

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**MIBC - Conservation of Afromontane Forests**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4644 |
| GEF ID | 5440 |
| Title | Mainstreaming Incentives for Biodiversity Conservation in the Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE) |
| Country(ies) | Ethiopia, Ethiopia |
| 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** |
| There is an urgent unmet need to ensure that the current high level of growth and planned investments do not continue to impact negatively on biodiversity. This is especially important for the majority of Ethiopians for whom biodiversity is an important asset that help to deliver key ecosystem services (e.g. food security, clean and secure water supplies, greater resilience to extreme weather events). The CGRE does not adequately address biodiversity concerns. This project is designed to address this need by putting in place safeguards to ensure biodiversity is protected amidst this flurry of rapid economic growth and development. The project aims to change the trajectory of development through ensuring biodiversity is mainstreamed at the national and landscape level. At the national level, the project will put in place decision support tools and build the capacity of relevant staff to ensure land use and infrastructure placement decisions do not impact negatively on biodiversity. At the landscape level, the project will pilot payments/incentives for biodiversity conservation as a mechanism for compensating landholders for avoided land conversion. The payments will trigger a shift from contra-conservation to conservation-compatible land uses and provide the additional incentive needed to engender the desired changes in land use. The incentives will be a sustainable complement to the CRGE implementation strategy of reducing GHGs while also ensuring other environmental benefits. |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
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| GEF Operational Focal Point | Mr. Wardi Hashim (worhash@yahoo.com) |
| Project Implementing Partner | Mr. Wardi Hashim (worhash@yahoo.com) |
| Other Partners | Mr. Melese Maryo (melessedevid@gmail.com) |

