[Social and Environmental Standards](#_Toc9)

[Communicating Impact](#_Toc10)

[Partnerships](#_Toc11)

[Annex - Ratings Definitions](#_Toc12)

# Basic Data

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4153 |
| GEF ID | 3952 |
| Title | Conservation of globally significant biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services in Algeria's Cultural Parks - Phase 2 |
| Country(ies) | Algeria, Algeria |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Description** |
| The Ministry of Culture of Algeria is developing an important national network of cultural parks, presently covering an impressive 937,430 km2. During a first phase intervention the UNDP/GEF targeted the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar Cultural Parks. Due to its vast size and relative integrity, the Tassili - Ahaggar complex, represents a key biodiversity site in the central Saharan ecosystem and one of the prime sites in the world for desert biome conservation. With their legally protected status and official governance and management structure, there is good potential for cultural parks in Algeria to form a cohesive conservation network that will provide an effective buffer against threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, a number of systemic, operational and institutional barriers are hindering the Ministry of Culture's efforts toward improving the management effectiveness of the cultural park system. The first phase of the project had been designed to implement a comprehensive package of measures to enable an effective country-driven conservation initiative that secures global environmental benefits. In its second phase, the project has been revised to reflect emerging realities, incorporate lessons from the first phase, and align with the dual priorities of the Biodiversity and Land Degradation focal areas. The long-term solution proposed by this project is a strengthened network of cultural parks with adequate systemic, institutional and operational capacity to: (i) effectively plan and manage the cultural parks based on scientific data and information; (ii) mitigate the threats to, and pressures on, the biodiversity and ecosystem services contained within the cultural parks; (iii) effectively plan sustainable financing for cultural park management and improve cost effectiveness; and (iv) ensure better integration of the socio-economic development priorities of local resource users in the management of the cultural parks. The project will focus on improving capacities at central level in the Ministry of Culture and in two demonstration sites, the Tassili N'Ajjer and the Ahaggar Cultural Parks |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Contacts** | |
| UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser | Mr. Yves de Soye (yves.desoye@undp.org) |
| Programme Associate | Ms. Burcu Dagurkuden (burcu.dagurkuden@undp.org) |
| Project Manager | Mr. Salah Amokrane (comecaprojects@runbox.com) |
| CO Focal Point | Ms. Faiza Bendriss (faiza.bendriss@undp.org) |
| GEF Operational Focal Point | Ms. Samira Hamidi (natechesamira@yahoo.fr) |
| Project Implementing Partner | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

