

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**\*Sustainable forest management**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4434 |
| GEF ID | 4469 |
| Title | Integrated approach to management of forests in Turkey, with demonstration in high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean region |
| Country(ies) | Turkey, Turkey |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The project will promote an integrated approach to management of forests in Turkey, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean forest region. More particularly, the project will demonstrate approaches to generating, measuring, reporting on and verifying carbon, biodiversity and socio-economic benefits generated through this integrated approach at five Mediterranean forest sites (over a total area of 450,000 ha). It will then build on these results through the development of a forest sector NAMA covering TurkeyÔÇÖs Mediterranean forests. Laying the foundation for leveraging and scaling up of the projectÔÇÖs demonstration results is thus an important component of the projectÔÇÖs strategyÔÇöone which is further made possible by a strengthened enabling environment. |

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| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

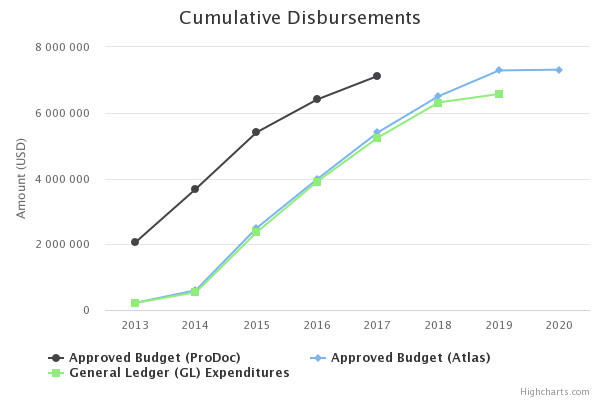
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Highly Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To promote an integrated approach to management of forests in Turkey, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean forest region** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Area of forest landscapes in Turkey with integrated forest- plans developed and under implementation that deliver multiple environmental benefits (biodiversity, climate change), ha. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 0.45 mln ha | Forest management plans were finalized for another 3 pilot sites (Koycegiz, Andirin and Pos Forest Enterprise Directorates (FED)) with an integrated approach. Köyceğiz and Pos FED's forest management plans were officially adopted in March 2018 and Andırın FED in April 2018.    In total, project developed 28 forest management plans for 5 pilot areas (5 pilot sites have 28 forest units in total). Total area of forest landscapes with integrated forest management plans reached 638,923 ha from 293,312 ha of last reporting period. In this reporting period, additional 345,611 ha of forest landscapes (Köyceğiz 118,122 ha, Andırın 119,722 ha, and Pos 107,767 ha) have been covered in terms of integrated forest management plans. Project ultimate target of 0.45 million ha of integrated forest management plans (under implementation) were achieved and exceeded.    The integrated forest management plans for the target forest units now have biodiversity, ecosystem services maps, fire risk, pest risk, carbon focused silviculture, NWFP's, eco-tourism and industrial plantation perspectives, differing from the business as usual plans.    In order to strengthen the implementation of these new management plans, training workshops for forest chiefs on implementation of the integrated forest management plans will be conducted in September - October 2018. Moreover, trainings for chief planning engineers at GDF and private sector on the principles of making integrated forest management plans will be conducted in same period too. | The project’s EoP target, which is 0.45 mln ha with integrated forest management plans developed and under implementation, has already been achieved in the previous reporting period. Total area of forest with integrated management plans with multiple environmental benefits at landscape level is 638,923 ha, composed of 28 plans in 5 pilot sites.    To strengthen implementation of 28 integrated forest management plans in 5 pilot sites, the Project conducted training workshops for forest chiefs in Alanya, Turkey, during 19-23 November 2018, attended by 36 participants, mainly forest chiefs and division directors of regional directorates from 5 pilot sites. Moreover, the Project held trainings for forest planning engineers at GDF and the private sector on the principles of making integrated forest management plans on 4-6 December 2018 in Antalya, Turkey, attended by 100 participants, as an initial dissemination process to be followed by the GDF. |
| - | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1 | Extra row, not applicable. | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Policy and institutional framework for integrated forest management within landscape** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| LULUCF Unit | No properly capacitated LULUCF Unit in the Government | *(not set or not applicable)* | One adequately staffed and funded LULUCF unit with technical capacities to drive forest carbon efforts forward in the country | The LULUCF unit with adequate staff and funding has been operating successfully within GDF since its establishment in 2015.    A training workshop has been organized on Canadian Budget Modeling (CBM) by the participation of Werner Kurz in GDF premises during the second half of July 2017. Both LULUCF unit and GDF staff participated in the training and more than 20 GDF staff from different departments were present. The GDF has prepared a way forward plan following the training on adopting the CBM for Turkey. However, the plan needs funding for its implementation and currently no allocations were made from any sources. | The LULUCF unit with adequate staff and funding operates successfully within GDF since its establishment in 2015 (please refer to previous PIRs for details). The end of project target has been achieved. All the training and other activities were completed successfully under this indicator. The LULUCF unit with adequate staff which was established with project support, has been assured its sustainability through new national and international projects focusing on carbon pools at forestry sector. |
| Forest protected area regulatory framework | No legal framework defining forest PA expansion and integration within broader landscape | *(not set or not applicable)* | Effective regulatory framework enables GDF to establish forest PAs based on combined SFM criteria, including biodiversity and carbon | A workshop in January 2018 was organized to discuss a way forward plan for adopting a legislation on protected forest areas. GDF experts from different departments along with the UNDP team attended the meeting. It was decided to establish a working group/ committee within GDF specific to the issue that can include experts and decision makers from relevant departments to come up with an official forward plan. This idea was presented to the General Director of the Forestry for implementation purposes. He has concluded that this approach is feasible and also same approach can be adopted for other key issues. Therefore, it was decided to establish a general Sustainability Commission with GDF members, who then can organize sub-working group meetings to come up with project related conclusions, suggestions including regulatory revisions arising during the implementation of the project.    The project implementation team has owned the idea to have way forward plans for key project themes as a sustainability plan. Accordingly, official approval letter to establish a sustainability committee was prepared and sent to GDF to be signed by the Director General. After the signature of the Director General of Forestry (GDF), Committee will come together to prepare a road map to ensure the sustainability of tools and models that were prepared as a part of the project such as biodiversity assessment, zoning, integrated forest management planning, protected forests, pest control, forest district level forest fire management plans and management zoning (fire risks etc.), eco-tourism and NWFPs, carbon focused silvicultural activities.    Current legislation covering the abovementioned thematic areas will be reviewed by the Committee members and a comprehensive report on legislation and sustainability will also be prepared by the same Committee till the end of 2018. | The Sustainability Working Group was established during this reporting period, which composed of 14 officials from 7 different departments of GDF to cover all outputs of the project, rather than focusing only on forest PA related legal framework. Main role of the WG is officially identified as reviewing current regulatory framework, identifying the gaps, drafting regulatory changes to ensure sustainability of the new approaches and models to be included in the GDF’s business as usual. The approaches and models include; integrated forest management planning (biodiversity zoning, forest fire planning, pest control, carbon focused silviculture, non-wood forest products, eco-tourism, protected forest areas), decision support system with MRV approach, in-service education curriculum.    The Project has successfully established the baseline system for identification and declaration of PAs within forest areas. Thanks to the project, biodiversity zoning is an increment for the forest management planning process compare to the business as usual. In addition to the biodiversity zoning, a roadmap for regulatory change is prepared during this reporting period. However, official declaration of PAs based on the identified zones still needs to be cleared and approved by the GDF. The Sustainability Working Group is aiming to coordinate review and approval of technical and regulatory studies among the GDF decision makers. The project team will follow up on this issue with the Sustainability Working Group to be finalized before the end of the project.      Current legislation covering the above mentioned thematic areas will be reviewed by the Group members and a comprehensive report on legislation, sustainability and replication will also prepared by the same Group till the end of 2019. After the report is submitted, the Working group will oversee implementation of the approved report upon project closure ensuring sustainability of the project’s results. |