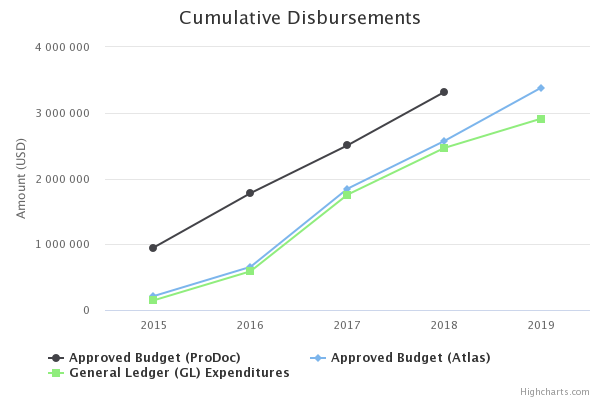
# Overall Ratings

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

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To ensure that the biodiversity of Ethiopia is better protected from current and future threats by ensuring development and investment decisions do not impact negatively on biodiversity** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| (i) A comprehensive GRCE that recognize conservation and sustainable use of BD as a major contributor to its goal of increasing GDP; and delivers a coherent response to BD loss, and CC. [the baseline and target in current PRF does somehow tackle this but as the title of the project is “mainstreaming incentives for BD conservation in the GRCE strategy” I suggest that the objective indicator is focused on the CRGE; | The importance of biodiversity conservation not adequately appreciated across sectors – or the budget process in Ethiopia | *(not set or not applicable)* | The importance of biodiversity conservation is better recognised at all levels in Ethiopia – including in the federal budget process, investment in the environment is increased and decision makers in the planning system are better able to make decisions to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services. | The importance of biodiversity noticed, as a result CRGE result indicators have been revised and reflected biodiversity affairs.Evidences were generated through preparation of a biodiversity public expenditure review (PER) for Ethiopia, that covered a period of 2002-2016 to influence decision making process with the policy people, including the budgetary processes. Apart from informing policies on the low investment trend for biodiversity in the country, evidence based contribution of the sector for the national economy(GDP) has also been elaborated and used as an advocacy tool. Various policy forums were also organized and discussed on the need of increasing fiscal attention that must be proven by substantial increment of fiscal budget for the biodiversity sector. Those Policy personnel working on environmental and natural resource at the parliament of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia has took note to take concrete actions on the budget redistribution.  To more scale up existing project gains to scale level, the project has assisted the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to prepare a strategy and national road-map to design an innovative domestic funding pool from ecosystem service payment(PES), which adds value for the CRGE strategy to create a sort of innovative domestic financing . The strategy document has provided the project with an opportunity to convince policies to design new PES legislation that substantiate additional funding opportunity for the biodiversity sector. Accordingly, GoE's environment ministry has adopted the strategy plan and also initiated the legislation of PES law. | The importance of biodiversity is noticed among policy makers, as a result CRGE result indicators that previously overlooked biodiversity have been revised and fairly reflected biodiversity affairs.Evidences were generated through preparation of a biodiversity public expenditure review (PER) for Ethiopia, that covered a period of 2002-2016 to influence decision making process with policies, including those mandated to influence budgetary processes. Apart from informing policies on the low investment trend for biodiversity in the country, evidence based contribution of the sector for the national economy (GDP) has also been elaborated and used as an advocacy tool. Various policy forums were also organized and discussed on the need of increasing fiscal attention that must be proven by substantial increment of fiscal budget for the biodiversity sector. Those Policy personnel working on environmental and natural resource at the parliament of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia have to take concrete actions on budget re-direction.  To scale up existing project gains to wider areas of the project regions, the project has assisted the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to prepare a strategy and national road-map to design an innovative domestic funding pool from ecosystem service payment (PES), which adds value for the CRGE strategy to create a sort of innovative domestic financing . The strategy document has provided the project with an opportunity to convince policy-makers to design new PES legislation that substantiate additional funding for the biodiversity sector. Accordingly, GoE's environment ministry has adopted the strategic plan and also initiated the legislation of PES law. The initiative of implementing PES at local levels is well under progress by local government departments. |
| (ii) At least 20,000 ha of the highly threatened afro-montane forests [wording needs to change due to forests not targeted but rather ecoregion] are under improved stewardship by community land managers, as a result of a PES scheme piloted, indicated by no not loss of habitat in BD sensitive areas (from clearance for agriculture). | The importance of biodiversity conservation not adequately appreciated across sectors – or the budget process in Ethiopia | *(not set or not applicable)* | Pilot PES operational in four sites.  At least 20,000 ha of the highly threatened afromontane ecoregion are under improved stewardship by community land managers, as a result of the PES scheme piloted, indicated by no loss of habitat in BD sensitive areas (from clearance for agriculture, deforestation for fuel / building wood or grazing). | 27,000 ha of highly threatened afromontane Eco-regions are put under improved community stewardship. PES agreements among the land managers and volunteer ecosystem service users are currently materializing the signing processes.About 11 PES deals are in pipeline, all on voluntary basis as there is no robust mandatory PES law so far in Ethiopia. Moreover, one of the project pilot site( namely Choke), which is a source of tributory rivers for the great blue Nile is picked by the state government of Amhara to be upgraded to a protected area category XI of IUCN classification and it means the state governmnet is committed itself to assign significant amount of fiscal budget for the conservation of the conservation site and also to pay incentives for the land managers currently engaged to the conservation work. Overall the state of the biodiversity pilot sites have registered substantial restoration where forest cover and biodiversity richness is increased by multi-folds. The level of previously existing degradation and pressure is highly reduced. The other pilot site ; namely