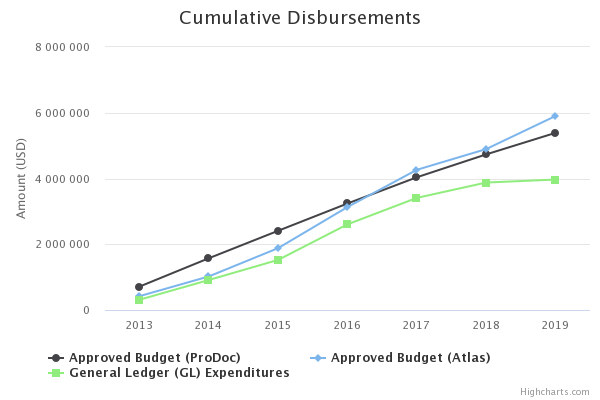
# Overall Ratings

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Overall DO Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **The national system of cultural parks in Algeria is managed to secure the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1. Ecological sustainability. Elaboration, ratification and implementation of the general management plan for cultural parks, based on the principle of "inseparability of bio-cultural heritage" [including globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services]. | (i) Biodiversity action plan developed for the Tassili n'Ajjer and Ahaggar CPs. (ii) Principle of "inseparability" ratified under law 98-04 on the protection of cultural heritage. | THERE ARE NO MID TERM TARGETS IN PRODOC | (i) The application decrees of law 98-04 formally define the procedures for the development of the general management plan for cultural parks. (ii) The first General Management Plans are developed for the Tassili n'Ajjer and Ahaggar CPs. | Building on the first set of strategic and technical documents on the CP system and management planning process, ongoing work by an interdisciplinary team of national experts, has focused on cross-sectoral consultations, formal workshops and selected field visits.  The project Central Management Unit (CMU) was designated to participate in the national committee overseeing the implementation of the recently adopted national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) [for the first time, the NBSAP incorporates the objectives, challenges and opportunities offered by the national system of Algerian cultural parks, alongside those offered by the national system of protected areas].  A first set of action plans for the conservation of biocultural resources is under preparation for the (i) Tindouf, (ii) Saharan Atlas and (iii) Touat-Gourara Tidikelt CPs. | The proposal for an Executive Decree determining the terms and conditions for the formulation, validation and implementation of the General Management Plan (GMP) of Cultural Parks (CPs) was finalized in May 2019. The proposed decree, composed of 47 articles organized in 7 chapters, is now ready for final discussion and transmission to the General Secretariat of the Government (SGG).  Algerian CPs are established and managed by the Ministry of Culture (MoC) under law 98-04 on the conservation of cultural heritage. With the overarching objective of protecting, safeguarding and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage, which law 98-04 defines as inseparable, the proposed decree stipulates the norms and procedures covering the following key elements of the GMP: (i) baseline inventories of natural and cultural heritage resources; (ii) spatial structuring and zoning of CPs ; (iii) measures for the conservation, protection and promotion of the natural and cultural heritage; (iv) human, financial and technical resources required for implementation of the GMP.  The preparation of a first set of management plans for the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar cultural parks, has been initiated, following the emerging guidelines for the planning and management of cultural parks in Algeria. As soon as the decree for the implementation of Law 98-04 on the General Management Plans is ratified, it is envisaged that the management plans for the two CPs will be readjusted, in accordance with the regulatory text finally approved.  The latest national biodiversity strategy and action plan 2016 - 2030 (NBSAP), to which the PPCA has made significant contributions (see previous PIRs), formally recognizes the CP system and the need for the conservation of biodiversity resources within the CPs. While law 11-02 on protected areas (PAs) does not apply to CPs, as explicitly stated in article 16, the two systems operate alongside, coordinating key activities implemented under the umbrella of the NBSAP. |
| 2. Institutional sustainability. A permanent body is established to supervise the management of the national system of cultural parks in Algeria. | Algerian cultural parks are currently individually managed through dedicated institutions for each CP. | *(not set or not applicable)* | A permanent body for the management of Algerian CPs established with permanent staff and adequate technical and financial resources to carry out its missions. | A key milestone has been achieved, securing the technical and financial sustainability of project outcomes: all staff belonging to the Central Management Unit (CMU), established with project support to coordinate work in the five Algerian CPs, have been formally integrated into the civil service and are on the government’s payroll as from the 1st of October 2017. The CMU, is now ready to become a permanent body, dedicated to the future planning and management of the national system of cultural parks.  In addition, two new inter-ministerial decrees, developed with project support, stipulate that CP biodiversity conservation functions are to be strengthened through the recruitment of a further one hundred (100) ecologists and one hundred (100) agronomists, to be integrated as permanent staff of the national CP system. | The Central Management Unit (CMU), with its complement of technical and administrative staff now fully integrated into the public civil service (total of 16 staff members), is now adequately structured to play its role as the permanent body, dedicated to the planning and management of the national system of Algerian cultural parks.  During the current reporting period, three further officers, specialized in the areas of biodiversity, communication and sustainable tourism, have been recruited. As for the rest of CMU staff, recruitment was conducted according to a salary grid aligned with that of the Ministry of Culture (MoC), following the procedures that ensure their seamless integration into the civil service.  Based on the ratification of two inter-ministerial decrees developed with project support in 2018, which stipulate the recruitment of 200 new staff for the national CP system (see previous PIR), a first group of 36 engineers and technicians has been approved for recruitment during the 2019 budget year.  Through the auspices of the CMU, a dedicated group is being formally instituted to reinforce MoC capacity to monitor and oversee the management of the CP network at national level. The group will be composed of 10 members, with 4 drawn from MoC central directorates, 5 from the CP Bureaus at site level and 1 from the CMU.  Two major deliverables have been completed, as part of the project’s efforts to mainstream specialized modules dedicated to cultural parks into the national training and educational curricula. The results of a comprehensive expertise to integrate such elements, were presented respectively on 4 and 22 April at working sessions with the Ministry of Vocational Training and Education (MFEP). The preliminary results of the expert appraisal were discussed as well as the next steps for their implementation. A first attempt to operationalize the vocational training program was launched in the Tindouf wilaya on May 30, 2019, in cooperation the MFEP and the national network of educational professionals (INFEP). |
| 3. Sociocultural sustainability. Capitalisation of traditional knowledge cycles, particularly ecological know how within the PCs. | Traditional ecological knowledge in Algerian CPs is poorly codified and capitalized. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Educational tools adopted for extracurricular school activities in the concerned wilayas, incorporate traditional ecological knowledge. | Traditional ecological knowledge is being investigated and catalogued as part of project-supported initiatives in the five Algerian cultural parks. This is being achieved through a variety of ongoing assessments to support the development of biocultural action plans for individual CPs, and conservation plans for flagship species such as cheetah and African wild dog.  A first set of educational tools incorporating elements of traditional ecological knowledge from the Tassili n’Ajjer – Ahaggar region, have been handed over for publication and printing by the Ministry of Culture.  [traditional ecological knowledge also covered in IEC tools targeting the general public, produced under Outcome 2] . | The assessment of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and its integration into environmental education and communication tools is central to the approach underlying the ongoing development of new management instruments for the five Algerian CPs. The latter include: (i) Ecocultural Heritage Plan (EHAP) for the Tindouf CP (first draft finalized in March 2019); (ii) EHAP for the Touat-Gourara-Tidikelt CP (underway); (iii) EHAP for the Saharan Atlas CP (underway); (iv) & (v) management plans for the Ahaggar and Tassili N'Ajjer CPs. (underway).  Cutting-edge anthropological techniques are systematically applied to survey TEK within CPs by focusing on recognized holders of TEK and other key actors in priority sites. The methodologies employed by all multidisciplinary teams mobilized by the project. are adapted from those successfully designed and tested specifically for the region [see: Les Touaregs du Tassili n’Ajjer. Mémoire collective et organisation sociale. Mémoires du CNRPAH. Nouvelle série N.17 Ministère de la Culture, Centre National de Recherches Préhistoriques Anthropologiques et Historiques. Dida Badi, 2012}  During the current reporting period, an initiative to capture and document TEK though audiovisual tools has been launched, with the production of 12 dedicated videos focusing on the Ahaggar CP. An expertise tasked with developing a platform for the overall cataloguing and sharing of TEK information associated with the CP system is presently being contracted.  The design has been initiated of an interactive, electronic version of three previously produced education manuals for the region (agent's guide, trainer's manual, green guidebook), with the aim of promoting their dissemination online.  A multidisciplinary technical support mission was carried out to facilitate the design and setting up of the museum and interpretation center of the Tindouf CP. The proposed design will emphasize the role of the museum as a receptacle of the history and knowledge of Tindouf and its region and a place of learning, education and communication. The interpretation facilities will unveil the culture and history of the local population, as well as their traditional ecological knowledge and know-how. It also aims to interpret the most important local material testimonies, a window on man’s symbolic, spiritual and artistic expressions from prehistory and protohistory |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **The expanding national system of cultural parks manages ecosystems and biodiversity assets in a systematized, inclusive and efficient way over 850.670 km2.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 4. Changes in capacity assessment scorecard for the national system of cultural parks. | Policy formulation    Systemic: 67%    Institutional: 67%    Implementation    Systemic: 33%    Institutional: 44%    Individual: 33%    Engagement & consensus    Systemic: 50%    Institutional: 50%    Individual: 33%    Mobilize info & knowledge    Systemic: 50%    Institutional: 50%    Individual: 33%    Monitoring    Systemic: 50%    Institutional: 33%    Individual: 33% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Policy formulation    Systemic 100%    Institutional 100%    Implementation    Systemic 67%    Institutional 59%    Individual 67%    Engagement & consensus    Systemic 83%    Institutional 33%    Individual 67%    Mobilize info & knowledge    Systemic 100%    Institutional 67%    Individual 67%    Monitoring    Systemic 67%    Institutional 33%    Individual 67% | End-of-project target levels for this indicator have already been achieved by the project’s mid-term as evidenced also by the MTR.  From an average baseline level of 44%, established during project design, the average rating increased to 67%, slightly exceeding the 66% target envisaged by project completion.  This reflects the considerable progress made by the project in supporting capacity development within the CP network, particularly through the establishment of a fully operational, permanent body, dedicated to the planning and management of the national system of cultural parks (see also indicator N.2). | The target values at the end of the project for this indicator have been met since 2018, as documented by the mid-term independent evaluation and reported in the previous PIR. During the current reporting period the capacity assessment scorecard has not so far been updated.  It is likely that with the further consolidation of the CMU as a permanent central body dedicated to the planning and management of CPs, and the ongoing enhancement of the capacities of the national system of cultural parks, by the end of the project cycle, this indicator may be well above the target level.  This may contribute to a Highly Satisfactory (HS) rating for outcome 1, which is of particular importance to ensure the achievement of the project’s overall objective. |
| 5. Financial Sustainability Scorecard | Component 1. Legal, regulatory & institutional frameworks: 51,2%    Component 2. Business planning and tools for cost-effective management: 49,2%    Component 3. Tools for revenue generation: 8,8%    Total score: 40,6% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Component 1. Legal, regulatory & institutional frameworks: 67%    Component 2. Business planning and tools for cost-effective management: 77,6%    Component 3. Tools for revenue generation:40,3%    Total score: 65,9% | In transposing data into the revised FSC template, the overall score was found to be lower than the score based on the previous template (total score 42% instead of 46%).    REVISED SCORECARD (2018)  Component 1: 61%  Component 2: 41%  Component 3: 18%  Total score: 42%    This is largely due to the nature of some of the questions, more oriented towards revenue generation and a market/business plan approach than in the original template, employed during project formulation.  The overall FSC score is very close to the baseline level. However, funding for the CP system in Algeria is highly significant and extremely sustainable for it is based on long term financial commitments by the Algerian government. In absolute terms, the total amount of funding available for the CP system has increased from $ 6,533,155 in 2010 to $ 11,184,211 in 2017. | During the current reporting period the Financial Sustainability Scorecard has not so far been updated.  As already noted in the previous PIR, the rating for this indicator remains modest. However, this does not reflect the extremely high level of financial sustainability of the national CP system, which in its present institutional form is strongly supported and guaranteed by the Algerian state (see note below).  In absolute terms, the total amount of government funds directly made available through the MoC for the core operations of the five CPs increased from $6.533,155 in 2010 to $ 11,188,158 in 2018, a net increase of $4,655,003 per annum (41.6%) over 8 years.  While current levels of state funding adequately cover present CP management and investment requirements, these may increase, once the first generation of EHAPs and management plans for the five CPs are finalized and approved.  Funding for the implementation of the 7-year Biodiversity Action Plan for the Tassili n’Ajjer and Ahaggar CPs, developed during the first phase of the project, has so far been complemented by $4,844,534 of GEF/UNDP funds earmarked under the 2nd component of the PPCA and $32,535,574 of government cofinancing mobilized to date for sustainable livelihood activities (see indicator N.15).  [Note. The FSC tool is heavily oriented towards a market-based approach that presupposes protected areas generating revenue as part of their business plans. This does not coincide with the current Algerian policy on cultural parks, which renders the tool poorly adapted to measuring the financial sustainability of the national CP system]. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Public support for cultural parks expands the stakeholder base contributing to their conservation and management.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 6. Dissemination of the CP concept among the target audience, measured through a system of periodic polling surveys. | To be defined through initial surveys / polls in terms of items dealing with the theme of CPs in Algeria:    - N. of articles in the national press (public and private).    - N. of online social networks.    - N. of visitors to the PPCA website.    - N. of cultural and scientific events.    - N. of programs on local radio stations. | *(not set or not applicable)* | An annual increase of a minimum of 10% for each category of IEC tool – for the years 2018 - 2020 (Total of about 33%) | Comparative performance data on outreach activities for Year 1 (Y1) and Year 5 (Y5), illustrate the marked progression in the dissemination of the CP concept among target audiences during the first half of the project cycle.  - N. of articles in the national press (public and private) : 6 (Y1); 84 (Y5)  - N. of online social networks: 1 (Y1); 6 (Y5)  - N. of visitors to the PPCA website : - (Y1); 4,231 visitors / 7,999 visits (Y5)  - N. of cultural and scientific events : 1 (Y1); 41 (Y5)  - N. of programs on local radio stations: 51 (Y1); 101 (Y5)  - N. of programs national TV: 1 (Y1); 23 (Y5) | At the end of 2018, the target value of a minimum 10% annual increase was achieved for 4 of the 6 sub-indicators and was exceeded by a significant margin in terms of average performance for the aggregated indicator (46.5 % annual increase compared to year 2017). The project website and Facebook page are regularly updated. During the current reporting period (S2/2018 + S1/2019), the website attracted 15,356 visits by 9,050, while the Facebook page currently has 2,304 subscribers. The first issue of a new Quarterly Newsletter "ISSALEN" was produced and disseminated in Arabic and French.  The project’s communication strategy has been updated and expanded to integrate communication activities across all cultural parks. A mediatization effort at the national and international levels is being strengthened with the support of the national public television channel (A3 for the Arab region, Canal Algérie for the French-speaking countries).  Performance data on outreach activities for the first semester of Year 6 (Y6-S1) are given below.  Final data for the indicator will be aggregated and compared at the end of the budget year.  - N. of articles in the national press (public and private) : 21  - N. of online social networks: 11  - N. of visitors to the PPCA website : 5,853 visitors / 10.014 visits;  - N. of cultural and scientific events : 60  - N. of programs on local radio stations: 42  - N. of programs national TV: 7 |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Management effectiveness at the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar Cultural Parks is enhanced.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 7. The overall score of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). | METT scores    Tassili N'Ajjer : 65    Ahaggar CPs: 61 | *(not set or not applicable)* | METT scores    Tassili N'Ajjer : 75    Ahaggar CPs: 76 | Revised METT scores (2018), based on the updated GEF BD Tracking Tool prepared for the MTR, reveal a positive trend in the progression of METT scores, which is in line with the midterm in the project cycle.  Tassili N'Ajjer CP: 70  Ahaggar CP: 70 | Revised METT scores (2018)  - Tassili N'Ajjer CP: 70  - Ahaggar CP: 70  The ratings obtained for the tool during the mid-term evaluation show a positive trend, consistent with the current stage in the project cycle.  During the first half of the project cycle, management effectiveness was enhanced largely through increased capacity associated with the recruitment and training of specialized staff and the negotiation and implementation of collaborative management agreements involving the local populations and resource users in CP priority sites. The key impacts include better regulation in the use and protection of ecocultural resources, as well as improved and more transparent management and planning at local levels (METT items N. 2, 10, 12 & 21).  Additionally, during the second half of the project cycle, the project is focusing on the development and implementation of a first generation of management plans for the two CPs as well as dedicated planning tools for priority areas such as Ramsar sites. Collectively these tools will progressively contribute to improving the management effectiveness of the two CPs as they are implemented It is anticipated that efforts underway will further enhance the impact of the project, as measured in terms of CP management effectiveness. It is likely that METT ratings for items such as N.4, 6, 7, 26, 27 & 30 will allow targets to be achieved and perhaps surpassed for this indicator by the end of the project cycle.  Two important study tours to the Coa Valley World Heritage Site (Portugal) were organized for CP managers. The visits, involving 25 staff responsible for various aspects of the management of the Algerian CPs, allowed the close examination of the Portuguese experience in the rehabilitation and management of a World Heritage site dedicated to the conservation of prehistoric rock art.  