| MRV for forest-based mitigation and sequestration | No MRV | *(not set or not applicable)* | One MRV for forest-based mitigation and sequestration in Turkey is developed, with initial emphasis on Mediterranean region. | New approaches resulting from MRV document were tested in Alara Forest as part of the inventory process. Litter and deadwood data were collected and sent to a research institute in Eskisehir Province. Carbon calculations were acquired. Currently, the GDF experts with the support of Project consultant, Prof. Dr. Yusuf Serengil, are preparing an article on carbon results from the new approach as implemented by the project and business as usual. The article will be finalized during 2018.    During the reporting period, the Yale University project team have visited GDF to see the progress on construction of the Decision Support System. Yale University has subcontracted the University of Washington for coding of optimization tool, calibration of growth models of FVS (Forest Vegetation Simulator), and finalization of user interfaces. Clarifying contracting arrangements between the two universities took some time but eventually a contract was signed, and coding work started. The contract between Yale University and GDF is currently being extended to compensate this delay.    The alfa version of the program will be produced during the summer of 2018 and a training will be organized in early autumn for key GDF staff who will be overseeing this issue in Turkey.    This year, GDF will also carry out a new inventory work in Kokez (in Bolu Province) for management planning, and the inventory teams will collect data compatible with the DSS requirements. These new data will also be used in trials of DSS during the development process.    As a follow up to the MRV process, UNDP Turkey has decided to undertake a study on mapping linkages between the Turkish Forestry Sector impact area and the Sustainable Development Goals. A working group has been established to undertake the task with members from UNDP, key experts and NGOs in Turkey. The working group have organized many meetings this reporting period and identified key relations between the forestry sector and SDGs, and prepared a large set of indicators following the path described by the MRV report. The outcome document will be a discussion paper to be circulated to the relevant parties. The paper will also describe the linkages between SFM C/I that are being revised currently with the SDGs as well. The study will be finalized before the end of 2018.    Finally, the project team has organized a side event in COP held in Bonn, Germany. The MRV new approach was presented to the audience with attendance of Gold Standards Foundation, TREES Consulting and UNDP Turkey.    Additionally, the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs has decided to revise the Turkish SFM Criteria/ Indicator set along with the updated European SFM set. The project Implementation Unit has decided to support these efforts as this work overlaps with the project goals and priorities. Two consultants were hired to lead the process in Turkey. Six (6) working groups were established and more than 15 working group meetings were organized to work on six different criteria with the participation of more than 150 participants all over the country. During the second half of 2018, findings of the working groups will be presented to a wider audience to obtain contributions through two national workshop that will be organized by the project. Eventually, the national guide on revised SFM C/I will be published. | As a follow up to the MRV process, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has completed the revision of Turkish SFM Criteria/ Indicator set along with the updated European SFM set. The project Implementation Unit supported these efforts as this work overlaps with the project goals and priorities. Two consultants were hired to lead the process in Turkey. Six (6) working groups were established and more than 15 working group meetings were organized to work on six different criteria with the participation of more than 150 participants all over the country. Findings of the working groups were presented, and a national workshop was organized in the last quarter of 2018 to a wider audience by the project. The final version of SFM criteria indicator set was shared with relevant authorities for final comments and suggestions. As soon as the final version will be approved by all of the parties, the national guide on revised SFM C/I will be published till the end of 2019.      Additionally, the Project team has decided to undertake a study on mapping linkages between the Turkish Forestry Sector impact area and the Sustainable Development Goals. The working group consisting of UNDP, key experts and NGOs in Turkey , which was created in 2018 to undertake the task, continued to organize meetings during this reporting period and identified key relations between the forestry sector and SDGs, and prepared a set of indicators guided by the MRV report. The draft outcome document prepared as a discussion paper was circulated to the relevant parties during this reporting period for comments and feedback. The paper also describes linkages between SFM C/I that were revised during 2018. The draft document was translated to English and the English version of the report will be disseminated among the international community for comments. The report will be finalized upon receiving comments from the stakeholders before the end of 2019. |
| [Modified indicator as per MTR]: Establish a decision support system to include  LULUCF database as well as biodiversity and social benefits    [Original indicator]: Forest sector Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) | No NAMA | *(not set or not applicable)* | [Modified target as per MTR]: A decision support system for forest management established    [Original target]: One fully developed NAMA covering 2-4 million ha Mediterranean-region forests | In line with the Paris agreement and the guidance of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, and the focal point for UNFCCC in Turkey, it was decided to focus on LULUCF sector Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) with a stronger MRV system. NAMA preparation task has been replaced with preparation of MRV and reporting of LULUCF sector within NDC as per Project Board decision (February 2015). | In line with the Paris agreement and the guidance of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, and the focal point for UNFCCC in Turkey, it was decided to focus on LULUCF sector Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) with a stronger MRV system. NAMA preparation task has been replaced with preparation of MRV and reporting of LULUCF sector within NDC as per Project Board decision (February 2015). During the last Steering Committee Meeting held in May 2019, it was agreed that the relevant indicator of Output 1.5 in the Results Framework of the Project (National Mitigation Action in the Forestry Sector) should be changed as (Establishing the online decision support system for GDF) as suggested in the Mid-term Evaluation Review.    A program for the Decision Support System was finalized and submitted to GDF on April 2019. GDF has decided to name the system as "Forest Management System" (Orman Yönetim Sistemi in Turkish).    Trainings on the program for users were organized in the first quarter of 2019 in Turkey and at the Yale University, USA. Currently the program has been established at the GDF servers and is operational. The program is being used by the GDF staff at the moment. During the rest of 2019 several activities will be held to introduce the system to wider audience in the GDF, academia and among other relevant stakeholders.    GDF carried out a new inventory work in Kokez (in Bolu Province) for management planning, and the inventory teams has collected data compatible with the DSS requirements in the first quarter of 2019. These new sets of data were also used in trials of DSS during the development process. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within landscape** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Fire management and carbon losses from fires | Suppression-focused fire management system; annual carbon losses at five pilot sites average 3,629 tCO2/y | *(not set or not applicable)* | Proactive (prevention and load management focussed) fire management methods at pilot sites generate carbon benefits of 1,646 tCO2/y over baseline. | Meteorological early warning system and forest fire early warning system were established and made operational at national scale in early 2018.    