Diga-Arjo forest, which is also another important watershed tributes to Dedhesa sub-basin and ultimately to Blue Nile is also upgraded to 12,000 ha from the baseline of 5437ha by a state of Oromia.The Oromia state like the other one is showing an interest to put Diga conservation site as one of the core areas in the state, that soon shall be decree as either biosphere or protected area. Reduced degradation level is confirmed in the three of the four project sites based on a multi-stakeholder progress review report. | 34,000 ha of highly threatened afromontane eco-regions are put under improved community stewardship. PES agreements among the land managers and volunteer ecosystem service users are currently materializing through signing processes. About 13 local PES agreements are signed between land managers and voluntary buyers, all on voluntary basis as there is no robust mandatory PES law so far in Ethiopia. Moreover, one of the project pilot sites ( namely Choke), which is a source of tributary rivers for the great blue Nile is picked by the state government of Amhara to be upgraded to a protected area category VI of IUCN classification and the state government has committed itself to assign significant amount of fiscal budget for the conservation of the conservation site and also to pay incentives for the land managers currently engaged in conservation work. Overall the state of the biodiversity pilot sites have been improved per the biodiversity score card checklist taken by the project sites. Likewise the forest coverage has registered an average of 35% restoration per the satellite imagery report compiled by the project with a support from Ethiopian Geo-Spatial Information agency. The level of previously existing degradation and pressure is reduced by 50%. The other pilot site ; namely Diga-Arjo forest, which is also another important watershed tributes to Dedhesa sub-basin and ultimately to Blue Nile is also upgraded to 12,000 ha from the baseline of 5437ha by a state of Oromia. The Oromia state like the Amhara regional state has shown an interest to put Diga conservation site as one of the core areas in the state, that soon shall be decree as either biosphere or protected area. Reduced degradation level is confirmed in the three of the four project sites based on a multi-stakeholder progress review report. Likewise Kulfo project site in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples State has got local government fiscal commitment to sustain the PES practice beyond the project life. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **The enabling framework for mainstreaming incentives for biodiversity conservation into the CRGE at national level strengthened** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Improved recognition of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as a major contributor to the CGRE strategy of increasing GDP; and delivers a coherent response to biodiversity loss, and climate change. | GoE budget not coded for environment | *(not set or not applicable)* | Biodiversity Expenditure review completed  GoE budget coded for biodiversity expenditure  Decision makers more aware of the importance of Biodiversity to national and local economies and willing to redirect greater financial support to the Biodiversity sector | 01 Biodiversity Expenditure Review is fully completed.    Decision makers at different levels are aware of the vital roles of Biodiversity in the economic development and societal well being. through series of policy forums, symposiums, key national events such as international day of Biodiversity, biodiversity coordination forums and other events.Moreover the vital role of biodiversity has been televised on national and local television stations, FM radios and other public channels such as digital broadcasting. Documentaries are also produced and used as an awareness raising tools in the project sites to enhance decision makers steps for redistribution of resources for the conservation work. Based on the advocacies and series of communications, budget increment is noticed with the national and state governments of Ethiopia | 01 Biodiversity Expenditure Review is fully completed and disseminated to pertinent national and local sector ministries for following policy and fiscal actions.    Decision makers at different levels are aware of the vital roles of Biodiversity in the economic development and societal well being. through series of policy forums, symposiums, key national events such as international day of Biodiversity, biodiversity coordination forums and other events. Moreover the vital role of biodiversity has been televised on national and local television stations, FM radios and other public channels such as digital broadcasting. Documentaries are also produced and used as an awareness raising tools in the project sites to enhance decision makers steps for allocation of resources for the conservation work. Based on the advocacies and series of communications, budget increment is noticed with the national and state governments of Ethiopia  Moreover, the project has compiled evidences on contribution of Ethiopia’s Biodiversity to the national economy with a focus on forest, protected areas, wetland and Agro-Biodiversity of Ethiopia, to present concrete facts and figures on the vital roles of biodiversity and fiscal investment trend from the public resource that help to convince policy-makers about the return on investment towards ecological conservation in Ethiopia |
| Requisite staff capacitated and well positioned to use decision support tools and the results from BPER, and other relevant studies regularly in their decision-making | No BDER | *(not set or not applicable)* | 6 regional level large scale digital maps of critical biodiversity areas developed;  Biodiversity score cards in place to determine a) no go areas (b) areas where developments may be allowed but with certain minimum conditions - target 6 (by end PY 2)  Spatial data, decision support tools and training provided to staff in all regions to better equip them to implement systems to support protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services in sustainable development | 06 regional digital maps of critical biodiversity areas developed    Biodiversity score card prepared in 04 project areas to determine; no go areas(core areas), areas where development possible with certain preconditions    28 staff at regional environment and forest bureaus have got a training on how to use the spatial decision support tools, to support protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services in sustainable development | 08 regional digital maps of critical biodiversity areas developed and disseminated per the four project pilot sites. The digital maps are being disseminated in the form of wall maps, billboards and digital form to ease its use for the public and decision makers at regional and local levels.  Biodiversity score card prepared in 04 project areas to determine; no go areas(core areas), areas where development possible with certain preconditions    54 staff at regional environment and forest bureaus have got a training on how to use the spatial decision support tools, to support protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services in sustainable development |