An important scientific expedition mission was carried out from 15 February to 3 March in the Immidir, one of the most inaccessible and less known sites of the Ahaggar CP. The expedition, which took place under very harsh field conditions, largely on foot and with the assistance of camels, was organized and conducted by specialized staff of the CMU and the Bureau of the Ahaggar CP. The field work focused on the collection of ecological, archaeological and socioeconomic baseline data for the elaboration of conservation and management tools for the site. The preliminary analysis of field data collected, confirms the uniqueness of the site for the conservation of the prehistoric and protohistoric archaeological heritage of the central Sahara. The site is equally an important sanctuary for the conservation of biodiversity. Overall, 73 species of flora were recorded from 33 families, including 6 species classed as rare. Initial surveys yielded a total of 57 species of fauna, including 8 mammals, 18 birds, 7 reptiles and 24 arthropods. The observation frequency for the keystone species Dorcas gazelle and wild sheep, |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**  **Conservation of flagship species in the Tassili - Ahaggar region is enhanced.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 8. Distribution of the cheetah population and density of key prey species. | First phase estimates on the presence and density of prey species (to be verified). | *(not set or not applicable)* | Cheetah distribution and the density of key prey species is maintained or improves. | The final camera-trapping field survey of the cheetah population in the Tassili n’Ajjer CP is underway.  It is anticipated that the plan for the conservation of cheetah in the Algerian central Sahara will be completed and publicly presented by the end of the year.  Monitoring data on the main cheetah prey species, Dorcas Gazelle, has been systematically collected since project inception. The overall rate of occurrence, consolidated for year 2017, was 1.26 individuals / km of observation [results based on data from Taessa and Tihodaine priority sites]. | Available monitoring data for years 2015-2018, yield a consolidated average occurrence of 0.27 poaching incidents / day of observation:  Year 2015: 0.5 /day  Year 2016: 0.1 /day  Year 2017: 0.22 /day  Year 2018: 0.25 /day    The data was collected from priority sites of Tihodaïne (Tassili n’Ajjer CP) and Taessa and Tefedest (Ahaggar CP).  During the first semester of 2019, 0.73 poaching incidents / day of observation were recorded in the Immidir priority site (Ahaggar CP).  However, the poaching rates are not directly comparable, for this data derives from a previously unsampled site, while data from other priority sites is not yet available for this year.  Baseline data extrapolated from the 1st phase of the project (Years 2003/2007), yield an average occurrence of 0.35 poaching incidents / day.  Anecdotal evidence from experienced staff operating at site level, still to be confirmed by ongoing analyses, indicate that poaching incidents may in fact be decreasing in sites where patrolling is more frequent. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 5**  **Threats and degradation of priority biodiversity conservation and Ramsar sites of the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar Cultural Parks are reduced. .** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 9. The level of poaching recorded in priority sites. | Baseline values obtained during phase 1 of Tassili-Ahaggar project to be verified. | *(not set or not applicable)* | The number of recorded poaching incidents decreases by 50%. | Available monitoring data aggregated for year 2017 in priority sites, yielded a consolidated average occurrence of 0.22 poaching incidents / day of observation [results based on data from Taessa and Tihodaine priority sites]. | Available monitoring data for years 2015-2018, yield a consolidated average occurrence of 0.27 poaching incidents / day of observation:  Year 2015: 0.5 /day  Year 2016: 0.1 /day  Year 2017: 0.22 /day  Year 2018: 0.25 /day    The data was collected from priority sites of Tihodaïne (Tassili n’Ajjer CP) and Taessa and Tefedest (Ahaggar CP).  During the first semester of 2019, 0.73 poaching incidents / day of observation were recorded in the Immidir priority site (Ahaggar CP).  However, the poaching rates are not directly comparable, for this data derives from a previously unsampled site, while data from other priority sites is not yet available for this year.  Baseline data extrapolated from the 1st phase of the project (Years 2003/2007), yield an average occurrence of 0.35 poaching incidents / day.  Anecdotal evidence from experienced staff operating at site level, still to be confirmed by ongoing analyses, indicate that poaching incidents may in fact be decreasing in sites where patrolling is more frequent. |
| 10. Rate of loss of tree cover in priority biodiversity sites (N. of trees / ha). | Average annual rate of loss of tree cover for 2000-2014 period to be determined at project start-up. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Tree cover is maintained or increases in biodiversity priority sites. | The conclusions of the remote sensing, diachronic study, represent a landmark in the understanding of ecological processes occurring in the Algerian central Sahara region.  The recently completed study confirms a clear positive trend in the expansion of vegetation cover over the past 30 years for the Tassili n’Ajjer – Ahaggar region (woody vegetation, particularly Acacia and Tamarix).  The positive progression was measured in all sample sites, with increased vegetation cover detected as a % of overall changes:  Tenagh et Torset : 66%  Tamadjert : 67%  Mertoutek : 83%  Ideless : 72%  Oued Tasentala : 96%  Tedry et Ilmane : 77%  Abalissa-Ououl region : 83%  Underlying causes of recorded changes, including the role of climate change, need to be further investigated and assessed. | The landmark diachronic study documenting the expansion of vegetation cover in the Algerian central Sahara region over the past 30 years, recently completed by the project, is being extended to other cultural parks, starting with the CP of the Saharan Atlas.  The aims are (i) to verify whether similar trends documenting the increase in woody cover over the past 3 decades are prevalent in the CPs elsewhere in the Saharan region, and (ii) to further investigate the underlying causes of recorded changes, including the role of climate change. |
| 11. Water quality on Rasmsar sites. | Baseline values for pollutants to be obtained from initial lab analyses. | *(not set or not applicable)* | To be quantified for key parameters, following initial lab analyses. | Water quality comprehensively assessed, and baseline values obtained for 24 sample wetland sites in the Ahaggar CP and 29 sites in the Tassili n’Ajjer CP, including all Ramsar sites.  Follow-up water quality monitoring initiated by technical staff on-site for both CPs. | Hand-on training sessions targeting staff from the CP Bureaus have focused on a systematic water monitoring method, including hydro-biological analyses and the monitoring of water quality in situ, through a limited number of priority parameters. A demonstration water quality monitoring mission was carried out from 2 to 6 October 2018 in the Isssakrassene and Afilal wetlands (Ahaggar CP). An ornithological monitoring protocol was also implemented in the ecosystem created downstream of the Djanet wastewater treatment plant (PC Tassili n'Ajjer).  Follow-up water monitoring is being conducted by technical staff in both CPs, based on the previous comprehensive assessment of wetland sites and water quality. Using the phytoplankton index, the trophic state of the various sites was determined: (i) 29 sites were found to be mesotrophic, 10 oligotrophic site and 14 eutrophic. These include the three Ramsar sites, Iherir and Issakarassene, which were found to be mesotrophic and Afilal which was classified as oligotrophic.  Special attention was devoted to the three Ramsar sites, with baseline values investigated for the following wider range of parameters: (i) Biological index (phytoplankton); (ii) Conductivity (μs / cm); (iii) Salinity (psu); (iv) Dissolved oxygen (mg /l); (v) Saturation rate (%); (vi) Ph; (vii) Temperature (°);(viii) Ammonia nitrogen; (ix) Nitrates (mg /l); (x) Nitrites (mg /l); (xi) Total phosphorus; (xii) MES (mg/l); (xiii) DCO.  Hands-on training sessions targeting staff from the CP Bureaus have focused on a systematic water monitoring method, including hydro-biological analyses and the monitoring of water quality in situ, through a limited number of priority parameters. A demonstration water quality monitoring mission was carried out from 2 to 6 October 2018 in the Isssakrassene and Afilal wetlands (Ahaggar CP). An ornithological monitoring protocol was also implemented in the ecosystem created downstream of the Djanet wastewater treatment plant (PC Tassili n'Ajjer). |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 6**  **Strengthened sense of ownership by resource users and other stakeholders through the implementation of collaborative management agreements reduces pressure on ecosystem functions in the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar Cultural Parks.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 12. Number of collaborative management (CM) agreements covering priority biodiversity sites in the CPs [Taessa 494 km2, Tefedest 6.085 km2, Imidir 11.160 km2, Serkout – Anhef, 19,600 km2, Tihodaí¯ne 1.404 km2, Meddak 2.445 km2]. | The preparation of CM agreements has been initiated for 5 priority sites during the first phase of the project. | *(not set or not applicable)* | CM agreements covering at least 6 priority sites are formalised and implemented. | End-of-project target level for this indicator achieved, with CM agreements in 6 priority sites formalized and under implementation.  Preparations are underway for the upgrading of existing CM agreements and their further expansion to new priority sites [as well as replicating the approach in the other three Algerian CPs]. | As previously reported, end-of-project targets for this indicator have already been reached, with CM agreements concluded and implemented in 6 priority sites: Tihodaine, Meddak Ihrir (Tassili N'Ajjer CP) and Taessa, Tefedest and Serkout (Ahaggar CP).  A key outcome of the CM process has been the ongoing strengthening of conservation-enabling institutions, which confer strong authority and status on local natural resource regimes. This has been achieved by facilitating the establishment and functioning of local management committees, with robust conflict mediation systems rooted in existing social networks. bringing together members of the local population, the local authorities and representatives from resource user groups and other government sectors at wilaya level.  Key interventions in the six priority sites, implemented with project support and government cofinancing (see indicator N.15), include the following: (i) management of pastoral water sources, creation of wells and equipment with solar pumps; (ii) reforestation schemes and improved fire protection for selected natural stands of tamarix and acacia; (iii) promotion of local camel and goat breeds for the maintenance and revitalization of nomadism; (iv) actions for the preservation of Oasis agricultural practices, creation of irrigation basins, boreholes, fruit plantations and farm tracks; (v) support and marketing of handicrafts, realization of tourist information and orientation centers, environmental awareness centers and libraries; (vi) enhancement of solid waste and wastewater treatment plants, flood control infrastructure, CP control stations, signage and solar electrification.  The extension of CM agreements to new priority sites and the replication of the approach in the other three Algerian PCs is underway.  Within the Ahaggar CP a new CM agreement is being set up in the Immidir region, one of the most inaccessible and less known sites in the park. The preliminary analysis of field data recently collected, confirms the importance of the Immidir site, as a unique sanctuary for the conservation of biodiversity and the prehistoric archaeological heritage of the central Sahara. |
| 13. Number of proposals originating from women that are integrated in the CM agreements. | Baseline values obtained during phase 1 of Tassili -Ahaggar project to be verified. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Doubling of the number of proposals originating from women integrated in CM agreements. | End-of-project target level for this indicator achieved, with the doubling of the number of proposals originating from women in CM agreements, exceeded by year 5.  Women-generated proposals in CM agreements totaled 21 in year 4, compared to a baseline value of 9 proposals originating from women in year 1.  Efforts are underway to maintain this trend while upgrading existing CM agreements and expanding them to new priority sites (see also indicator N.12). | As already reported, end-of-project target level for this indicator achieved by year 5, with the doubling of the number of proposals originating from women in CM agreements.  Further women-generated proposals are currently being developed. A new pilot project, focusing on the supply of raw material to local leather artisans, has been launched in the Ahaggar CP. In total, nearly 100 women grouped into nine associations of craftswomen participated in the development and implementation of the operation. A technical proposal for the launching of an artisanal unit focusing on medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) is also being prepared for the locality of Tarhenanet.  The aims are to empower local users to help regulate the local use of MAP resources, reducing unsustainable extraction practices by external users, while codifying and capitalizing TEK held mainly by women, which is progressively being eroded. |
| 14. Codification and capitalization of traditional ecological knowledge associated with adaptation to climate change. | Traditional ecological knowledge on adaptation to climate change are not codified [e.g. mobility of herds, pasture management. water management, medicinal plants]. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Traditional ecological knowledge on adaptation to climate change is codified and capitalized as part of CM agreements concluded. | Traditional ecological knowledge is being investigated and catalogued through ongoing biocultural assessments and the development of conservation plans for flagship species (see also indicator N.3).  The “Agdal”, a customary practice for the common management of natural resources, may be incorporated in the anticipated future upgrading and expansion of CM agreements in the two CPs (see indicators 12 and 13). | Climate change-related traditional ecological knowledge has been integrated into CM agreements through the active participation of the local population in the design of initiatives aiming to enhance the resilience to climate change (see for example interventions in the pastoral and forestry sectors, indicator 13 above)  An anthropological expertise is underway to further drive the process and document its impact. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 7**  **Alternative livelihood approaches contribute to reducing pressures on productive ecosystem services and improving socio-economic status at priority sites in the two parks.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 15. Co-financing mobilized for the implementation of eco-development actions and the fight against land degradation. | Allocated funds (to be updated):    TYPE OF ACTION | Budget    Pastoral water management | 2,918,611    Animal husbandry schemes | 900,000    Medicinal and forage plants | 1,111,111    Solar energy and alternative energy | 2,605,000    Reforestation | 883,333    Plant nurseries and seed banks | 458,333    Women's traditional handicrafts | 800,903    Sustainable tourism | 1,914,236    Environmental Education | 770,819    Other eligible actions | 1,506,944    TOTAL | 13,869,292 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Allocated funds are effectively mobilized for the implementation of eligible actions. | End-of-project target level for this indicator achieved, with cumulative co-financing totaling $26,801,126 in year 5.  This exceeds by more than $6 million the $20.803,052 committed by the Algerian government during project formulation (see PRODOC and project M&E report N.8, dated June 2018). | End-of-project target level for this indicator achieved, with cumulative co-financing totaling $32,535,574 at the end of 2018, exceeding by more than 56%, the Algerian government’s commitment to the project at formulation.  Funds are committed through the Sector Engagement Plans (SEP) adopted at the level of the wilayas of Illizi and Tamanrasset, in order to optimize the effective mobilization of technical and financial resources by the various partner sectors. Funds have been sourced through the government five-year programs 2010-2014 and 2015-2019.  Key interventions which are helping to improve people’s lives are underway in the areas of pastoral water management, animal husbandry, medicinal and forage plants, solar energy and alternative wind energy, women’s traditional handicrafts, and sustainable tourism. (see more details on key interventions for indicator N.12, above),  Further funds are currently being channeled by the government to sustainable development and collaborative management initiatives in the CPs. These interventions and their impact will be formally evaluated after the close of the current budget year. |
| 16. % of tour operators adopting the sustainable tourism charter developed for the Tassili-Ahaggar region. | Sustainable tourism charter developed during first phase of Tassili-Ahaggar project. | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 50% of certified tour operators adopt and implement sustainable tourism charter. | An estimated 17% of certified tour operators presently adhere to the sustainable tourism approach initiated by the project.  Based on the Strategic Action Plan for the development of domestic tourism in the region of Tassili n'Ajjer – Ahaggar, developed by the project (see PIR 2016), a new initiative is underway to engage the local tourism bureaus in the development of circuits targeting the national clientele and strengthen the involvement of certified tour operators during the rest of the project cycle. | The security risk for tourists visiting Algeria is being downgraded and the flow of international tourists towards the Tassili n’Ajjer - Ahaggar region is progressively resuming.  In order to mitigate the risk associated with the international tourism segment, I which may be negatively impacted by security warnings from foreign countries, the project has developed a parallel strategy and action plan for the promotion of national tourism in the Tassili n'Ajjer - Ahaggar region.  The establishment of of two pilot circuits has been prioritized: (i) "Villages & Gardens of the Ahaggar", connecting 9 villages of the Ahaggar CP and the Circuit "Heritage of Tihodaine", connecting 4 villages of the Tassili n'Ajjer CP.  During the current reporting period collaboration agreements have been formalized with the Local Office of Tourism (OLT) of Tamanrasset and Djanet.  A joint work program has formally been set up and monitoring committees established with the aim of engaging the local tourism bureaus in the development of circuits targeting the national clientele and, crucially, strengthen the involvement of certified tour operators.  To date an estimated 17% of certified tour operators in the region adhere to the sustainable tourism approach initiated by the project. It is anticipated that this number will grow significantly as current initiatives gather pace, involving the Local Offices of Tourism and civil society.  In addition, partnership agreements have been formalized with two local associations in Djanet, namely Taghourfit and Ajjer Mehari, and the International Press Center (CIP). The aim is to jointly support the development of local crafts and other initiatives promoting sustainable tourism in the region, such as those scheduled for the celebration of International Tourism Day on 25 and 26 September 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 73.66% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 73.66% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 3,968,353 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| GEF Grant Amount | 5,387,142 |
| Co-financing | 21,325,910 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 26, 2009 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Sep 12, 2011 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Oct 24, 2012 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Oct 4, 2013 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Mar 31, 2015 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Feb 8, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Apr 30, 2021 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Oct 31, 2019 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Apr 30, 2021 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-02-12 |