Meteorological early warning system is a central software program prepared and established in collaboration with the Black Sea Technical University. It gives the fire risky areas instant, hourly, daily and 3 days-based warnings based on temperature, humidity and wind values obtained from the General Directorate of Meteorology. The system has been integrated into the ORBİS system (Forest Information System of the GDF). Forest Fire Early Warning System is run through the software program and cameras set up on the fire observation towers. It analyses images received from cameras and detects a smoke. Once the system detects a smoke, it gives immediate alarm in 15-25 seconds. Then, forest fire fighting teams access to the identified area and control the fire immediately. This software program and system were set up in collaboration with the University of Bilkent. The system was established at 120 forest fire observation towers with 240 cameras throughout the country.    In regard to fire prevention trainings, target groups for each village were identified. Training programs for each target group were prepared and training material samples were determined and sent to GDF for their suggestions and approval for the designing/printing. After preparing and publishing the training materials, training programs will be initiated in the pre-selected 10 villages in each pilot site (50 villages in total) in October - November 2018.    Fire Management Plans for Köyceğiz, Andırın and Pos Forest District Directorates were prepared and integrated into forest management plans.    Training materials for GDF staff were integrated into GDF's online training system. Training modules at International Training Center of Antalya used to be working as off-line system, they are now integrated into online training system. GDF personnel who wants to participate in training courses can easily take the courses without going to Antalya. It is also possible to listen to training modules online and take exams.    Forest Fire Simulator, a sound software for the training of the fire fighters, was developed for Antalya International Training Center by HAVELSAN company with the funding from the Project. New fire model has been developed to see and observe the fire locations reached after half an hour, one hour and 2 hours from the fire-starting time. Contents of the program have been enriched and fire vehicles and other equipment can be seen in the program too. Besides the improved visuals, an automatic scoring system was also developed as part of the software. | Meteorological early warning system and forest fire early warning system were established and made operational at national scale in early 2018. The system has also been integrated into the ORBİS system (Forest Information System of the GDF).    Fire Management Plans for Gülnar,Gazipaşa,Köyceğiz, Andırın and Pos Forest District Directorates were prepared and integrated into 28 forest management plans.  Training materials for GDF staff were integrated into GDF's online training system. Training modules at International Training Center of Antalya used to be working as off-line system, they are now integrated into online training system.  Forest Fire Simulator, a sound software for the training of the fire fighters, was developed for Antalya International Training Center by HAVELSAN company with the funding from the Project.    The integrated fire management plans have been prepared for all pilot sites; meteorological early warning software has been established and is operational.    In regard to fire prevention trainings in the villages as the project’s remaining under this indicator, target groups for each village were identified and a comprehensive training program was designed. The trainings were held in the pre-selected 10 villages in each pilot site (50 villages in total) between October - December 2018. Training activities targeted primary students in the schools and villagers separately. The events had a strong voice in the local media as well as in the UNDP social media. |
| Silvicultural methods consider carbon and biodiversity aspects. Assessment of associated carbon benefits. | Carbon benefits not taken into account or measured; locations not chosen to maximize connectivity enhancements. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Silvicultural approaches at pilot sites generate carbon benefits of 11,572 tCO2/y along with enhanced connectivity. | Total area covered by carbon-focused silvicultural activities has increased to 8.210,6 ha as of June 2018 (vs the EoP target of 9,200 ha). The activities undertaken include regeneration thinning, artificial regeneration tending, initial thinning, conversion of coppices into high forests (6,256.9 ha out of targeted 5,000 ha), industrial plantation (766 ha out of targeted 1200 ha) and rehabilitation (1,287.7 ha out of targeted 3,000 ha).    Carbon measurements in 41 pilot plots were made and sent to the Forest, Soil and Ecology Research Institute Directorate in Eskisehir province. The results were received later than planned and therefore the report on carbon calculations has not been finalized yet. Project consultant will prepare the carbon calculation report before the end of 2018.    A technical and practical training on carbon focused silvicultural activities which was planned to be conducted during the 2017 fall has been postponed to spring 2018 due to the heavy work load of the staff of Departments of the Silviculture and Reforestation of GDF. This issue will be discussed with the authorities of the GDF in due course to decide whether to conduct this training or not since two practical and technical trainings were already organized in Adana and Antalya provinces with the participation of 5 pilot project sites and some central staff of GDF in 2016. If there is no need in conducting another training program, this training session will be cancelled.    Insufficient controlled pollination has already been identified as one of the main barriers to enhance industrial plantations in Turkey. Therefore, a training program for controlled pollination was conducted and completed for the three staff of the Forest Trees and Seeds Improvement Research Institute Directorate at Yale University of USA. After the completion of the training program in North Caroline State University, USA, a brief was given to high level authorities of GDF and the Ministry to inform on the importance of the controlled pollination from the elite trees to produce high quality seedlings for the industrial plantations.    Related Research Directorates have already started producing high quality seedlings through controlled pollination from the elite trees. In addition, a training program for the staff of the Research Directorates will be conducted in Autumn 2018. | Total area covered by carbon-focused silvicultural activities has increased to 9,339 ha as of June 2019 and the target of 9,200 ha has been achieved and even exceeded. The activities undertaken include regeneration thinning, artificial regeneration tending, initial thinning, conversion of coppices into high forests (6,891 ha out of targeted 5,000 ha), industrial plantation (994 ha out of targeted 1,200 ha) and rehabilitation (1,454 ha out of targeted 3,000 ha). The silvicultural activities covering 9,200 ha that were supported by the Project are expected to generate 11,572 tCO2/y.    Carbon measurements from 41 pilot plots were analyzed by the Forest, Soil and Ecology Research Institute Directorate in Eskisehir province. The results were received later than planned and therefore the report on carbon calculations was finalized only in June 2019. Detailed estimates of generated carbon benefits this will be available by the final evaluation and reflected in the project’s updated Climate Change Tracking Tool.    GDF decided to cancel the trainings on carbon focused silvicultural activities initially planned for 2017 and then moved to 2018 since the project already provided numerous trainings for forestry staff in 5 pilot project sites as well as for some central staff of GDF.    Related Research Directorates have started producing high quality seedlings through controlled pollination from the elite trees, thanks to the training program provided by the project on controlled pollination. The GDF is planning to disseminate this training to all Research Directorates through their capacity. |