| Better cooperation and interaction of institutions involved in managing the response to biodiversity loss and climate change | Importance of biodiversity conservation is in planning and EIA systems but staff have limited capacity to implement systems | *(not set or not applicable)* | Key staff trained in all relevant sectors at all levels on how to use the maps and scorecards for better land use planning and investments - – target 24 (by end PY2), 16 more (by end PY3), 24 more (by end PY4) | 37 persons ( 4 F) are trained on basics of how to use different decision support tools such as biodiversity score card and digital mapping. months | More than 12 national and about 36 local interactive forums were organized among key sectors working towards Climate Change adaptation and conservation of biodiversity to set common priorities and play complementary roles i n reducing further pressure on biodiversity hot spot areas in the country.The primary achievement of the project has been the ability to mobilize partnerships between communities, local and regional/zonal authorities, universities and private firms in addressing issues related to climate change impact and loss of biodiversity. Particular issues related to flooding, watershed rehabilitation and biodiversity protection have been brought on table for stakeholders action. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Payments for biodiversity conservation and wider ecosystem services is piloted at selected sites** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Land use changes under PES, result in increased forest cover, reduced habitat loss and habitat degradation by 35% | No land under PES in selected pilot sites | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 20,000 ha under PES agreements in pilot sites.  At least 25% of land users in pilot areas benefiting from PES  50 % of land users increasingly aware of importance of BD and ESs  At least 25% of land users using SLM technologies to enhance production in non-PES pilot areas  [60 overall (10 per pilot area and 20 additional for scaling-up)  Metrics for determining the payments designed: Ecosystem services in the selected sites are defined, measured and assessed; amount of payment is determined | 27,000 ha of land is put under PES agreement in 04 project areas, 20% of people living in the project areas are benefited from PES scheme, 60% of people are aware on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems, at least 20% of land users are  using SLM practices.    34 CBOs organized by the project are currently undertake overall coordination of 27,000 ha land under community stewardship. Furthermore the project has provided different training pertinent to improved land management practices to 12,352 ( 4095 F) persons.Habitat loss and land degradation is reduced by > 50% in Diga project site, >40% in Hadew project site, > 35% in Kulfo project site and by 20% in Choke, based on participatory field observation organized by the project and participated by multiple project key stakeholders. This is also confirmed by UNDP M&E officer( BTOR uploaded).    Out of 11 pipeline PES dealing, 04 agreements are signed between the land managers who committed to manage the land to generate ecosystem services and 04 volunteer payers for water provisioning, soil fertility improvement, flood mitigation, wild life restoration and rehabilitation of forest.Modality the payment is both in cash and in kind with a per-condition set by the buyers. some of the per-conditions are reduction in flood disaster, water conservation & discharge capacity improvement, survival of plated seedlings at least for two dry seasons, wild life abundance/restoration and reduction of landslide among others. There is no matured in cash payment so far. Yet there are in-kind incentives paid( or co-paid) to the land managers by local governments who provided solar energy apparatus, energy efficient cooking stoves and credit services to reduce dependence on bio fuel and to create alternative livelihood options rather than encroaching forests for their subsistence lives. Likewise, there are Non-government organizations who provided incentive benefits for community land managers who proved effective restoration of previously degraded land resources, in a kind incentive payment mode such as provision of fodder seed, improved crop seed, high value fruit seedlings and so on. The 04 universities in the project pilot sites in general and Wollega University in Arjo-Diga project site has played an exemplary role in strengthening capacities of the land managers and also in facilitating dialogues between community land managers and those private companies such as breweries sugar factories, commercial farmers , environmental concerned entities/individuals to value positive contribution of the land managers and hence pay incentives. In general the universities are currently undertaking total economic valuation of the closed ecosystems, which subsequently help local environment authorities to set metrics for each of the ecosystem service in order to engage all relevant public and private agencies to buy/pay for these services. | 34,000 ha of land is put under PES agreement in 04 project areas, 20% of people living in the project areas are benefited from PES scheme, 60% of people are aware on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems, at least 30% of land users are  using SLM practices.    42 CBOs organized by the project are currently undertake overall coordination of 42,000 ha land under community stewardship. Furthermore the project has provided different training pertinent to improved land management practices to 16,352 ( 5755 F) persons. Habitat loss and land degradation is reduced by > 60% in Diga project site, >40% in Hadew project site, > 40% in Kulfo project site and by 20% in Choke, based on participatory field observation organized by the project and participated by multiple project key stakeholders. This is also confirmed by UNDP M&E officer( BTOR uploaded) and annual result verification report.    