# Critical Risk Management

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| N/A |

|  |
| --- |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| For the record also here, in reflection of prior PIR entries: GEF CEO Endorsement was received in Sep 2011. The PRODOC was signed 13 months later in Oct 2012. The Inception Workshop took place from 2-7 October 2013. These delays were primarily caused by the slow-moving administrative processes, and the lack of project staff and the long time it took to appoint a National Project Director (nominated on 26 March 2013).    A confusion remained on whether the project had a 6 or 7-year duration but it seems that the entry of 6 years in some old documents were errors while it should have been 7 years always. The other issue at stake was from what date these 7 years should be counted, with GEF counting from the day of GEF CEO Endorsement, UNDP counting from the day of PRODOC signature, and Government counting from the day of Inception Workshop. Discussions from this confusion regarding the project’s original official closure date were finally fully settled during the 2017-2018 reporting period through a project extension, which fixed the new closure date for 30 April 2021 and was approved by UNDP-GEF HQ in May 2018. The postponement of closure also delayed the Terminal Evaluation to late 2012/early 2021.    As announced in the prior PIR, the MTR had been completed on time during the prior 2017-2018 reporting period – yet it was only submitted to the GEF during the present reporting period, with the annual MTR/TE submission cohort in Dec 2018. The management response and related action is hence still reported here in the Adjustments section. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | As the project reaches the last phase in its cycle (about 1.5 years from termination), the actual and projected impacts of the intervention are starting to emerge. Under component I the project is playing a crucial role in building a cohesive national system of cultural parks, with a comprehensive set of legal, management, planning and monitoring tools (strategic system plan, legal text on management planning process, certified staff training program, ecocultural GIS and monitoring system, etc. - see below). The Algerian CP system has expanded to five CPs, with a combined surface area of 1,042,557 km2 (about three times the size of Germany). CPs are established and managed by the Ministry of Culture (MoC) under law 98-04 on the conservation of cultural heritage, with the overarching objective of protecting, safeguarding and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage, which law 98-04 defines as inseparable.  The project has also assisted in defining national policy in the country, by making significant contributions to the elaboration of the latest national biodiversity strategy and action plan 2016-2030 (NBSAP). For the first time, the NBSAP formally recognizes the CP system and the need for the conservation of biodiversity resources within the CPs (see previous PIRs). While law 11-02 on protected areas (PAs) does not apply to CPs, as explicitly stated in article 16, the two systems presently operate in parallel, with no spatial overlap, and coordinating key activities implemented under the umbrella of the NBSAP.  At the institutional level the project has been instrumental in setting up a permanent central body to oversee the planning and management of the national CP system. With its full complement of technical and administrative staff, now entirely on the government payroll, this is a key project achievement with high impact on the effective management of the Algerian CP system. It has recently been proposed for the new central body to be formally erected as the Algerian Agency for Cultural Parks (AACP).  In financial terms, the returns on the GEF/UNDP $5.9M investment (around $4M spent so far in the intervention), appear to be considerable. Government funding for CP operations has increased from an annual budget of $6.5M in 2010 to $11.2M in 2018, a net increase of $4.6M per annum. Over the project cycle, biodiversity conservation will have been mainstreamed into an estimated $50M-$60M of government direct investments into CPs. This impact will extend over the long-term, since government funding for the PC system is guaranteed for the foreseeable future.  In addition, a further $32.5M has so far been invested by other government sectors for the implementation of eco-development actions in CP prioriy sites, exceeding by more than 56%, the Algerian government’s commitment at project formulation.  Under component II, the project is enhancing the management effectiveness of the Tassili n’Ajjer and the Ahaggar CPs, the two founding sites of the Algerian CP system. The multiple impacts, measured through the METT, show a positive trend in the ratings, consistent with the current stage in the project cycle.  Management effectiveness is being enhanced through increased capacity associated with the recruitment and training of specialized staff. Recently ratified inter-ministerial decrees, developed with project support, stipulate that CP biodiversity conservation functions are to be strengthened through the recruitment of a further one hundred (100) ecologists and one hundred (100) agronomists, to be integrated as permanent staff of the national CP system.  The project has also supported the negotiation and implementation of collaborative management agreements involving the local populations and resource users in CP priority sites. The key impacts include better regulation in the use and protection of ecocultural resources, as well as improved and more transparent management and planning at local levels.  Work currently underway is focusing on the development and implementation of a first generation of management plans for the two CPs as well as dedicated planning tools for priority areas such as Ramsar sites. The finalization of these tools will provide a strong impetus to the conservation of biodiversity within the CPs and further positively impact their management effectiveness.  Measuring the project’s direct impact on biodiversity assets in the two CPs is not straightforward. This is largely due to the inherent variability in the distribution of ephemeral resources in the Saharan ecosystem, as well as the limited sampling intensity which is actually achieved, given the scale of the two CPs. Nevertheless, monitoring data collected and being analyzed by the project indicate that the overall the ecological equilibrium in the two CPs is being maintained.  The conclusions of a remote sensing, diachronic study confirm a clear positive trend in the expansion of vegetation cover in the region over the past 30 years (particularly woody species such as Acacia and Tamarix). These findings counter received wisdom on the degradation of resources in the region and may represent a landmark in the understanding of ecological processes occurring in the Algerian central Sahara. Underlying causes of recorded changes, including the role of climate change, need to be further investigated and assessed.  An overview of monitoring data on Dorcas gazelle, consolidated over 7 years, yields a value of 0.46 individuals /km of observation, which compares favorably with available estimates from the 1960s of about 0.1 individuals /km of observation (Regnier, J., 1960. Les mammifères du Hoggar. Bulletin de liaison saharienne n° 40). In the Saharan context, the Dorcas gazelle is a keystone species, for it indicates that critical forage resources are still in place. On the other hand, as a key prey species for cheetah, it is indispensable for the highest trophic levels in the food chain. Coupled with the conclusions of the diachronic remote sensing study, the overall indications are that the ecosystems of the two CPs are still relatively healthy.  Data originating from the project’s monitoring program, seem to confirm the relative integrity of the Tassili n’Ajjer - Ahaggar ecological complex. Although it may be difficult to quantify the role played by the CPs in maintaining this equilibrium, the situation compares favorably with the status of biodiversity elsewhere in the region. Coupled with the vast size of the Tassili n’Ajjer - Ahaggar ecological complex, this reaffirms its importance as a key biodiversity site in the central Saharan ecosystem and one of the prime sites in the world for desert biome conservation.  During the current reporting period, the overall performance of the project has been solid, with concrete results being achieved or in progress under all components. For several indicators, the end-of-project targets have already been reached (indicators N.4, N.12, N.13, N.15). The cumulative disbursements, estimated at around 75% of available funds, are in line with the present stage in the project cycle. No critical risks are currently identified. The M&E system is fully functional, providing timely reports which help steer the project’s adaptive management, while generating good practices that support the development of the emerging system of cultural parks in Algeria. The management responses to the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation have been integrated into the project’s work plans, with key actions emanating from these recommendations systematically monitored and specific reports regularly shared with partners.  At the current stage of the project cycle, it is foreseen that most of the key targets will be achieved, as already highlighted in the last PIR. The overall rating in terms of cumulative progress towards the achievement of the project’s objective is confirmed as Satisfactory (S) for this reporting period. This is in alignment with ratings provided by the project's internal M&E system during the course of the current reporting period, as well as previous assessments by the UNDP country office, the UNDP / GEF regional bureau, and the independent mid-term review of the project completed last year.  At Objective level, the technical and financial sustainability of project outcomes were consolidated through the widening activities and prerogatives of the Central Management Unit (CMU). This is the structure built by the project as a permanent body dedicated to the planning and management of the national system of cultural parks. During the current reporting period, three further officers, specialized in the areas of biodiversity, communication and sustainable tourism, have been recruited. As for the rest of the staff, recruitment was conducted according to a salary grid aligned with that of the Ministry of Culture (MoC), following the procedures that have been proven to ensure their seamless integration into the civil service as permanent staff.  The proposal for an Executive Decree determining the terms and conditions for the elaboration, validation and implementation of the General Management Plans of Cultural Parks was finalized in May 2019. The proposed decree, composed of 47 articles, organized in 7 chapters, is now ready for final discussion and transmission to the General Secretariat of the Government (SGG).  Through the auspices of the CMU, a dedicated group is being formally instituted at national level to reinforce MoC capacity to monitor and oversee the management of the CP network. The group will be composed of 10 members, with 4 drawn from MoC central directorates, 5 from the CP Bureaus at site level and 1 from the CMU. The group will be tasked with developing an action plan and M&E program capable of generating reliable information to support strategic decision making with regards to the management and financing of Algerian cultural parks. It will equally be responsible for the application and regular update of system-wide tracking tools piloted during the course of the project, such as the UNDP/GEF management capacity and financial sustainability scorecards and the site level management effectiveness tracking tool (METT). The application of the latter has already been extended to all CPs in the system.  Under the project’s system-level Component I, increased management capacity for the expanding national system of cultural parks (Outcome 1), end-of-project target levels, were already achieved last year for one of the key indicators, the UNDP capacity assessment scorecard for national systems of protected areas. During the current reporting period, one of the main aspects prioritized by the CMU has been the intensification of technical support for all the five sites in the emerging national network of cultural parks. This was based on a greater mobilization of CMU resources for field missions, technical assistance, training and workshops, as well as by capitalizing the multiple experiences and lessons learned in the founding sites of the Algerian cultural park system, the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar CPs. Two important study tours to the Coa Valley World Heritage Site (Portugal) were organized for CP managers. The visits, involving 25 staff responsible for various aspects of the management of the Algerian CPs, allowed the close examination of the Portuguese experience in the rehabilitation and management of a World Heritage site dedicated to the conservation of prehistoric rock art. The key findings and lessons learned have been capitalized and disseminated for the benefit of all staff of the Algerian CP network and their partners.  Two major deliverables have been completed, as part of the project’s efforts to mainstream specialized modules dedicated to cultural parks into the national training and educational curricula. The results of a comprehensive expertise to integrate such elements, were presented respectively on 4 and 22 April at working sessions with the Ministry of Vocational Training and Education (MFEP). The preliminary results of the expert appraisal were discussed as well as the next steps for their implementation. A first attempt to operationalize the vocational training program was launched in the Tindouf wilaya on May 30, 2019, in cooperation the MFEP and the national network of educational professionals (INFEP).  The first of the three Ecocultural Heritage Action Plans (EHAP), under development for the more recently established CPs, was produced as a first draft in March 2019. The EHAP for the Tindouf CP integrates the different thematic contributions deriving from the previous diagnostics phase, clearly defining the geographic, physical, biological and human context in which the action plan intervenes. GIS-assisted mapping identifies the sub-scales associated with discrete territorial management units and priority sites. Based on the analysis of the conservation status of ecocultural resources, the action plan covers the short, medium and long term. The approach focuses on collaborative management and eco-development, while strengthening the capacities of relevant institutions and promoting a cohesive program of environmental awareness, education and communication.  Public support for cultural parks is greatly expanding the stakeholder base contributing to their conservation and management (Outcome 2). The average annual increase in the performance of communication tools exceeded the 10% target established following the MTR (see indicator 6). The project website and Facebook page are regularly updated. During the current reporting period (S2/2018 + S1/2019), the website attracted 15,356 visits by 9,050, while the Facebook page currently has 2,304 subscribers. The first issue of a new Quarterly Newsletter "ISSALEN" was produced and disseminated in Arabic and French.  The project’s communication strategy has been updated and expanded to integrate communication activities across all cultural parks. A mediatization effort at the national and international levels is being strengthened with the support of the national public television channel (A3 for the Arab region, Canal Algérie for the French-speaking countries). The project’s press relations strategy was also updated to give more visibility to cultural parks and project activities, by involving a close-knit network of journalists being formed with project support both at central and local levels. A video production training program, targeting communication staff in the MoC and the CP Bureaus, was organized, with the assistance of the Audiovisual Media Training Department within the International Press Center (CIP). A wide range of audiovisual tools were produced during the current reporting period and disseminated at dedicated events and through the social media. In order to promote the national dialogue and forum on Algerian CPs, the project organized or participated in several workshops and events covering topics such the economics of wetlands, the implementation of the forestry strategy, the evaluation of ecosystem services, rural tourism etc. The project played an active role in the International Biodiversity Day celebration on 22 May 2019, through various interventions in the national media and by joining in several activities planned by the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy.  Under the project’s site-level Component II, an important new activity has been launched, the preparation of management plans for the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar cultural parks, which will progressively contribute to improving the management effectiveness of the two CPs as they are implemented (Outcome 3). They will be formulated by multidisciplinary teams, in accordance with the emerging guidelines for the planning and management of cultural parks in Algeria. As soon as the decree for the implementation of Law 98-04 on the General Management Plans for CPs is ratified (see outcome 1), it is envisaged that the management plans of the two CPs will be readjusted, in accordance with the official regulatory text.  An important scientific expedition mission was carried out from 15 February to 3 March in the Immidir, one of the most inaccessible and less known sites of the Ahaggar CP. The expedition, which took place under very harsh field conditions, largely on foot and with the assistance of camels, was organized and conducted by specialized staff of the CMU and the Bureau of the Ahaggar CP. The field work focused on the collection of ecological, archaeological and socioeconomic baseline data for the elaboration of conservation and management tools for the site. The preliminary analysis of field data collected, confirms the uniqueness of the site for the conservation of the prehistoric and protohistoric archaeological heritage of the central Sahara. The site is equally an important sanctuary for the conservation of biodiversity. Overall, 73 species of flora were recorded from 33 families, including 6 species classed as rare. Initial surveys yielded a total of 57 species of fauna, including 8 mammals, 18 birds, 7 reptiles and 24 arthropods. The observation frequency for the keystone species Dorcas gazelle and wild sheep, were respectively 0.71 and 0.67 individuals/ km.  A further multidisciplinary technical support mission was carried out to facilitate the design and setting up of the museum and interpretation center of the Tindouf CP. The proposed design will emphasize the role of the museum as a receptacle of the history and knowledge of Tindouf and its region and a place of learning, education and communication. The interpretation facilities will unveil the culture and history of the local population, as well as their traditional ecological knowledge and know-how. It also aims to interpret the most important local material testimonies, a window on man’s symbolic, spiritual and artistic expressions from prehistory and protohistory.  Conservation of flagship species in the Tassili - Ahaggar region is being enhanced (Outcome 4). The plan for the conservation of cheetah and key prey species in the Algerian central Sahara has been drafted and is nearing completion. Work had been foreseen over 2.5 years in order to cover the two CPs across seasons. The work was delayed because the original offer to borrow camera traps from ZSL was in the end refused due to the conditionalities attached. Camera traps were then purchased directly by the project. The work, which is based on a 30-month expertise using camera trapping and remote sensing techniques was presented at the 19th meeting of the Saharan Sahel interest group (SSIG), organized in Tunisia from April 29 to May 2, 2019. Two further technical papers presented by the project at the meeting focused respectively on (i) the diachronic study on the evolution of the main ecosystems of the Ahaggar and Tassili N’Ajjer CPs assisted by remote sensing and (iii) the monitoring of the ecological status of wetlands in cultural parks. The project’s aims in participating to the international specialist meeting were to share experiences with key actors active in the field of biodiversity conservation in the Sahelo-Saharan region as well as enhancing the international visibility of efforts made by Algeria in the conservation of biodiversity within cultural parks.  A comprehensive data set is also being generated on all key prey species and other wild and domestic mammals present in the sampling areas. (12 spp. in last field mission report).  Threats and degradation of priority biodiversity conservation and Ramsar sites of the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar Cultural Parks are being reduced (Outcome 5). The landmark diachronic study documenting the expansion of vegetation cover in the region over the past 30 years, recently completed by the project, is being extended to other cultural parks. The aims are (i) to verify whether similar trends documenting the increase in woody cover are prevalent in the CPs elsewhere in the Saharan region, and (ii) to further investigate the underlying causes of recorded changes, including the role of climate change.  Follow-up water monitoring is being conducted by technical staff in both CPs, based on the previous comprehensive assessment of wetland sites and water quality. Using the phytoplankton index, the trophic state of the various sites was determined: (i) 29 sites were found to be mesotrophic, 10 oligotrophic site and 14 eutrophic. These include the three Ramsar sites, Iherir and Issakarassene, which were found to be mesotrohic and Afilal which was classified as oligotrophic.  Hand-on training sessions targeting staff from the CP Bureaus have focused on a systematic water monitoring method, including hydro-biological analyses and the monitoring of water quality in situ, through a limited number of priority parameters. A demonstration water quality monitoring mission was carried out from 2 to 6 October 2018 in the Isssakrassene and Afilal wetlands (Ahaggar CP). An ornithological monitoring protocol was also implemented in the ecosystem created downstream of the Djanet wastewater treatment plant (PC Tassili n'Ajjer).  A strengthening sense of ownership by resource users and other stakeholders contributes to reducing pressure on ecosystem functions in the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar Cultural Parks (Outcome 6). As previously reported, end-of-project target levels have been achieved for 2 of the 3 indicators set for this outcome. Collaborative Management (CM) agreements have been formalized and are under implementation in the anticipated 6 priority sites and the targeted doubling of the number of proposals originating from women has been exceeded.  