| Fuel wood removals and associated carbon fluxes. | High levels of legal and illegal fuel wood removals for household consumption, especially home heating, with resulting annual carbon losses at five pilot sites averaging 18,775 tCO2/y. No alterative system to replace fire wood consumption in place. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Expansion of micro-credit program into Mediterranean region generates carbon benefits of 13,038 tCO2/y over baseline | 1,237 micro-credits (vs the EoP target of 1,100) were disbursed to the villagers in five pilot sites. Project target was achieved and even exceeded. The total carbon benefit from micro-credits have risen to 12,680 CO2 eq.    Socio-economy study was presented for review to the GDF decision makers and experts several times during the reporting period. It was well received by the stakeholders and GDF noted the need to replicate this approach elsewhere in Turkey.    The project will focus on initiating two grants for ecotourism activities in Köyceğiz FED and non-wood forest products in Andırın FED. For Ecotourism, a project consultant has been hired and workshops have been organized to define the best strategy. On the latter, a local partnership mechanism has been established with local stakeholders including local government bodies, NGOs and tourism enterprises. A document with prospective project ideas is ready for further discussion and grant decision. The socio-economy study has set the baseline for the grant mechanism in terms of needs, facts, opportunities and gender aspects. The grant will support the key activities during the next reporting period.    The other grant will be given to non-wood forest products. To map out opportunities the project has conducted three different value chain studies in partnership with YADA Foundation. The selected species were: Daphne, thyme and carob. All reports were prepared and about to be published during the reporting period. According to the value chain reports, it was decided with the GDF, that priority be given to the Daphne (aka Laurel) in Andırın FED. The project team will initiate workshops and meetings to decide on the activities and approach to be supported by the project. | 1,301 micro-credits (vs the EoP target of 1,100) were disbursed to the villagers in five pilot sites. Project target was achieved and even exceeded. Carbon benefits generated by the micro-credit program will be calculated during the project’s final evaluation and are expected to be in the range of 13,200 tCO2/y (yet to be confirmed by the terminal CC TT).  The project undertook a series of activities aiming at generating sufficient data to clarify what type of activities could be supported in order to strengthen site level partnerships for NWFP and ecotourism activities. The outputs of these are;    -Laurel value chain analysis  -Carob value chain analysis  -Thyme value chain analysis  -Socio-economic analysis of forest villages with gender responsive approach  -Meetings with relevant departments of the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) – central and local level.  -Series of workshops on ecotourism to explore potential project ideas to be supported.    The outcome of these reports, meetings and activities uncovered the fact that there isn’t yet sufficient capacity at local level to develop and implement a grant project, although there is an important potential on bringing different stakeholders together around specific topics. Moreover, after a series of meetings with the RTA, UNDP CO management, and the GDF about potential models to be used, it was clear that the best and time efficient model to be adopted is to implement the grants directly through the partnership of UNDP and GDF.    The grant management modality was therefore revised to UN’s Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) as a Direct UNDP Procurement. This will mean that, the procurement will be done by the GDF in line with Turkish Government procurement rules, and payment will be done by UNDP, a method commonly used for UNDP projects including GEF funded ones.    The framework for enhancing ecotourism activities in Köyceğiz has been prepared by collecting the ideas of various stakeholders at local level and has been prioritised with the feedback of the relevant department of GDF. These outputs are transformed to several project proposals to be implemented in partnership with UNDP and the GDF. The content of projects has a strong focus on facilitating the building of partnerships at local level while also aiming at building capacities. The first project proposal was implemented in Koycegiz FED with the participation of 16 local villagers on rural business initiative. Other project proposals are;  -Study visits to the best ecotourism sample sites,  -Köyceğiz tourism destination plan,  -Workshop for all related partners on ecotourism for local partnerships,  -Open air museum for Liquidambar,  -Tourism products inventory,  -Information and awareness posts,  -workshop for decision makers,  -Workshop on ecotourism planning for GDF staff.    The same process is yet to be implemented to explore the project ideas opportunities for laurel collectors in Andırın in order to strengthen their position along the laurel value chain through partnerships.    The implementation of all project proposals on eco-tourism in Koycegiz FED, and on non-wood forest products in Andirin FED will be implemented until the end of 2019. |
| Integrated pest management (IPM) and associated carbon fluxes | No proactive IPM, resulting annual carbon losses at five pilot sites averaging 45,286 tCO2/y. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Introduction of IPM methods and establishment of two pest centres generates carbon benefits of 30,191 tCO2/y over baseline. | A consultant was hired on pest control activities during this reporting period.    Pest control principles and silvicultural measures suggested from the pest survey were integrated into Forest Management Plans of Köyceğiz, Andırın and Pos FED in March 2018.    Pest risky areas will be assessed and mapped based on records of pests in last decade in 5 pilot project sites (Köyceğiz, Andırın, Pos, Gazipaşa and Gülnar). Prescriptions based on the pest risk maps and assessment will be prepared for the integration of these into forest management plans in order to minimize the pest harms and to conduct more effective control activities.    A methodology and system for carbon calculations will be developed in the next reporting period given ongoing scientific studies and updated scientific developments. Pre-study on the technical specifications and the needs for early warning system will be conducted. In addition, needs assessment for data for the early warning system will be conducted. Best practices in the world on early warning system will be searched and an official presentation on findings will be given to the high level authorities of GDF until the end of 2018.    Hiring etymology experts by GDF for the labs is still pending. A project consultant visited two laboratories in Mersin and Antalya and prepared a report on staff needs of fully operational laboratories.    TOR's for etymology experts with several name proposals among GDF staff were sent to GDF to ensure the appointment of the staff to the laboratories.    UNDP project team has raised this pending issue during a Steering Committee Meeting and on other occasions pressing for urgent decision. The issue still requires a final decision of the GDF authorities. After the appointment of the lab staff, trainings for the staff will be initiated in Autumn 2018. | Pest risky areas were assessed and mapped based on records of pests in last decade in 5 pilot project sites (Köyceğiz, Andırın, Pos, Gazipaşa and Gülnar) during this reporting period. Prescriptions based on the pest risk maps and assessment were prepared and integrated into forest management plans in order to minimize the pest harms and to conduct more effective control activities.    A methodology and system for carbon calculations were developed in the first quarter of 2019. The system is fully in line with the latest scientific studies and updated scientific developments.    Pre-study on the technical specifications and the needs for early warning system was conducted. A report summarizing best practices on the use of the early warning system around the world along with key findings was prepared and submitted to the high level authorities of GDF.    Assigning etymology experts by GDF for the labs (pest centers) is still pending. This is mostly due to the economic and personnel assignment situation in the country that is affecting personal cost deductions in public sector. However, the related personnel hiring issue is in the plan of GDF. During the last Steering Committee meeting held in May 2019, it has been decided to submit to the decision makers of GDF the request for personnel needed for proper functioning of pest laboratories (in Antalya and Mersin) during 2019. The project team follows this issue closely with the decision makers of the GDF.    Regarding the generated carbon benefits, estimates will be available by the final evaluation. Given the fact that a methodology for estimating pest related carbon benefits quite differs from estimating other carbon benefits, the Project hired an expert to define the methodology to be used for final calculations. |