15 PES agreements are signed between the land managers who committed to manage the land to generate ecosystem services and volunteer payers for water provisioning, soil fertility improvement, flood mitigation, wild life restoration and rehabilitation of forest. Modality of payment is both in cash and in kind with a pre-condition set by the buyers. some of the pre-conditions are reduction in flood disaster, water conservation & discharge capacity improvement, survival of planted seedlings at least for two dry seasons, wild life abundance/restoration and reduction of landslide among others. In addition to the 13 PES agreements there are in-kind incentives paid( or co-paid) to the land managers by local governments who provided solar energy apparatus, energy efficient cooking stoves and credit services to reduce dependence on biomass and to create alternative livelihood options rather than encroaching forests for their subsistence livelihoods. Likewise, there are Non-government organizations who provided incentive benefits for community land managers who proved effective restoration of previously degraded land resources, in a kind incentive payment mode such as provision of fodder seed, improved crop seed, high value fruit seedlings and so on. The 04 universities in the project pilot sites in general and Wollega University in Arjo-Diga project site has played an exemplary role in strengthening capacities of the land managers and also in facilitating dialogues between community land managers and those private companies such as breweries, sugar factories, commercial farmers , environmental concerned entities/individuals to value positive contribution of the land managers and hence pay incentives. In general the universities are currently undertaking total economic valuation of the closed ecosystems, which subsequently help local environment authorities to set metrics for each of the ecosystem service in order to engage all relevant public and private agencies to buy/pay for these services. |
| Institutional capacity of national and provincial governments (woredas) is emplaced to coordinate PES programmes, allowing for the systematic scale up of PES across the Afromontane forests (covering at least 20,000 hectares) | No land under PES in selected pilot sites | *(not set or not applicable)* | Prospective sellers to supply ecosystem services identified; and their capacity to modify land use practices is enhanced through technical assistance / extension on biodiversity friendly land use practices  PES agreements are brokered between sellers and Government specifying conditions for payments (Value of service; mode of payment; delivery of service) agreed upon by Government and sellers and operationalised through contracts  Institutions in place to manage the PES scheme – such as negotiation, contractng, transaction, verification, | Institutional capacity of 34 CBOs engaged in land modification ,07 woredas coordinating the PES scheme and 04 regional bureaus have got technical assistance on PES management, and sustainable land management.    04 universities have got training on PES designing and metrics development as well as acquired capacities for brokering PES.    The federal ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has got multidimensional support to manage PES; including PES negotiation, development of metrics(ecosystem service valuation techniques etc) and has got a national guideline for PES administration and metrics preparation for PES transaction. | Institutional capacity of 42 CBOs engaged in land restoration,07 woredas coordinating the PES scheme and 04 regional bureaus have got technical assistance on PES management, and sustainable land management.    04 universities have got training on PES designing and metrics development as well as acquired capacities for brokering PES.    The federal Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission has got multidimensional support to manage PES; including PES negotiation, development of metrics(ecosystem service valuation techniques etc) and has got a national guideline for PES administration and metrics preparation for PES transaction |
| Increased government investment in pro-conservation PES in the afromontane forests by EOP | No land under PES in selected pilot sites | *(not set or not applicable)* | Monitoring and verification system measures the impact of intervention (PES) on land use changes (actual delivery of ecosystem services), biodiversity and livelihoods in the target sites using standards and indicators derived from baseline information. | The project has prepared a 01 guideline for ecosystem service valuation, measurement and verification for the use of those trained governmnet and project personnel.    Indicators to measure biodiversity restoration status and livelihood conditions is also compiled. | -The project has prepared 01 guideline for ecosystem service valuation, measurement and verification for the use of those trained government and project personnel.  -The project has forwarded its efficient community based biodiversity conservation model and a local PES framework to local government councils for budget coding. Accordinly Choke and Kulfo project sites have got positive responses for pro-biodiversity conservation investment, effective from September 2019.  -Indicators to measure biodiversity restoration status and livelihood conditions is also compiled.  -Furthermore, local project steering committee has confirmed its commitment to further increase its financial and non-financial support to the hot spot areas under the community-based rehabilitation |
| **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): | 87.8% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 87.8% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 2,911,917 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 89,938 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 3,316,455 |
| Co-financing | 16,000,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Nov 7, 2013 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Sep 28, 2015 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Dec 3, 2015 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | May 9, 2016 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 2, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Oct 5, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jun 2, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Dec 2, 2019 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-01-03 |
| 2018-07-29 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| N/A | There is no risk |
| N/A | There is no risk |
| N/A | There is no risk |
| N/A | There is no risk |
| N/A | There is no risk |