A key outcome of the CM process has been the ongoing strengthening of conservation-enabling institutions, which confer strong authority and status on local natural resource regimes. This has been achieved by facilitating the establishment and functioning of local management committees, with robust conflict mediation systems rooted in existing social networks. bringing together members of the local population, the local authorities and representatives from resource user groups and other government sectors at wilaya level.  Key interventions in the six priority sites, implemented with project support and government cofinancing (see also below, outcome 7), include the following: (i) management of pastoral water sources, creation of wells and equipment with solar pumps; (ii) reforestation schemes and improved fire protection for selected natural stands of tamarix and acacia; (iii) promotion of local camel and goat breeds for the maintenance and revitalization of nomadism; (iv) actions for the preservation of Oasis agricultural practices, creation of irrigation basins, boreholes, fruit plantations and farm tracks; (v) support and marketing of handicrafts, realization of tourist information and orientation centers, environmental awareness centers and libraries; (vi) enhancement of solid waste and wastewater treatment plants, flood control infrastructure, CP control stations, signage and solar electrification.  A new pilot project, focusing on the supply of raw material to local leather artisans, has been launched in the Ahaggar CP priority sites (Taessa, Tefedest, Serkout), in order to enhance and maintain their traditional know-how. In total, nearly 100 women grouped into nine associations of craftswomen (3 associations per priority site) participated in the development and implementation of the operation. A technical proposal for the launching of an artisanal unit focusing on medicinal plants is also being prepared for the locality of Tarhenanet. The aims are to empower local users to help regulate the local use of MAP resources, reducing unsustainable extraction practices by external users, while codifying and capitalizing TEK held mainly by women. which is progressively being eroded.  In parallel, during the current reporting period, the process of renewal of the collaborative management approach was launched and is underway in the two cultural parks. The aim is to consolidate the commitment of the current signatories of the CM agreements, particularly the local authorities, the environment, water resources, agriculture and forest conservation directorates as well as the forestry research center (INRF), The dialogue also aims to extend the process to a wider set of partners - such as the tourism, handicraft, social affairs, and vocational training directorates - in order to integrate them into future agreements to be formalized.  Progress is being made in reducing the pressures on productive ecosystem services and improving socio-economic status through alternative livelihood approaches (Outcome 7). As previously reported the end-of-project target level has been surpassed for the key indicator assessing the amount of government co-financing mobilized for the implementation of eco-development actions and the fight against land degradation. Cumulative co-financing totaling $32,535,574 at the end of 2018, exceeding by more than 56%, the Algerian government’s commitment to the project at formulation.  A new initiative is underway to build on this achievement by strengthening sustainable tourism, a key sector of the local economy.  In order to mitigate the risk associated with the international tourism segment, which may be negatively impacted by security warnings from foreign countries, the project has developed a parallel strategy and action plan for the promotion of national tourism in the Tassili n'Ajjer - Ahaggar region. The establishment of of two pilot circuits has been prioritized: (i) "Villages & Gardens of the Ahaggar", connecting 9 villages of the Ahaggar CP and the Circuit "Heritage of Tihodaine", connecting 4 villages of the Tassili n'Ajjer CP.  During the current reporting period collaboration agreements have been formalized with the Local Office of Tourism (OLT) of Tamanrasset and Djanet. A joint work program has been set up and monitoring committees established with the aim of engaging the local tourism bureaus in the development of circuits targeting the national clientele and strengthen the involvement of certified tour operators.  In addition, partnership agreements have been formalized with two local associations in Djanet, namely Taghourfit and Ajjer Mehari, and the International Press Center (CIP). The aim is to jointly support the development of local crafts and other initiatives promoting sustainable tourism in the region, such as those scheduled for the celebration of International Tourism Day on 25 and 26 September 2019. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the 6th PIR of the project, the cumulative progress since the start of the PPCA project indicates that the overall DO Progress is positive and satisfactory    The Implementation Progress over this reporting period is rated as satisfactory: the cumulative financial delivery reached to date is around 4M USD equivalent to 74%, and 667 862 USD are planned for 2019. the expenditure curve is therefore progressive and logical, the project will consume the entire budget by the end of the project. In terms of co-financing, the project has exceeded the amount that has been planned and is currently working on the mobilization of additional co-financing. No critical risks are actually identified, and he project generates good management practices.    The project is totally appropriated by the national counterpart, project results contribute significantly to national biodiversity strategies and reports and the project unit participates in all events around biodiversity.  The implementation’s activities curve indicates clearly that the expected results will be achieved by the end of the project planned for June 2021.    Regarding DO Progress: At the objective level, the permanent structure that will be responsible for the management of the cultural parks ‘s network represents a key step in the life of the project, largely contributing to the technical and financial sustainability of the project's results.    During this reporting period and under the first component, the Central Management Unit, whose staff (16 members) has been officially integrated into the public service, is now ready to become a permanent body dedicated to planning and future management of the national system of cultural parks. An important inter-ministerial decree prepared with the support of the project, has been ratified (No. 30 of 12 August 2018) and allowed the recruitment, for the Cultural Parks PCs,of 100 Agronomist (50 engineers, 50 technicians) and 50 environmental /Biodiversity engineers. Also, the recruitment of a first group of 36 engineers / technicians was already granted for the 2019 budget year.    At the same time, the overall governance of the national PC system is being improved with a set of strategic, technical and legal tools, developed with the help of an interdisciplinary team of experts.    At the central management unit level and with the objective of ensuring technical sustainability, three other officials, specialized in the fields of biodiversity, communication and sustainable tourism, have been recruited which further strengthens the Central Management Unit    A group of 10 members of which 4 from the central directorates of the Ministry of Culture, 5 from the cultural parks offices and 1 from the central management unit is formally established to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry to monitor and supervise the management of the cultural parks network at the national level.    Following the 10 sectoral meetings organized by the project with the participation of the representatives of the Ministry of Culture and UNDP, the expertise finalized in May 2019 led to the proposal of an executive decree setting out the terms and conditions for the development, validation and implementation of the cultural parks General Management Plan. The proposed decree, composed of 47 articles, organized into 7 chapters, is now ready for final discussion and transmission to the General Secretariat of the Government.    In terms of the certified training program, the expertise conducted in cooperation with the concerned sector has enabled the identification of specialized modules for cultural parks. A first experience for the operationalization of the vocational training program is already engaged in the wilaya of Tindouf.  Joint work with the university centers of Tamanrasset and Illizi is underway for the development of a curriculum for a new option "cultural parks". The nomenclature of the diploma course will be finalized for the academic year 2019/2020.    During this reporting year, a considerable effort in terms of technical assistance was provided by the Central Management Unit team, a large number of training courses in the different themes was provided for the benefit of the cultural parks staff, even for representatives of other sectors such as forests and water resources.    The study visits to the Coa Valley World Heritage Site in Portugal, organized in early 2019, enabled 25 executives of the Cultural Parks and Central Management Units offices to discuss the Portuguese experience in managing a World Heritage site. This exchange allowed the ministerial representatives to broaden their field of vision and learn about a different management method.    The elaboration of the eco-cultural profile of the three new cultural parks by the three multidisciplinary teams led to a first action plan for the cultural park of Tindouf covering the short, medium and long term. The approach focuses on collaborative management and eco-development, while building the capacity of relevant institutions and promoting a coherent program of environmental awareness, education and communication.    In terms of communication, the project has organized several events as part of the revitalization of the national forum on Algerian PCs, also participating in various events and national meetings organized by sectors and partner structures for example the inception workshop of the 6th national report on biodiversity, held on July 24, 2018.    In addition, In September 2018, the project team participated in a workshop with GIZ ‘GENBI Project’ on Environmental Governance to discuss the establishment of a networking between cultural parks and national parks, which will further strengthen the synergy between the different projects and parks in general    All of these actions contributed to the promotion and enhancement of the cultural park concept and the eco-cultural riches contained in these classified and protected areas in Algeria. This is achieved by: (i) increasing the visibility of the project among its different targets and other actors at the national and international levels; (ii) the inscription of the cultural park as a category of management and protection of the patrimonies, a recommendation formulated following the participation of the project in the third ordinary session of the specialized technical committee of youth, culture and sports of the African Union; (iii) broadening the awareness and knowledge-sharing platform on eco-cultural heritage issues among policy makers, institutions, civil society, the general public and other international actors; (iv) sensitizing decision-makers on biodiversity issues to better take this aspect into account in their policies and strategies for intervention in the territory of cultural parks; (v) the popularization and promotion of biodiversity as a national heritage through the network of journalists dedicated to the ecocultural heritage, constituted by the project.    The website and the Facebook page of the PPCA project are updated regularly. The main statistics on their use are positive. the website attracted 15,356 visitors, while the Facebook page currently has 2,304 subscribers. The first new quarterly newsletter "ISSALEN" has been published and disseminated in Arabic and French.    Concerning the interventions at the site level (second component of the project), it should be noted that several thematic training sessions for the staff of Cultural Park’s Offices, NGOs and even journalists have been carried out such as training on the analysis and monitoring of water quality, training on biodiversity monitoring system, monitoring and control plans, training on GIS / database management. PC Ahaggar, Training on communication around eco cultural heritage.    As every year and in order to share at the international level the Algerian experience in the conservation of biodiversity in cultural parks, the project is participating in the meeting of the Saharan Sahel interest group (SSGI). For its 19th meeting, held in Tunisia last May, the work of the long-term expertise on the Cheetah Conservation Plan was presented.    The results of the diachronic study on the evolution of the main ecosystems of the Ahaggar and Tassili N'Ajjer PCs assisted by remote sensing and the monitoring of the ecological status of wetlands in cultural parks were also presented during this session. The expansion of the vegetation cover in this region seem to indicate a reduction of threats and degradation on priority sites and RAMSAR sites.    The process of renewing collaborative management agreements in both cultural parks is underway. These agreements will further strengthen the involvement of local populations and local authorities for a better biodiversity conservation and local wealth.    In terms of sustainable tourism, the project involved collaboration agreements with the local tourism office of Djanet and Tamanrasset. A work program has been developed and eco-tourist circuits will be developed.    In conclusion, it should be important to underline the important national ownership for this project at central and local level. The trajectory towards achieving the objectives is very positive. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the project’s 6th PIR. After implementation eventually picked up over the 2013-2014 reporting period, the positive trend already noted in the last PIRs continued.    Regarding IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS over the reporting period:    Project Management and Governance were robust, with a competent National Project Director (DNP) acting as a fully-dedicated government-assigned Project Manager continuing to assume a technically and politically strong role (e.g. linking the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment and the offices of the five targeted cultural parks). Under the Central Project Unit (CPU), five Local Project Management Unit (LPMUs) implement the project components in each of the Cultural Parks. The Steering Committee is effective in terms of monitoring, quality assurance, and ensuring accountability and cross-sectoral coordination – even though it could meet more often. The continuing support by an international CTA who enjoys a good working relationship with all involved stakeholders remains an asset to the project and helps to further ensure timeliness and quality (with international benchmarking) of implementation, M&E and adaptive management. In addition, the support from UNDP Algeria has been consistent and reliable. M&E reports include a detailed assessment of the project’s performance according to the indicators and targets in the results framework. Like in the past reporting period there were no Critical Risks to the project that required dedicated management. The M&E system is good and actively used by the project and government regarding the emerging system of cultural parks in Algeria. The management responses to the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation have been integrated into the project’s work plans and delivered.    The last PIRs highlighted one area of concern in the IP domain that required attention and improvement: the low financial delivery. After a promising improvement in the prior reporting period, this concern has returned in full in this latest period. The project’s cumulated financial delivery increased from $3,520,134 (65%) of the total GEF project grant of $5,387,142 by June 2018 to $3,968,353 (74%) by June 2019. The annual financial delivery was hence only $448,219, which at only 8% of the project grant is too limited and raises questions as to whether the project can deliver the assigned resources on time even by the already-postponed project closure of 30 Apr 2021 - the project has only little more than 1 ½ years left to spend the remaining c. $1.4 million. To some degree this may be linked to the fact that the Government continues to mobilise and commit significant domestic co-financing resources to the project, which remains remarkable but also leads to a smaller dependency on the GEF resources than seen in many other countries/projects.    Because of the concern on financial delivery of GEF resources, the RTA must rate Implementation Progress over this reporting period between MS and MU, with MODERATELY SATISFACTORY the chosen rating, with: implementation proceeding as planned with minor deviations; management of risks mostly on track; minor delays, and good project management.    Regarding DO PROGRESS over the reporting period:    While financial delivery of GEF resources led to the low IP rating, the situation on DO Progress looks more favourable. After 6 years since project inception and with little more than 1 ½ years remaining, the project has consolidated and delivered results on several fronts. The project has seen substantial appropriation by the Implementing Partner, which will help the post-project sustainability of its outcomes. The detailed explanations in the DO Progress tables and the PM Overall Assessment, elaborated between PM/DNP and CTA, speak for the volume of activities and results delivered by the project. These cannot be repeated here, and as the project results framework with its objective and 7 outcomes and many more indicators is slightly overwhelming and confusing, the RTA will instead structure and discuss the project’s key results along two main axes:    1. Establishment, capacitation, integration, financing and sustainability of the national system for cultural parks and the responsible agency.    This has seen significant progress and achievements on most fronts. The legal and institutional bases for the National System of Cultural Parks in Algeria are fully established to manage their cultural and natural heritage including biodiversity. The CP-Central Management Unit (CMU), hosted by the Ministry of Culture, is set up and adequately structured to play its role as the permanent body in charge of the planning and management of the network. The CP-CMU is equipped with 16 technical and administrative staff who are now fully integrated into the public civil service. Several hundred field staff (anthropologists, agronomists, environmental engineers/biodiversity specialist) are recruited / under recruitment to oversee and manage the 5 currently designated CPs. The capacity of national agents and other key stakeholders has been built including through a certified staff training program. The General Management Plan (GMP) of Cultural Parks decree was recently finalised in May 2019. In terms of integration, the CPs under the Ministry of Culture are mainstreamed into the country’s NBSAP and aligned to be complementary to the classic Biodiversity-PA network under the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, and Environment and Renewable Energies (noting however that the law 11-02 on protected areas does not apply to CPs). Financing of the CP network and agency will rely on classic public domestic budgetary allocations – and considering the important budgets the government was able to mobilise for CP operations ($11.2 milion in 2018), sustainable finance doesn’t appear to be a post-project concern; indeed the alignment of biodiversity with cultural objectives offers a new entry point for biodiversity/PA financing that may well exceed what these would normally be able to mobilise. The sustainability prospects for the CPs seem to be further enhanced by the recent proposal to convert the PC-CMU into a new formally designated Algerian Agency for Cultural Parks (AACP).    2. Enhanced management and protection of the 2 key founding CPs , Ahaggar and Tassili N'Ajjer    Work on this second axis is significantly more challenging and complex than on the first axis above as it involves field work – in terms of e.g. research, management, monitoring, patrolling, and stakeholder/community engagement. And of course, in an area of around 1 million km2 – several times the size of Germany – that cannot possibly be managed entirely for threats to its natural and cultural heritage. The project hence has had to identify priority areas/sites for interventions. METT scores from 2018 for the two CPs (Tassili N'Ajjer: 70 from 65 baseline; Ahaggar: 70 from 61 baseline; half-way to the project end targets) indicate a minor management improvement for both PAs, yet this is largely due to the ongoing preparation of a first generation of management plans for the two CPs with dedicated planning tools for priority areas such as Ramsar sites, and the existence of field staff and patrols. The project has prepared a Cheetah Conservation strategy, Dorcas Gazelle density has been measured, and poaching incidents have been quantified. Most surprisingly, a diachronic vegetation study determined a clear positive trend in vegetation cover (particularly woody species such as Acacia and Tamarix) in samples sites across the region over the last 30 years. The project concludes that the ecosystems in these two key CPs remain in generally good/acceptable condition and remain a globally relevant site for the central Saharan ecosystem and desert biome conservation more widely. Project-end targets have already been achieved regarding the signature and implementation of collaborative management agreements with local communities near the targeted priority sites, for whom the government and project provide “eco-development” livelihood support; these target a better regulation in the use and protection of “ecocultural” resources, as well as improved and more transparent management and planning at local levels.    However, all in all, tangible conservation results under this axis remain elusive for various reasons, including the size of the area and its remoteness (which incidentally will be the key factor allowing any vegetation or larger animal to escape unsustainable exploitation pressures). The Cheetah and Dorcas Gazelle research has been ongoing for many years in the region, wherefore the finalisation of the conservation strategies and their implementation should become a clearer focus over the rest of the project. The project’s work on tourism, while maybe sensible when the project was first conceived c. 10 years ago when more tourism came to the region, does not seem to be built on a realistic assessment of its potential in the current security context; whether the now-targeted national tourism can make up for this and contribute to sustainable development and better CP management remains to be seen. The project should equally demonstrate more clearly how and where the collaborative management agreements struck with communities – and the accompanying livelihoods support – benefit the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage in the CPs.    The overall DO Progress Rating by the RTA sits between MS and S, with a trend to SATISFACTORY which is the chosen rating. The RTA maintains the SATISFACTORY overall rating for DO and MODERATELY SATISFACTORY rating for IP calculated by the PIR system. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