| Carbon protocols designed and completed before, during and after implementation of enhancement and mitigation efforts | No carbon protocol | *(not set or not applicable)* | Introduction of carbon protocols in line with MRV system (Output 1.3) enabling integration of climate change into forest management plans through a central LULUCF Database under Forest Information System (FIS) Project of GDF. | Please see Outcome 1 for Decision Support System related developments.    The project team has contracted Silvia Terra, a company specialized on forest inventories with the support of satellite images through their own cruise boost. This approach has been proven to decrease the cost associated with the inventories. The trial work was undertaken in Alara Forest region and Silvia Terra produced successfully heatmaps that are presenting stock in selected area.    GDF and project team have agreed to repeat and even expand this work with in Kokez Region. The inventory is scheduled for 2018. This region, in contrast to Alara, has more tree species and hence it is key for GDF that the Silvia Terra model can successfully run for such complex forests. The results of the study will be presented to GDF in autumn 2018. Then, GDF will decide on adopting such an approach with Silvia Terra in the near future.    Project consultant, Yusuf Serengil, has prepared a book called Climate Change and Carbon Management as part of his duties. The book summarizes developments in climate change negotiations, decisions related to Turkey and LULUCF - Forestry related carbon budgets, formulas, etc. The book is currently at the design stage and will be published before the end of 2018 as a project output. | As part of MRV process, carbon protocols were finalized, tested and integrated into inventory cards of GDF. Moreover, carbon protocols were integrated into forest management planning process.    In addition, the project has developed and operationalized the Decision support system for forest management. Please refer to Indicator 4 under Outcome 1 on the Decision Support System for latest developments.    As reported in 2018, the project team has contracted Silvia Terra for forest inventories with the support of satellite images through their own cruise boost. During the first stage the testing on Alara was successfully implemented. Then it was decided to run the Silvia Terra system in Kökez, where there are more tree species and the forest stand dynamics are more complex. Silvia Terra has successfully completed the study for the Kökez area and reported back to UNDP and GDF. GDF is currently assessing the results and how they can best benefit from the new inventory approaches. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Strengthening protection of high conservation value forests in Mediterranean landscape** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Extent of forest PAs | Mediterranean forest habitats are under-represented in national PA system | *(not set or not applicable)* | Effective protection extended to 79,960 ha, including under-represented Mediterranean forest habitats. | Köyceğiz, Andırın and Pos FED's Forest Management Plans were revised and approved by GDF in March and April 2018.    Areas identified as nature conservation function in these forest management plans cover 77,218 ha which is in line with IUCN Protected Area Criteria VI. In addition, 38,837 ha was identified as zone 1 (strict protection) and zone 2 (selected eligible activities), added to respective management plans with areas aiming to protect particular species or habitats (IUCN Criteria IV).    Hence, areas designated for nature conservation include 130,346 ha and areas designated as zone 1 and zone 2 areas include 67,374 ha in 5 pilot sites. | The target of 79,960 ha for this Indicator has been achieved and even exceeded extending protection to 130,346 ha. This was achieved through i) definition of the biodiversity mainstreaming methodology and tools, ii) first implementation in Gülnar FED, iii) Extension of the methodology to other FEDs, iv) preparation of recipes for species of concern targeting the forest chiefs through annexes in the forest management plans, v) and ensuring the successful implementation through extension activities targeting the forest chiefs and managers.    During the second part of the year, several guidelines will be published regarding implementation of biodiversity actions in the forests, practitioner's guide, how to prepare management plans with integrated approach, several other biodiversity related documents, poster, brochure and others. |
| PA management effectiveness: METT Score | Aladağlar National Parks - 35 METT Score    Kartal Lake Nature Reserve - 21 METT score | *(not set or not applicable)* | Aladağlar National Parks - 40 METT Score    Kartal Lake Nature Reserve - 40 METT score | Updated METT scores for Kartal Lake Nature Reserve and Aladağlar National Park will be prepared and reported before the Terminal Evaluation of the project. | Updated METT scores for Kartal Lake Nature Reserve and Aladağlar National Park will be prepared and reported before the Terminal Evaluation of the project.    METT score of the Aladağlar National Parks has surpassed target (50 vs. 40). Confirmed by the MTR.    METT score of the Kartal Lake Nature Reserve has increased but still under target (31 vs. 40). It is unlikely to reach 40 by the end of project as it is a strict nature reserve and there are only protection and limited monitoring activities on the ground. |
| [Modified indicator]: Improvement in target biodiversity species at pilot sites    [Original indicator]: Improvement in biodiversity indicator species at pilot sites | See baseline values for pilot sites in table below | *(not set or not applicable)* | [Modified target as per MTR]: 'Minimum habitat size' for viable population is under protection    [Original target] See target values for pilot sites in table below | Midterm evaluation conducted during this period has recommended to adjust this indicator measurement for Output 3.3 which is “improvement in biodiversity indicator species at pilot sites” to a proxy indicator for improved biodiversity such as “minimum habitat size.” Changes will be discussed and made during 2018 with the approval of the steering committee. | During the last Steering Committee meeting held in May 2019, a decision has been made to change the indicator for Output 3.3 from “Improvement in biodiversity indicator species at pilot sites” ) to "Improvement in target species at pilot sites” along with modified target “Protection of minimum area of suitable habitat for viable population" as proposed by the Mid-Term Review. The project team with the support of the project partner “Nature Conservation Centre”, will work on assessing the indicator’s progress and calculating the habitat suitability for the species. The final figures and level of achievement will be reflected to the Final Evaluation report of the project. |
| Carbon benefits from forest Pas | Areas are subject to regular logging according to management plans, carbon pools diminishing. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Net carbon benefit associated with new conservation areas estimated at 64,245 t CO2e/year. | Cumulative net carbon benefit associated with conservation areas of 5 pilot sites is estimated at 117,336 tCO2e.    Net carbon benefit associated with protected areas (Core zone+buffer zone+transition zone) in Gulnar FED is calculated at 51,569 tCO2e for three years since the approval of management plan in 2016.    Net carbon benefit associated with protected areas in Gazpaşa FED is calculated at 42,120 tCO2e for two years since the approval of management plan in 2017.    Net carbon benefit associated with protected areas in the rest of the FEDs is calculated at 37,688 tCO2e for a year since the approval of management plans in 2018. | Cumulative net carbon benefit associated with conservation areas of 5 pilot sites is estimated at 207,315 tCO2e as of 2019. EoP target exceeded.    Net carbon benefit associated with protected areas (Core zone+buffer zone+transition zone) in Gulnar FED is calculated at 68,759 tCO2e for four years since the approval of management plan in 2016.    Net carbon benefit associated with  protected areas in Gazipaşa FED is calculated at 63,180 tCO2e for three years since the approval of management plan in 2017.    Net carbon benefit associated with protected areas in 3 other FEDs is calculated at 75,376 tCO2e for two years since the approval of management plans in 2018. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 92.28% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 92.28% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 6,570,246 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 125,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 7,120,000 |
| Co-financing | 21,430,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | May 26, 2011 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Dec 28, 2012 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jul 23, 2013 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Dec 17, 2013 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Jan 31, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Feb 28, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jul 1, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Jul 23, 2018 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Jan 22, 2020 |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-05-29 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| N/A | *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **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.** |
| As the project was extended for 18 months the terminal evaluation has been moved from July 2019 to April 2020 with the terminal evaluation report to be finalized by end of April 2020. |