# 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.** |
| There is no Delay |

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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.** |
| There is no delay in all key project milestones. |

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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.** |
| There have not been any delays. The project is in its last year of implementation and has already initiated the terminal evaluation of the project, and closure is expected by the end of the year (2019). |

# 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 has rigorously implemented its annual work plan and addressed most of the targets set to strengthen capacities to modify land use management practices and enable local governments to apply spatial tools that support their land related decisions. Likewise the project has widely advocated environmental service payment reproach in its four project sites and got handful of positive responses from those willing to pay for the environmental services. The PES pilot test signed at the project site level between the land managers and the voluntarily payers has prompted the national government to initiate PES legal framework.  Overall: The primary achievement of the project has been the ability to mobilize partnerships between communities, local and regional/zonal authorities, universities and private firms in addressing the flooding, watershed and biodiversity issues associated with degraded lands in areas of high biodiversity. This is a significant achievement. Linking the CBO conservation efforts to the development sectors and the programs of the CRGE Task Forces was noted by participants as a key challenge that remains to institutionalize the process. The project experience highlights the incentives that are needed to generate a shift toward sustainable land and ecosystems management – namely extensive coordination, cooperation and cost-sharing between CBO members, government, universities and private sector for specific protected area and related sustainable livelihood outcomes.    The project has developed an effective community-based model for initial payment-for-ecosystem services (PES) schemes based on (i) legal CBO cooperatives mobilizing community involvement and cooperation, (ii) the leveraging of technical support and partnerships with local government, line agency experts and universities, (iii) an organised approach to pursuing PES buyers, and (iv) the use of community volunteer labour, savings and microcredit systems to assist alternative livelihoods development and reduce unsustainable land use practices.    The MIBC project has demonstrated proven results in rehabilitating degraded lands and ecosystems at four pilot sites which can provide the basis for similar national-scale initiatives. These results support the establishment of Local PES Fund Platforms at the project sites and in other regions. The project has rated as a highly satisfactory project among its stakeholders at all levels of governments. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Highly Satisfactory | Highly Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The project has successfully achieved the intended project objective. The project has supported the preparation of payment for Eco-system Service Strategy. Which has motivated all project implementing regions, Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP and Somali to conserve biodiversity important areas. This has been witness by the Amhara region declaration of Chocke Mountain as community protected area. And also the dedication of the Arbaminch Municipality and different ecosystem users willingness to pay for their ecosystem services. The project has also supported the conservation of over 34, 0000 hectares biodiversity hot spot areas over its 20,000 hectares target.  The National Public Expenditure Review (PER) for the biodiversity sub-sector study commissioned by the project has contributed for making informed decision for government budget allocation towards c conservation of biodiversity resources.  In general the project has increased awareness including policy makers and demonstrated the economic, social, environmental and political values of biodiversity resource conservation for the first time in the country. I propose up-scaling of the project achievements to other parts of the country since conserving the rich and unique Ethiopian biodiversity will have both regional and global benefits in addition to the national benefit. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | Highly Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project is supporting communities through their organizations (CBOs) to restore, develop and conserve the watershed,biodiversity and habitats that improve their land fertility, hence increase productivity and their well being at large.  At the same time the project has been supporting GoE to strengthen its enabling framework for mainstreaming different incentives for biodiversity conservation.    The project has rigorously implemented its annual work plan in an harmonious way together with ongoing governmnet policies, strategies and actions. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | Highly Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project has enhanced ongoing national/ local capacities through wide range of engagement and building capacities of key national and local institutions.    It has put good foundation for environment service payment concepts and practices at both grass root and national levels. The project has also provided supports in availing decision support tools to reduce threats on biodiversity that emanate from rudimentary land related decisions. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | Highly Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project has accomplished its annual targets in a very satisfactory manner. As a key partner to the project I can rate the project's performance as a highly satisfactory.  The project's national advocacy is highly supported by strong grass root best practices and innovations. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Highly Satisfactory | Highly Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the third and last PIR for this project, as it is in its final year of implementation. The project is assessed to be highly satisfactory in its progress towards meeting the development objective and in the context of biodiversity mainstreaming and conservation projects in the Ethiopian context, is an example of a model initiative that has catalyzed policy responses that may enable an upscaling and further replication of the models and approaches that have been piloted under the project.    In this reporting period, significant progress was made to take the foundational work that had been conducted towards conclusion, in particular to ensure that an enabling framework for mainstreaming incentives for biodiversity conservation into Ethiopia’s Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy is facilitated and strengthened and that the Payment for Ecosystem Services approach is understood and adopted for piloting in key biodiversity areas and landscapes in the country.    At a higher policy level, the value of biodiversity has been demonstrated, as a result of the findings of a biodiversity public expenditure review (PER) which has facilitated the revision of the CRGE Strategy (Climate Resilient Green Economy) to reflect biodiversity issues. This advocacy work is expected to influence decision-budgetary decisions of government and has already facilitated decisions by the Ministry of Environment to initiate legislation for an enabling environment for PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services) approaches. This has required significant efforts in coordinating the different actors and stakeholders at all levels of resource use, management and decision-making. Key has been to bring on board all these actors around a new idea - including among communities and CBOs as land users and resource managers, government institutions as the law/policy-makers and resource managers, academic institutions that have been instrumental in conducting research and generating the scientific evidence to contribute to the business case and indeed the private sector which has identified an area for investment and has helped to convince law-makers that there is a business case for mainstreaming biodiversity into business processes and for conserving biodiversity and has invested/co-shared into the demonstration activities and have even showed willingness to scale up investments.    Through these coordination efforts, a community-based model for PES is now in place bringing together all these actors as service providers (communities) and buyers of ecosystem services (private sector), supported by technical advisors (universities) who act as brokers between these two actors and provide knowledge to help de-risk the investments of both parties.    The policy, legal and institutional frameworks are still under development. Outcome 1 regarding biodiversity safeguards, conservation budgets and legally-incentivized PES financing has not been fully achieved. However, 15 PES agreements have been implemented for community protected area conservation and rehabilitation funded by public and private sector ‘buyers’ of these services alongside the project support. The current PES agreements have so far generated over 7 Million ETB (244,000 USD) in funding excluding in-kind contributions.    Local awareness of the biodiversity values and support for restrictions on open grazing, tree-cutting and hunting has increased as a result of the project, along with appreciation for livelihoods development. The regeneration of vegetation cover and initial rehabilitation of watershed processes were observed during field visits by the terminal evaluation consultants to two of the four project sites, with related benefits to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, sustainable livelihoods, and community empowerment. Further development of this model with added refinements from the project experiences can be expected once the policy and legal instruments are in place to encourage larger investment from prospective PES buyers.    The technical decision support tools (biodiversity scorecards, digital maps, prioritization lists) developed through project support have provided essential input for Community Protected Aarea Management Plans that guide land use and watershed rehabilitation decisions. These plans are important and will require formal integration into local, woreda and regional/zonal planning and budgeting as part of the institutional incentive structure for biodiversity conservation. So far, the target of bringing 20,000 ha under some form of protection (including through Community Protected Areas) has been exceeded to reach about 34,000. Ecosystem benefits include reduction in flood disaster, water conservation and discharge capacity improvement, survival of planted seedlings, wildlife recovery and flood control and mitigation. Additional support and investments are needed to upscale these investments.    Although the policy level results, in particular the enactment of the PES legislation is still not achieved, the project has made remarkable achievements in demonstrating the value of biodiversity across all scale of use, management, decision-making and financing. The regional governments of Amhara and Oromia have demonstrated buy in and willingness to allocate resources to scale up some of these initial investments, and set aside land for biodiversity protection and even pay for ecosystem services and support PES schemes at the local level, even without the legal and policy instruments in place.    With regards to implementation progress, the project is on track to deliver all the resources by the time of closure in late 2019, and a terminal evaluation process will also conclude by year-end. The project has in fact implemented and achieved visible results in a short time, and clearly demonstrates that significant policy and behavioural changes can be a achieved in a short time and with limited resources, as long as the enabling conditions (e.g. political will and buy-in  , multistakeholder participation) are in clear and in place. | |