|  |
| --- |
| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN2:** gender equality as significant objective |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| NA |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| As previously reported, Collaborative Management (CM) agreements have been formalized and are under implementation in priority sites, as part of the project’s strategy to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in cultural parks.  The number of women-generated proposals in CM agreements exceeds the end-of-project target level stipulated in the project’s results framework, with the doubling of the number of proposals originating from women already by Year 5.    A new pilot project, focusing on the supply of raw material to local leather artisans, has been launched in the Ahaggar CP priority sites (Taessa, Tefedest, Serkout), in order to enhance and maintain their traditional know-how. In total, nearly 100 women grouped into nine associations of craftswomen (3 associations per priority site) participated in the development and implementation of the operation. A technical proposal for the launching of an artisanal unit focusing on medicinal plants is also being prepared for the locality of Tarhenanet.    In addition, efforts initiated by the project in previous reporting periods, further contributed to transforming gender inequalities and discrimination, during the current reporting period. Female facilitators recruited by the project, lead and animate the participatory process engaging women as part of the CM agreements. Within the central CMU gender equality has been achieved with a 1:1 ratio of female to male staff.    Project efforts have resulted in the recruitment of a first batch of CP rangers, now formally integrated as permanent staff in Algeria’s civil service. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| As previously reported, the full inclusion and equitable participation of women in the planning and implementation of sustainable livelihood initiatives associated with the CM agreements, enhances their impact.    This is due to a heightened sense of ownership among local stakeholders and the possibility of developing more effective and diversified conservation and sustainable use measures in targeted priority sites.    The strong gender perspective applied by the project to address the needs and priorities of women, also facilitates the ongoing preparations for the upgrading of existing CM agreements and their further expansion to new priority sites. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

|  |
| --- |
| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| NA |

|  |
| --- |
| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| NA |

|  |
| --- |
| **SESP:** [PPCA SESP French.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4153/213104/1717653/1724194/PPCA%20SESP%20%20French.docx)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