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| **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.** |
| At this reporting period, the project experiences no delays in key project milestones. The project has been extended and this will allow to improve the impact and the global environmental benefits of the Project. |

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| **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.** |
| Given the no-cost extension for 18 months, the project's terminal evaluation has been moved to a later date, April 2020. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Highly Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project is in its final months. Other than few selected activities that will be implemented in the second part of 2019, all project activities were finalized, and targets were achieved. The project not only achieved its initial targets, in most of the subject areas it exceeded the expectations both in numbers and quality. Moreover, the project has helped GDF and the forestry sector to realize additional activities and developed products such as a comprehensive and unique decision support system, testing of new methods in inventory with remote sensing, assessment of the total effect of forestry sector on SDGs and many others. Today, we are having the pleasure of celebrating this success given to the motivated staff, continuous support of GDF management and experts and overall experience and vision of UNDP system.    After all years of progress, the final report is highly satisfactory not only for this reporting period but also all cumulative period.    Outstanding practices of the project are available for all 3 components and in cumulatively for the outcome level with listed approaches and methods below;  1- More than 600K ha of forest area within 28 forest districts available with replicable tools on fire management, pest management, silviculture techniques, non-wood forest products and eco-tourism plans to disseminate at national level  2-Fire Management Plans at forest district level have already been replicated at national level.  3- All forest in 5 pilot FED is under planning and management practice prepared during the project, i.e. integrated forest management planning. The tools for dissemination to national scale is prepared with a sustainability working group and a detailed plan to be implemented by the GDF.  4- First ever SDG and forestry report with a replicable method prepared  5- Improved capacity on forest village relations with innovative approach transforming solar water heating to solar electricity production within a new GEF funded project  6- First ever open source database projecting, quantifying and optimizing forest ecosystem at landscape level for forest planners prepared and deployed  7-Fire prevention trainings for primary school children and women and forest villagers have had nationwide effect and placed widely in social media in Turkey.  8-Pest distribution and risk maps with prescriptions for 28 forest districts were newly prepared and integrated into forest management plans to replicate to the other regions of Turkey.  9-Carbon calculation method and formula for pest control were firstly developed to calculate the losses of carbon due to pest harm.    This project also triggered two more key initiatives between GDF and UNDP, which are both supported by GEF. On one hand, we are currently implementing establishment of a sustainable finance system for installation of solar PV systems in forest villages based on the micro-grant experience of the current project. Moreover, we are developing another project on energy efficient wooden buildings in Turkey backed by the sustainable forestry vision of Turkish Government supported by the current project. This new project now will look at increasing the value added in the forest timber products that in turn will strengthen GDF and in turn the conservation of forests and contribute to the GHG emission reduction targets of Turkey through forestry sector.    I believe this project is highly satisfactory and results should be disseminated to the other UN organizations and governments as a best case. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Highly Satisfactory | Highly Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The project is on track and assessed as highly satisfactory for this reporting period as the project will exceed its end-of project targets and it is likely to achieve transformational change in the forestry sector in Turkey. Overall the project developed 28 forest management plans for 5 pilot areas. In this regard, project’s ultimate target for reaching 0.45 million ha of integrated forest management plans has been achieved and exceeded. In addition, to strengthen the implementation of these management plans several workshops conducted during this reporting period. Under Component 1, as a follow up to the MRV process a mapping study for Turkish Forestry Sector impact area with the Sustainable Development Goals has been initiated and this study will be finalized before the end of project completion. Under Component 2, two grants for ecotourism activities and non-wood forest products has been initiated during this reporting period. Also “Climate Change and Carbon Management” book has prepared, which summarizes the developments in climate change negotiations, decisions related to Turkey and LULUCF – Forestry related carbon budgets, formulas, etc. The book has published in the end of 2018. Under Component 3, cumulative net carbon benefit associated with conservation areas of the 5 pilot sites are estimated at 117,336 tCO2e, which already exceeds the target.    Additionally, project’s financial management is in line with the Annual Work Plan of the project and cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. Like the previous reporting period, project’s management structure is in place and steering committee meetings have been held as planned despite high staff turnover and changes in the GDF resulted in merging of two Ministries. The project is managed highly efficiently and effectively. Although there is no critical risk identified now, the project team closely monitor the possible risks and mitigating actions especially due to the restructuring of the Turkish government organizations including General Directorate of Forestry in line with the new presidential system in Turkey.    In conclusion, the project implemented inclusive management among forest officials and forest villagers; and development of appropriate institutional or management structures and frameworks for multiple environmental benefits. The project highlighted the importance of inter-relationships between and among three components of the project for creating biodiversity, climate and sustainable forest management benefits in a synergy. The core of the project is anchored on sustainable development goals to show how forests should be managed and improve SDGs with a data driven decision making process. Overarching the model will be a holistic approach to GDF that recognizes the roles of the forest within broader ecological, economic and socio-cultural systems. All of those approaches are well established and integrated into the GDF’s business as usual tools.    In this regard the project is considered as highly satisfactorily on track and at the end of the project the global environmental benefits will be meet and impact can be increased in order to present the project as an “outstanding practice”. | |
| **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** | Highly Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This reporting period marks the final year of project implementation and its cumulative progress in achieving objective and outcome level indicators is rated as Highly Satisfactory with a number of targets being already reached and even surpassed at this final stage in project implementation. The project will conclude its Terminal Evaluation in April 2020 followed by the project’s closure in May 2020.    Regardless of some challenges (including a coup attempt in 2016) faced by the Sustainable Forest Management project and initially delayed progress on some key activities (e.g. development of forest management plans), the project finally managed to catch up and produce many impressive and significant results by its end. Moreover, the project assisted the forestry sector with instituting a comprehensive and unique decision support system, introducing new methods of inventory that use remote sensing, assessing the overall impact of forestry sector on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and many others, not originally envisaged in the project. The following key elements of project implementation underpin the Highly Satisfactory rating.    