# 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.** |
| [Gender Analysis and Action Plan.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4644/213455/1728085/1742439/Gender%20Analysis%20and%20Action%20Plan.docx) |

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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: Yes |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No |
| Not applicable: No |

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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.** |
| Gender issues are highly considered in the project implementation process, particularly those activities related with resource benefit sharing and community level inclusiveness for institutional leadership |

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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.** |
| The project has been integrating gender equality into its project operations. It has been made mandatory in the project implementation and reporting process to consciously incorporate gender issues in result indicators and project targets. Moreover, the project has been taking important consideration to implement some household level supports that are directly contributing to reduce burdens on women and girls in terms of availing clean energies, facilitating special financial services for women and girls in empowering them economically through linking them to different income generation options and etc.  The project addressed the needs of women and men differently. In order to reduce women workload, as indicated in the gender analysis (women work 15-19 hr/day) half of which is for fetching firewood. The project has therefore supported 4731 women through the provision of energy saving cooking stoves & solar energy lanterns. |

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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.** |
| Women and girls are half of population in the project pilot areas and without their genuine participation it was impossible to restore the threatened biodiversity sites. There are concrete evidences in the project areas and the scale level that women and girls participation in the upstream and downstream project actions; women played significant role on biodiversity related advocacy work a the national level, women were the key partners in restoring the degraded project sites. The project has provided different training on Eco-friendly livelihood options for 2340 women.This has contributed for women engagement in diversified income generation activities from their total dependence on natural resources.  The following key actions were taken to advance gender equality and women's empowerment:  -Massive gender education was provided to 16,700 community members(5755 F) around the project areas  -Provided a training to 110 women in the project pilot areas and enabled them to roll out the concept of gender equality and women empowerment in their communities.  -The project aware 42 CBOs (community based organizations ) leaders to increase women's participation and women leadership in biodiversity conservation endeavors  -The project undertook advocacy campaigns in 35 kebeles on women's equal benefit for equal participation of natural resource conservation endeavors. |

# 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.** |
| The project has implemented proper mitigation measures for the anticipated project risks (which all rated as Low) per the SESP plan undertaken during the preparation of the project document:  1. It has put in place safeguards to avoid income disparity risk by undertakin capacity development supports for members of the CBOs to ensure these organizations properly function the conservation stewardship and materialize fair and transparent benefit sharing that raise from the conservation work among all community members. The capacities of 29 CBOs to enhance their stewardship responsibilities for the management of land area bestowed to them. The project has also link 34 CBOs with financial institutions to get financial services for the implementation of different livelihood options    2. The project strengthened duty bearers’ capacity to enable them meet their obligation in effectively engaging communities participate and gradually takeover responsibilities of coordinating biodiversity conservation and environmental safeguard. In fulfilling this 7800 community members have received extensive training and extension service on PES and SLM concepts.    3. The project is committed to guarantee that the rights of all community members be considered and respected to incapacitate the rights-holders can claim their rights. Therefore, the project will access communities to information related to the project and principally be consulted before beginning any activity considering this as one of its initial activities during implementation.    4. The Project supported communities at the pilot sites to formulate local management plans, by-laws and other regulations to guide and govern the actions of its members including determination of sustainable harvest levels for locally vital resources.    Furthermore, in order to avoid risks related to rights-holders limited negotiation capacity, the project was intensively engaged in creating access to information related to the project and consulted them on how they are positioned to lead the project's conservation implementation |

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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.** |
| N/A |

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| **SESP:** [FOR SUBMISSION PIMS 4644 ETHIOPIA SESP TEMPLATE Feb3rd2015.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4644/213455/1667313/1667598/FOR%20SUBMISSION%20PIMS%204644%20ETHIOPIA%20SESP%20TEMPLATE%20Feb3rd2015.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.** |
| [MIBC SESP analysis for submission to PIMS.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4644/213455/1728086/1742440/MIBC%20SESP%20analysis%20for%20submission%20to%20PIMS.docx) |

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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.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| N/A |

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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.** |
| N/A |

# 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.)** |
| The project is supporting communities through their organizations(CBOs) to restore, develop and conserve the watershed,biodiversity and habitats that improve their land fertility, hence increase productivity.    -The project has facilitated livelihood opportunities between communities and rural service providers; such as MFIs to make harmony between human economic activity and nature conservation.Furthermore, the project has introduced technologies and options that can improve lives without affecting the ecosystem. |

**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.** |
| So far the project has used mass medias such as national TV, FM radios, Facebook and twitter to publicize its results.Besides the project has prepared different fliers, movies and case stories to communicate its to different audiences. The project gains are also shared on Facebook and twitter pages. |

# 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 |
| 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?** |
| No |

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

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [REVISED PIMS 4644 Ethiopia CEO Endorsement July 28TH 2015.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4644/213455/1667315/1667616/REVISED%20PIMS%204644%20Ethiopia%20CEO%20Endorsement%20July%2028TH%202015.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.** |
| The project has been closely working with key stakeholders; mainly with national key line ministries and sub-national government line bureaus. Likewise, the project has been implementing its strategies with relevant line offices at the local level.    At the community level the project has been partnering civil societies and the private sectors in order to include multi-stakeholder efforts to communities conservation activities. |

# 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.