|  |
| --- |
| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

|  |
| --- |
| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Progress is being made in improving socio-economic status in the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar Cultural Parks, through alternative livelihood approaches that reduce the pressures on productive ecosystem services. This is being achieved largely through government co-financing mobilized for the implementation of eco-development actions and the fight against land degradation. Collaborative Management (CM) agreements have been formalized and are under implementation in six priority sites to strengthen the sense of ownership by resource users and other stakeholders.  Key interventions which are helping to improve people’s lives are underway in the areas of pastoral water management, animal husbandry, medicinal and forage plants, solar energy and alternative wind energy, women’s traditional handicrafts, and sustainable tourism.  A new pilot project, focusing on the supply of raw material to local leather artisans, has been launched in the Ahaggar CP priority sites (Taessa, Tefedest, Serkout), in order to enhance and maintain their traditional know-how. In total, nearly 100 women grouped into nine associations of craftswomen (3 associations per priority site) participated in the development and implementation of the operation. A technical proposal for the launching of an artisanal unit focusing on medicinal plants is also being prepared for the locality of Tarhenanet.  A further new initiative is underway to strengthen sustainable tourism, a key sector of the local economy. In order to mitigate the risk associated with the international tourism segment, which may be negatively impacted by security warnings from foreign countries, the project has developed a parallel strategy and action plan for the promotion of national tourism in the Tassili n'Ajjer - Ahaggar region. The establishment of of two pilot circuits has been prioritized: (i) &quot;Villages & Gardens of the Ahaggar&quot;, connecting 9 villages of the Ahaggar CP and the Circuit &quot;Heritage of Tihodaine&quot;, connecting 4 villages of the Tassili n'Ajjer CP.  During the current reporting period collaboration agreements have been formalized with the Local Office of Tourism (OLT) of Tamanrasset and Djanet. A joint work program has been set up and monitoring committees established with the aim of engaging the local tourism bureaus in the development of circuits targeting the national clientele and strengthen the involvement of certified tour operators. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

|  |
| --- |
| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| The project is supporting the establishment of a national forum on cultural parks as a tool for policy dialogue across different sectors. Wide participation to the forum is encouraged including decision makers, opinion leaders, technicians, scientists and other key stakeholders.  Effective outreach tools based on the press, electronic and web-based media are designed and produced to bring the theme of cultural parks into the public arena at national and local levels, as well as deliberately influencing decision makers other key players by highlighting the national and international significance of cultural parks.    The message conveyed - carefully modulated on specific target groups and adapted to the type of media selected - emphasizes the natural and cultural value of the cultural parks and their role in demonstrating the harmonious relationship between man and the natural environment.  The unique cultural vestiges of the cultural parks provide a powerful key to the interpretation of their ecology. Sustainable development issues is consistently incorporated in all formal and non-formal IEC tools in order to introduce the long-term development and conservation issues confronting the future management of the cultural parks.    Activities during current reporting period    The project website and Facebook page are regularly updated. During the current reporting period (S2/2018 + S1/2019),the website attracted 15,356 visits by 9,050, while the Facebook page currently has 2,304 subscribers. The first issue of a new Quarterly Newsletter &quot;ISSALEN&quot; was produced and disseminated in Arabic and French.    The project’s communication strategy has been updated and expanded to integrate communication activities across all cultural parks. A mediatization effort at the national and international levels is being strengthened with the support of the national public television channel (A3 for the Arab region, Canal Algérie for the French-speaking countries). The project’s press relations strategy was also updated to give more visibility to cultural parks and project activities, by involving a close-knit network of journalists being formed with project support both at central and local levels.    A wide range of audiovisual tools were produced during the current reporting period and disseminated at dedicated events and through the social media : (i) Two videos on local press training and associations, organized in Tamanrasset and Djanet; (ii) video on the field mission to the priority conservation site of Immidir (Ahaggar CP), (iii) videos on the field missions carried out as part of the elaboration of the diachronic study of the evolution of the ecosystems of the Tassili N'Ajjer and Ahaggar cultural parks; (iv) retrospective video of the activities of the project during the financial year 2018.    In order to promote the national dialogue and forum on Algerian CPs, the project organized or participated in several workshops and events (non-exhaustive list): (i) workshop &quot;proposals for pilot action to develop rural tourism &quot;organized by the DGF as part of the ENPARD program on 30 January 2019; (ii) meeting on the economic impact of wetlands, organized on or by February 28, 2019; (iii) information day under the theme &quot;Support of international cooperation in the implementation of the forestry strategy&quot; organized by the DGF on March 6, 2019; (iv) workshop entitled &quot;Capacity Building on Economic Evaluation of Ecosystem Services&quot; organized by GIZ on 25 March 2019; (v) International Biodiversity Day celebration on 22 May 2019 through various CMU interventions in the national media and participation in activities planned by the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy.    LINKS TO SELECTED RESOURCES AND TOOLS: (current reporting period)    1) SALAH AMOKRANE, DIRECTEUR NATIONAL DU PPCA  “L’Immidir est un sanctuaire du patrimoine archéologique du Sahara central”  https://www.liberte-algerie.com/culture/limmidir-est-un-sanctuaire-du-patrimoine-archeologique-du-sahara-central-317755    2) DIVERSITÉ BIOLOGIQUE  K. Plus de 130 espèces floristiques et faunistiques recensées  L. https://www.liberte-algerie.com/culture/plus-de-130-especes-floristiques-et-faunistiques-recensees-317756    3) L’IMMIDIR DANS LE TASSILI HOGGAR  M. Un joyau aux innombrables potentialités écoculturelles  https://www.liberte-algerie.com/culture/un-joyau-aux-innombrables-potentialites-ecoculturelles-317757      4) Adrar investit dans la préservation de la biodiversité  https://www.algerie360.com/preservation-de-la-biodiversite-dans-les-parcs-culturels-a-adrar-le-projet-expose-aux-medias/  Préservation de la biodiversité dans les parcs culturels à Adrar : Le projet exposé aux médias  http://lecourrier-dalgerie.com/preservation-de-la-biodiversite-dans-les-parcs-culturels-a-adrar-le-projet-expose-aux-medias/  https://algeria.shafaqna.com/316622  https://www.algerie360.com/preservation-de-la-biodiversite-dans-les-parcs-culturels-a-adrar-le-projet-expose-aux-medias/  https://portail.cder.dz/spip.php?article7083    5) Adrar : Le projet de préservation de la biodiversité dans les parcs culturels exposé aux médias  http://www.lemaghrebdz.com/?page=detail\_actualite&rubrique=Internationnal&id=94224  https://www.djazairess.com/fr/lemaghreb/94224  6) Parcs culturels  abdoulkarimsow.org/scf2016/IMG/pdf/SSIG\_ParcCulturel-Algerie\_Amoura.pdf    7) Issalen VF Version 29 MAI - Fichier PDF  https://www.fichier-pdf.fr/2019/.../issalen.../issalen-vf-version-finale--compressee.pdf    8) Intervention du directeur national du projet à l’occasion du 22 mai journée mondial de la biodiversité sur la chaine publique CANAL Algérie  https://www.facebook.com/salah.amokrane    9) Intervention du directeur national du projet à l’occasion du 22 mai journée mondial de la biodiversité sur la chaine publique ALGERIE 3  https://www.facebook.com/PPCA-Projet-des-Parcs-Culturels-Algériens-606825259457666    10) L’intervention des cadres du PPCA sur l'émission &quot;Bonjour d'Algérie&quot; de Canal Algérie (le jeudi 25 avril 2019), à l'occasion de la participation du projet à la 19ème rencontre du groupe d’intérêt sahélo-Saharien.  https://www.facebook.com/PPCA-Projet-des-Parcs-Culturels-Algériens-606825259457666  11) Réunion de coordination au parc de l’Atlas Saharien  https://www.sudhorizons.dz/images/HorizonsPDF/21-04-2019.pdf    12) Voyage d'étude au Portugal pour 12 cadres du réseau des parcs culturels  https://www.djazairess.com/fr/lexpression/311989      LINKS PREVIOUS PIR (JUNE 2018)    1. Une centaine de kits solaires installés dans les parcs culturels de l’Ahaggar et du Tassili  http://www.aps.dz/component/k2/61351-une-centaine-de-kits-solaires-installes-dans-les-parcs-de-l-ahaggar-et-du-tassili-n-ajjer  2. -Préservation de la biodiversité et des écosystèmes : des parcs culturels équipés en panneaux solaires  https://www.sudhorizons.dz/.../19963-les-parcs-culturels-du-sud-equipee-en-panneaux-s...  3. Atelier d’évaluation du projet de préservation de la biodiversité  https://www.algerie360.com/illizi-atelier-devaluation-projet-national-de-preservation-de-biodiversite/    4. Lancement d’une formation dans la gestion du patrimoine écoculturel    https://www.sudhorizons.dz/fr/260-francais/l-evenement/26113-lancement-d-une-formation-dans-la-gestion-du-patrimoine-ecoculturel    5. Atelier sur l’évaluation du profil environnemental du parc culturel de l’Atlas Saharien à Laghouat  http://www.aps.dz/culture/63996-atelier-sur-l-evaluation-du-profil-environnemental-du-parc-culturel-de-l-atlas-saharien-a-laghouat    6. Evaluation du profil environnemental du parc culturel de l’Atlas Saharien  http://www.ouargla-aps.dz/spip.php?page=imprimer&id\_article=26928    7. Atelier sur l’évaluation du profil environnemental du parc culturel de l’Atlas Saharien à Laghouat    http://www.aps.dz/culture/63996-atelier-sur-l-evaluation-du-profil-environnemental-du-parc-culturel-de-l-atlas-saharien-a-laghouat    8. Atelier sur l’évaluation du profil environnemental du parc culturel de l’Atlas Saharien à Laghouat  http://radio-dzair.com/atelier-sur-levaluation-du-profil-environnemental-du-parc-culturel-de-latlas-saharien-a-laghouat/      9. - Plan de protection de l’Atlas Saharien  https://sudhorizons.dz/fr/les-classiques/environnement/23037-plan-de-protection-de-l-atlas-saharien    10. Algérie : vers la définition des activités rémunératrices liées au parc culturel de l’Atlas Saharien  http://www.ouargla-aps.dz/spip.php?article27029      11. Adrar : renforcer les atouts des parcs culturels  http://www.dknews-dz.com/article/87119-adrar-renforcer-les-atouts-des-parcs-culturels-pour-preserver-la-biodiversite-et-la-diversite-culturelle.html    12. Adrar : renforcer les atouts des parcs culturels    http://www.ouargla-aps.dz/spip.php?page=imprimer&id\_article=27330    13. Changement climatique, biodiversité et développement durable : un triptyque qui impose une gestion intégrée  http://dzayer24.com/changement-climatique-biodiversite-et-developpement-durable-un-triptyque-qui-impose-une-gestion-integree-59e2ee7bac2e4c7c51b2f4fe-a    14. La biodiversité, un enjeu essentiel du développement durable  https://sudhorizons.dz/fr/principal-francais/culture/22947-la-biodiversite-un-enjeu-essentiel-du-developpement-durable    15. Gestion des parcs culturels : une charte de gestion recommandée  https://www.sudhorizons.dz/fr/les-news/les-manchettes/24301-gestion-des-parcs-culturels-une-charte-de-gestion-recommandee      16. Formation sur les analyses de la qualité de l’eau des zones humides  http://www.ouargla-aps.dz/spip.php?page=imrimer&id\_article=27732    17. Gestion des parcs culturels à Illizi : débat sur l’accès au financement international    https://www.sudhorizons.dz/fr/260-francais/l-evenement/26056-gestion-des-parcs-culturels-a-illizi-debat-sur-l-acces-au-financement-international      18. Tamanrasset : atelier sur l’évaluation du projet de la préservation de la biodiversité  http://www.aps.dz/regions/69050-tamanrasset-atelier-sur-l-evaluation-du-projet-de-la-preservation-de-la-biodiversite    19. Préservation de la biodiversité des parcs culturels, le PNUD recommande d’associer les populations locales  https://web.facebook.com/pg/PPCA-606825259457666/photos/?ref=page\_internal  20. Tamanrasset : atelier sur l’évaluation du projet de la préservation de la biodiversité    http://www.aps.dz/regions/69050-tamanrasset-atelier-sur-l-evaluation-du-projet-de-la-preservation-de-la-biodiversite  21. Protection de l’environnement, Algérie à la 42ème place  https://web.facebook.com/pg/PPCA-606825259457666/photos/?ref=page\_internal  22. Parcs culturels au centre des travaux d’un atelier à Tamanrasset, préservation de la biodiversité  http://www.elmoudjahid.com/fr/actualites/119413    23. Regard : Cap sur la biodiversité  http://www.elmoudjahid.com/fr/actualites/119502    24. L’Adhésion des populations locales fortement recommandée  https://web.facebook.com/pg/PPCA-606825259457666/photos/?ref=page\_internal  25. Salah Amokrane directeur national du projet, l’Algérie a engagé d’importants pour préserver la biodiversité  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/photos/a.661349657338559.1073741828.606825259457666/1047368298736691/?type=3&theater  26. Parc culturel de Tindouf : Protéger et valoriser le patrimoine  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/photos/a.661349657338559.1073741828.606825259457666/1047368298736691/?type=3&theater  27. Tindouf : Elaboration d’un plan de conservation de la diversité culturelle et naturelle du parc sur des bases scientifiques  http://www.dknews-dz.com/article/89589-tindouf-elaboration-dun-plan-de-conservation-de-la-diversite-culturelle-et-naturelle-du-parc-sur-des-bases-scientifiques.html    28. Thème d’un atelier à Tindouf : un plan de conservation de la diversité culturelle sur des bases scientifiques  https://www.lesoirdalgerie.com/articles/2018/01/16/article.php?sid=624&cid=16    29. Atelier sur la biodiversité à Tindouf : le développement durable en point de mire  http://www.sudhorizons.dz/fr/les-news/l-edito/26865-le-developpement-durable-en-ligne-de-mire  30. Comment protéger et valoriser le patrimoine ?  https://sudhorizons.dz/fr/les-news/l-edito/26759-comment-proteger-et-valoriser-le-patrimoine    31. Parcs culturels : des résultats probants  http://www.elmoudjahid.com/fr/actualites/121209    32. AZZEDINE MIHOUBI l’a déclaré hier au palais de la culture : « La loi relative à la protection du patrimoine culturel sera révisée”  https://www.liberte-algerie.com/culture/la-loi-relative-a-la-protection-du-patrimoine-culturel-sera-revisee-288869    33. Parcs culturels : résultats partiels du projet de conservation de la biodiversité présentés à Alger  http://www.radioalgerie.dz/news/fr/article/20180312/136167.html    34. Mihoubi examine la biodiversité avec un responsable à l'ONU  http://www.radioalgerie.dz/news/fr/article/20180220/134529.html    35. Protection du patrimoine culturel : vers la patrimonialisation de la biodiversité  36. Le représentant résident du PNUD en Algérie : la gestion durable point fort du projet  37. Le représentant du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères : Engagé pour l’accompagnement du projet  38. Des réalisations à rendre visible  39. les parcs culturels du Sud du pays : Projet de préservation de la biodiversité  http://www.elmoudjahid.com/fr/actualites/122646        40. Projet de préservation de la biodiversité pour les parcs culturels du Sud du pays  https://www.sudhorizons.dz/fr/les-classiques/environnement/31523-projet-de-preservation-de-la-biodiversite-pour-les-parcs-culturels-du-sud-du-pays    41. Entretien : Salah AMOKRANE, Directeur national du projet des parcs culturels algériens « Expo sciences 3 constitue un événement de première importance, pour une meilleure sensibilisation autour des parcs culturels »  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/photos/a.661349657338559.1073741828.606825259457666/1109819139158273/?type=3&theater  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/photos/a.661349657338559.1073741828.606825259457666/1109819235824930/?type=3&theater    42. Conservation de la biodiversité et utilisation durable des services écosystémique  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/photos/a.661349657338559.1073741828.606825259457666/1109819235824930/?type=3&theater      43. -في إطار الشراكة مع صندوق البيئة العالمي ...الخارجية تنوه بمشروع المحافظة على التنوع البيولوجي  https://elmaouid.com/national/21784-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A5%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%83%D8%A9-%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%B5%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%88%      44. -مديرية المشروع الوطني للمحافظة على التنوع البيولوجي تنظّم ورشة حول تقييم البعد البيئي بأدرار  http://www.altahrironline.com/ara/articles/277594    45. حماية التنوع البيولوجي في الطاسيلي و الأهقار  https://sudhorizons.dz/ar/2016-10-15-18-10-43/2016-10-15-19-34-27/27420-2018-01-28-18-22-24    46. ورشة حول المساهمة المالية و التسيير التساهمي: البحث عن اليات حماية التنوع البيولوجي باستغلال الطاقات النظيفة  https://www.djazairess.com/echchaab/105615    47. مشروع المحافظة على التنوع البيولوجي, محور وشرة تقييم تحرّكات لحماية الحظيرة الثقافية في تمنراست  http://www.alseyassi-dz.com/ara/sejut.php?ID=82242  48. الأهداف المحقّقة لمشروع المحافظة على التنوع البيولوجي محور ورشة تقييم: جرى تجسيده عبر خمس حظائر ثقافية بالوطن  http://www.chebabdjazairi.com/article.php?id=44302    49. وضع مخطط لحماية التنوع الثقافي والطبيعي لحظيرة تندوف  http://www.ouargla-aps.dz/spip.php?page=imprimer&id\_article=27988    50. مخطط لحماية التنوع الثقافي و الطبيعي  https://el-massa.com/dz/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%AB/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A9/%D9%85%D8%AE%D8%B7%D8%B7-%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%8A    51. ورشة عمل لتقييم التنوع البيولوجي يالحظيرة الثقافية لتندوف مختصّون يبرزون اليات الحفاظ على التنوع البيئي  http://www.ech-chaab.com/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%AB/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A/item/84610.html?tmpl=component&print=1    52. كيفية حماية التراث و تعزيزه  https://sudhorizons.dz/ar/2016-10-15-18-10-43/2016-04-28-21-23-52/26778-2018-01-14-18-06-53    53. مشروع المحافظة على التنوع البيولوجي بالحظائر الثقافية: تسجيل نتائج إيجابية بعد 6سنوات من انطلاق المشروع  http://www.ech-chaab.com/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%AB/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A/item/89228.html?tmpl=component&print=1    54. أشغال مشروع المحافظة على التنوّع البيولوجي بالحظائر الثقافية: تقييم أوّلي لما تحقّق عبر مواقع الجنوب الكبير  https://www.el-massa.com/dz/index.php/component/k2/item/48039    55. بتنظيم من مديرية المشروع تحت اشراف وزارة الثقافة: المحافظة على الحظائر الثقافية: &quot;تقييم إيجابي للمشروع يستدعي المضي نحو مرحلة ثالثة&quot;  http://www.sudhorizons.dz/ar/2016-10-15-18-10-43/2016-04-28-21-24-40/29572-2018-03-12-17-59-57    56. التنوّع البيولوجي سيصنّف ضمن التراث الطبيعي  57. ميهوبي وزرواطي يؤكّدان بقصر الثقافة: تثمين التراث البيئي الثقافي الجزائري ضروري لتنمية اقتصادية مستدامة  https://www.elwassat.com/culture/3358.html           Produits de communication du PPCA réalisés par le projet :    1. Réflexion mondiale et exécution locale :  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1088881907918663/  2. Atelier de cofinancement et de gestion collaborative à Tamanrasset     Interview de Mr Eric OVERVEST , Représentant résident du PNUD en Algérie  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1072516976221823/   Interview de Mme BENZIOUCHE, Représentante du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1073038202836367/   Interview de Monsieur Samir LAHOUEL, Représentant du Ministère de la Culture  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1073588712781316/  3. Participation du projet des parcs culturels algériens à la célébration de la journée internationale de la biodiversité -22 mai 2018  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1137984113008442/  4. Vidéo sur la formation de Bahreïn  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1118174754989378/  5. Vidéo retraçant le déroulement de l’atelier de l’Atlas Saharien  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/997807927026062/     Emissions radios :    6. Mr Salah AMOKRANE, Directeur national du projet : l’invité de la culturelle  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1150365871770266/  7. Emission » OZONE » : la biodiversité des parcs culturels à l’occasion de la célébration de la journée internationale de la biodiversité  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1124420617698125/   Passages infos télés :    8. Atelier de cofinancement et de gestion collaborative à Illizi  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1041829525957235/  9. Atelier de cofinancement et de gestion collaborative à Tamanrasset  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ry6-YcqvM1A    https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1064549127018608/      10. La journée d’information sur les résultats à mi-parcours du projet  https://web.facebook.com/dzairnewsinfos/videos/1880051758694389/  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1085924731547714/  https://web.facebook.com/606825259457666/videos/1085662368240617/   Produits de communication réalisés par Canal Algérie    11. Un documentaire sur le parc culturel de Tindouf : Vestiges et patrimoines  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tf602M86bcU      12. Tindouf : Conservation de la diversité du parc culturel  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRrsN-wKNag&feature=youtu.be    13. Tourisme : Le Tassili n’Ajjer attire de plus en plus de touristes  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWQUu5be35E |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