At the objective level, the project delivered 638,923 ha (1,420% of EoP target) of forest area with integrated management plans with multiple environmental benefits at landscape level. Twenty-eight (28) forest management plans (FMPs) for the target forest units in 5 pilot sites now have biodiversity, ecosystem services maps, fire risk, pest risk, carbon focused silviculture, NWFP's, eco-tourism and industrial plantation perspectives, differing from the business-as-usual plans. To secure implementation of 28 FMPs, the project held capacity building trainings for the staff of target forestry units and the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) including forest chiefs, division directors of regional directorates, forest planning engineers, etc. as well as other stakeholders including the private sector. Overall progress towards the Objective level indicator is assessed as HS (Highly Satisfactory).    Under Outcome 1 on policy and institutional framework for integrated forest management within landscape:  - The LULUCF Unit, as reported, was already established in 2015 and is now fully staffed, operational and is adequately financed by the government. The project completed all capacity building activities for the staff of LULUCF Unit and GDF.    - The project established a Sustainability Working Group (SWG) composed of 14 officials from 7 different departments of GDF to cover all outputs of the project, rather than focusing only on forest PA related legal framework (the project’s indicator). As such, the SWG represents an effective framework for reviewing the existing regulatory framework, identifying gaps, drafting regulatory changes to ensure—among other aspects of forest management—a legal framework for defining forest PA expansion and integration into broader landscapes.    - In addition to producing the MRV documentation and establishing the MRV system for forest-based mitigation and sequestration, the project extensively supported efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in revising the Turkish SFM Criteria/ Indicator set along with the updated European SFM set.    - Moreover, the project conducted a study on mapping linkages between the Turkish Forestry Sector impact area and the Sustainable Development Goals. A working group has been established to undertake this task and a report identifying key relationships between the forestry sector and the SDG with relevant indicators from the MRV document will be available by project closure.    - The project created and operationalized an online decision support system for the forestry sector call ‘Forest Management Systems’, trained the GDF staff on how to use the support system, collect and input data that is compatible with the system. GDF currently uses the system in its inventory work for planning purposes in Kokez (in Bolu Province), for example, and finds it useful.    Overall, the project’s progress under Outcome 1 is assessed as Highly Satisfactory.    Under Outcome 2 on implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within landscape:  - Fire management plans for 5 pilot forest district directorates that were integrated into 28 forest management plans coupled with meteorological and forest fire early warning systems operational at the national scale and compatible with the GDF’s forest information system constitute the project’s remarkable achievement that is fully institutionalized at the national level.    - Total area covered by carbon-focused silvicultural activities has increased to 9,339 ha as of June 2019 and the target of 9,200 ha has been achieved and even exceeded. The silvicultural activities covering 9,200 ha that were supported by the Project are expected to generate 11,572 tCO2/y (to be confirmed by TE), corresponding to the project’s end result.    - 1,301 micro-credits (vs the EoP target of 1,100) were disbursed to the villagers in five pilot sites. Project target was achieved and even exceeded. Carbon benefits generated by the micro-credit program will be calculated during the project’s final evaluation and are expected to be in the range of 13,200 tCO2/y (EoP target).    - The project’s work on two pest centers or laboratories in Antalya and Mersin is on track. The project expects that etymology experts for the labs be recruited by GDF in 2019 despite temporary financial constraints. The project team raised this issue at the recent Project Board meeting and follows it closely with the decision makers of the GDF. Other than that, pest risky areas were mapped in 5 pilot project sites, recommendations prepared and integrated into forest management plans to minimize pest harms.    - As part of the MRV, carbon protocols were finalized, tested and integrated into inventory cards of GDF. Moreover, carbon protocols were integrated into forest management planning.    Given that some indicators need to be confirmed at the time of TE, a Satisfactory rating is granted to the project under Outcome 2.    In regard to Outcome 3 on strengthening protection of high conservation Mediterranean forests:  - 130,346 ha (or 1,630% of EoP target) of forest for nature conservation were identified, zoned and integrated into forest management plans of five pilot sites with cumulative net carbon benefit associated with conservation areas estimated at 117,336 tCO2e. The project will complement this important work by producing and publishing several guidelines on implementation of biodiversity conservation by the forestry sector, on how to prepare management plans with integrated approach, etc.    - Final METT scores for the Kartal Lake Nature Reserve and Aladağlar National Park will be available by the Terminal Evaluation. As confirmed by the MTR, METT score for the Aladağlar National Parks has surpassed the end target of 40. As for the Kartal Lake Nature Reserve, METT score increased (31) but still below the end target of 40. Given that the PA is a strict nature reserve doing only protection and limited monitoring activities on the ground, it is unlikely for the METT score to reach 40 by project end.    - In regard to the indicator on “protection of minimum area of suitable habitat for viable population", the project team with the support of the project partner “Nature Conservation Centre”, will work on assessing the indicator’s progress and calculating the habitat suitability for the species. The final figures and level of achievement will be reflected in the TE report.    - And finally, cumulative net carbon benefit associated with conservation areas of 5 pilot sites is estimated at 207,315 tCO2e as of 2019, exceeding the EoP target of 64,245 t CO2e/year.    Considering that the progress for some indicators is not final, the overall progress towards the Outcome level indicators is assessed as S (Satisfactory).    Project’s overall efficiency (implementation and project management) is rated Satisfactory with adaptive management (particularly in the second half of project life cycle) and the project’s partnership approach being the highlights. RTA IP rating differs from the UNDP CO assessment on the following grounds: the project financial delivery in the first half of its implementation was behind the overall implementation timeframe with 40% of the total GEF financing disbursed by the project midpoint. Financial delivery of the project significantly improved in subsequent years, starting 2017. But given initial drawbacks in disbursing project funds, only a Satisfactory rating is granted.    Other than that, the project team is highly professional and has demonstrated remarkable adaptive management skills given the changing context, including a coup attempt in the summer of 2016, and decision-making during the implementation period. RTA agrees that adaptive management is one of the strongest points in project execution.    The Project Board convened once this reporting period in May 2019 to review the project’s progress before PIR and collect inputs of key stakeholders, and to discuss the pending issue of hiring additional personnel for the two pest labs. GDF, the project’s key counterpart in the government, remains very supportive and accommodating urgent requests of the project. UNDP CO has provided effective supervision and backstopping; commitment to frequent monitoring and solid communication with partners has maintained the momentum of implementation progress. The project currently faces no critical risk and is well on track to successfully complete remaining activities by Terminal evaluation and project closure in April 2020.    The RTA commends the project team for great achievements in quite difficult context and recommends:    - Finalize remaining activities well before Terminal Evaluation;  - Complete SESP screening before the Terminal Evaluation;  - Get prepared for the TE including drafting a ToR, hiring an evaluation consultant, compiling a set of documents in English for TE to review  - Prepare an exit plan that outlines actions that require follow-up after project closure, including timeframes and responsibilities  - Ensure equipment and other project funded assets are transferred to the intended owners | |