|  |
| --- |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

|  |
| --- |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS\_4153\_Algeria\_FSP\_Tassili\_CEO\_Request\_Response to GEFSEC.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4153/213104/1650560/1650849/PIMS_4153_Algeria_FSP_Tassili_CEO_Request_Response%20to%20GEFSEC.docx) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| The project works closely with a wide range of stakeholders including central and local government agencies, universities, research institutions, civil society organisations, private businesses, the local popualtion and resource users in the cultural parks.    The Ministry of Culture is the main partner for project implementation and will work in close cooperation with the member agencies of the Project Board, which include broad representation of all key stakeholders.  To date, the roles and activities of key stakeholders during the project cycle have been the following:    Ministry of Culture (MoC). As national executing agency of the project the MoC ahs exercised the following key functions: (i) overall control of project implementation, maintaining regular communication with UNDP and other project stakeholders to ensure the smooth progress of the project; (ii) the ongoing development of the national system plan for cultural parks; (iii) elaboration of management plans for the Tassili N’Ajjer And Ahaggar CPs and Ecocultural Heritage Action Plans (EHAPs) for the three more recently established CPs; (iv) the formulation of executive decrees and other legal texts to support and regulate the establishment and management of cultural parks in Algeria; (v) oversees the project replication strategy and coordinates with all relevant organizations; (vi) ensures that government co-financing is available.    Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is the key agency responsible for overall coordination between the government of Algeria and the UNDP/GEF. It has also played a key role in mobilizing other government departments in taking concerted action to support project implementation.    Ministry of Finance. A key partner in reviewing and approving project budgets and ensuring project co-financing is in line with government commitments. It also assists in increasing regular financial resources to cultural parks and the amendment of related laws and regulations.    Other key Government Ministries. Other government ministries such as the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture have also been key partners in mobilising financial and technical resources for co-funded activities. They have also participated in (i) guiding the project implementation process to ensure alignment with national and local statutory planning processes; (ii) ensuring that activities are fully integrated with other developmental initiatives in the region; (iii) monitoring the effectiveness of project implementation.    Local government. Key player in mobilising human and technical resources, the negotiation and formalization of collaborative management (CM) agreements, as well as the implementation of co-funded project activities, particularly in the area of sustainable livelihood and sustainable tourism activities.    Local population and resource users. As direct beneficiaries of sustainable livelihood and income generating initiatives, ,local stakeholders have been directly involved in the planning and implementation of CM agreements and sustainable livelihood activities in the following areas: (i) extensive pastoral management; (ii) improved animal husbandry schemes; (iii) pilot schemes to plant, produce and market medicinal plants; (iv) promotion of energy alternatives and solar appliances; (v) land rehabilitation schemes; (vi) development of local plant nurseries (vii) women’s traditional handicrafts; (vii) sustainable tourism activities.    Private sector. Private sector stakehoders have partnered with the project in some aspects of the sustainable livelihood activities, particularly in relation to the sustainable tourism sector.    Universities and research organizations. These stakeholders have been key partners in providing the bulk of the technical assistance mobilized by the project and participating in the emerging national dialogue and forum on cultural parks in Algeria.    Press and media. These stakeholders have payed a very active role in disseminating project results and in raising public awareness about cultural parks and the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the country. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.