# 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.

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| **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)* |

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| **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: No |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No |
| Not applicable: Yes |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |

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| **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.** |
| In terms of its design, the project did not target gender issues in the first place, therefore there are no specific linkages between Project activities and GBV. |

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| **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.** |
| A socio- economic study focusing on forest villagers in the pilot sites finalized and gender related questions were included in the field studies. Country Office gender advisor has contributed to this first ever forest village level socio-economic study to establish gender focused perspective.    During the fire prevention trainings in 50 villages at 5 pilot project sites, women were encouraged to participate in the training programs, and they have actively been involved in the trainings even in the evenings. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| During this reporting period, a grant scheme launched on eco-tourism and non-wood forest products within the scope of the Project and this initiative designed in a gender responsive manner based on the findings of the socio-economic study to advance gender equality efforts for the project's outcomes. |

# 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.

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

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| **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.** |
| No new social and/or environmental risk has been identified in this reporting period. |

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| **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 |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| No risks have been escalated during this reporting period. |

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| **SESP:** *not available*  **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)* |

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| **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.** |
| Not Applicable |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| The project was approved before the SESP was required. SESP screening will be done by the project before TE—planned to be finalized in April 2020. |

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

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| No complaints received. |

# Communicating Impact

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| **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.)** |
| In addition to the communicating impact from past years, the following can be listed as this reporting period's highlights regarding improving people's lives:    - This year the project started focusing on grant mechanisms that will be put into operation this reporting period. The grants focus on ecotourism activities in Köyceğiz pilot site and non-wood forest products in Andirin pilot site. The initial planning activities started in Köycegiz and Andirin with workshops to identify needs of local stakeholders who actively engaged in the process. List of projects on ecotourism and non-wood forest products started to be implemented in this reporting period. The projects will be finalized before the end of the project. All projects to promote non-wood products and ecotourism activities designed for increasing the economic welfare of especially local people while assuring biodiversity benefits. All projects are prepared with a gender expert.    - Twenty eight (28) integrated forest management plans for 5 pilot sites are being implemented that have created an ultimate forest management model for local forest units and forest chiefs in charge. |

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

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| **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.** |
| Please see attached document named &quot;press clippings&quot; under the File Library to view all of the media coverage during this reporting period.    April 2018 photography contest: https://joom.ag/nv9Y    Social Media Links:    International day of forest twitter: https://twitter.com/undpturkiye/status/976404911301840898  International day of forest twitter thread1: https://twitter.com/undpturkiye/status/976406757064019968  International day of forest thread2: https://twitter.com/undpturkiye/status/976409571303489536    International day of forest facebook posts:  https://www.facebook.com/undpturkiye/photos/a.151460681543827.24683.151426691547226/1722800541076492/?type=3&theater    Exposure story:    https://undpturkiye.exposure.co/working-for-the-common-good  https://undpturkiye.exposure.co/ortak-fayda-icin-calismak      Project web sites:  http://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/tr/home/projects/integrated-approach-to-management-of-forests-in-turkey--with-dem/  https://www.ogm.gov.tr/ekutuphane/Lists/DiskaynakliProjeler/DispForm.aspx?ID=108  http://www.dkm.org.tr/projeler/18/  http://ogmegitim.org/  http://entegreormanyonetimi.com/ |

# 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.

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

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

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

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| Yes |

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [4434 Turkey SFM CEO request 17 Dec 2012 for re-submission.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4434/213302/1660075/1660356/4434%20Turkey%20SFM%20CEO%20request%2017%20Dec%202012%20for%20re-submission.doc) |
| **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.** |
| During this reporting period partnership efforts continued to increase. Nature Conservation Centre continued to be the main partner for implementation of project activities under the Component 3 on Strengthening protection of high conservation value forests in Mediterranean landscape that is including the development of the tool for biodiversity conservation integration and work related to non-woof forest products and eco-tourism.    Yaşama Dair Foundation (YADA Foundation - en.yada.org.tr ) served as the main organization for the preparation of the socio-economy study related to relations of forest villagers with forest ecosystem and their living conditions. The study focused on covered the pilot sites of the project and gender perspective was included in the field studies. Moreover, YADA has also participated in the working group on the Forestry and SDG study along with Nature Conservation Centre.    The project contracted a private consulting company, Silvia Terra, to assist with forest inventories for informed forestry management in Alara Forest region. Silvia Terra is a company specialized on forest inventories with the support of satellite images through their own cruise boost for forest modeling. The second demo finalized during this reporting period.    Cooperation with Yale University on decision support system continued with further involvement of University of Washington for coding of forest growth modeling and optimization tool. |

# 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.