

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Circular Economy Souss-Massa-Draa**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5079 |
| GEF ID | 3989 |
| Title | A Circular Economy Approach to Agro-Biodiversity Conservation in the Souss Massa Draa Region of Morocco |
| Country(ies) | Morocco, Morocco |
| 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 Souss Massa Drâa (SMD) region in the southwest of Morocco represents an important and vulnerable part of Morocco’s share in the Mediterranean Biodiversity Hotspot. However, in recent decades, rapid population growth and the evolving aspirations of its people have led to increasing pressure on the integrity of the region’s ecosystems and their services. The unique and globally important forests of Argan tree (Argania spinosa) – the vast majority of global Argan exists in Morocco and 90 % is located in the SMD - are currently under severe threat from a wide range of human exploitation activities. Within Morocco, the overall cover of Argan forests has been reduced by an estimated 50% over the last 100 years and an average 600 ha still continue to be lost each year. The remaining forests are increasingly degraded with very little natural regeneration taking place – even though demand for the highly-valued oil from the Argan fruit has significantly increased in recent years. The long term solution that this project proposes is to introduce the payment for ecosystem services (PES) as an innovative mechanism to reverse the loss and degradation of the globally important Argan ecosystem, in combination with an enhanced valuation of key products from this ecosystem (Argan oil and honey) through improved labelling and marketing. By introducing PES for the first time to Morocco, the project would also contribute to laying a solid foundation for this strategic land-use and conservation tool in the country as a whole. The project aims to achieve its objective through four interconnected outcomes. Outcome 1 will facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for the introduction of PES in Morocco by focussing on the institutional, policy and legal changes needed to support the establishment and piloting of such a mechanism in the SMD region. Outcome 2 will strengthen technical capacities for the implementation of PES schemes in the SMD region and prepare the ground for national level up-scaling of PES concepts and tools by means of outreach, the dissemination of lessons learned and the exchange of experiences with other ongoing programs and projects. Outcome 3 will promote organic and biodiversity-friendly businesses through the improved labelling and marketing of agro-biodiversity products from the Argan ecosystem while ensuring the sustainability of related production systems. By building on the three previous outcomes, under Outcome 4 the project will make a pilot investment in PES as a means of enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and related ES in the Argan ecosystem. |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
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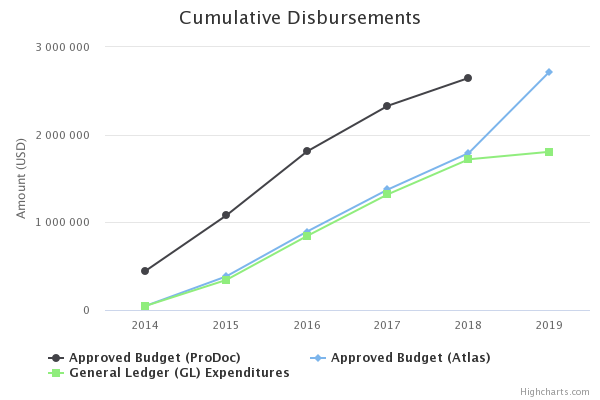
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Substantial |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **Conserver l’écosystème Arganier important à l’échelle mondiale de la région SMD grâce au paiement de services écosystémiques et à l’utilisation durable de l’agro-biodiversité qui y est associée.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| % Increase in revenues for PES suppliers taking part in the PES schemes. | 0% Increase in revenues for PES suppliers taking part in the PES schemes. | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 10% Increase in revenues for PES suppliers taking part in the PES schemes. | 0% achieved. Implementing PES effectively requires the development of a concerted institutional and legal framework with all stakeholders to avoid the risk of failure in its adoption. This framework is currently undergoing the final adjustments in consultation with the competent authorities. | 0% achieved. Nevertheless full conception of PES both on the ground and at the territorial level was accomplished and the underpinning institutional and legal framework is partly established. A business plan taking into consideration future revenues from PES is under development where indicative levels of PES are under review with respect to argan, honey, aromatic and medicinal herbs and goat meat (25,40,2.5 and 5 Dh/kg respectively) |
| Number of PES schemes | 0 PES schemes | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 4 PES schemes | Four PES schemes have been identified and their implementation is underway.  1. Payment for development and maintenance of agricultural terraces under the program of the Agricultural Development Fund (FDA). The landscape of agricultural terraces is a geographical characteristic of mountain areas that reflects an adaptation of agro-sylvo pastoral systems to the conditions of the natural environment. The services provided by these terraces (market services, non-market services and cultural services) were evaluated under the project at $ 313 / ha / year against 166 Dhs / ha / year as ceiling of financial support under the FDA, 15 times higher than the value of the financial contribution.  The services provided by these ancestral arrangements fall into two categories: Those of a public nature, accounting for 60% of value, include carbon sequestration, the regulation of the hydraulic system and the improvement of the quality of water, the fight against erosion and siltation of dams and the mitigation of flood damage; and those directly benefiting local people living mainly from forest resources by improving food systems through the conservation of agro-biodiversity and the reduction of poverty (40%). Given the importance of public services, the project proposes the reformulation of the Agricultural Development Fund (FDA) program by adopting the SE approach to remuneratively pay for the development and maintenance of terraces on farms.    2. The remuneration of the efforts made by the land/resource users to comply with the standards of ecological certification of local products of the Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve (RBA). MAB / UNESCO and Verra (a private certification body for verified impact value chain products for the sustainability of benefits for both people and nature) are involved in the implementation of this certification scheme. This is in accordance with SDG 12 on responsible production and consumption of the 2030 Agenda. The SD VISta accredited label in Verra will be adopted for the award of the RBA private eco-label to be managed by professionals. This dual-purpose goal of strengthening ecological resilience and public health is in fact critical to ensuring the sustainability of biodiversity-friendly biotech companies. High demand and high environmental impact products are targeted in the start-up phase (Argan oil, honey, aromatic and medicinal plants and tourist services). The Afoulki cooperative was selected by Verra as a pilot for the SD VISta certification of Argan oil. A supply contract for the Carrefour chain by the cooperative is provided for this purpose as a PSE. The SE payment corresponds to a price increase that will be agreed to pay the members of the cooperative.    3. Monetarization of the value of bee pollination services at the traditional Inzerki Apiary. This environmental finance initiative is also vital for conserving the biodiversity of honeybee habitats around the apiary as it is important for the sustainable management of intensive farming systems in the Souss Massa region. The project is currently conducting a study to develop a pollination charter by bees in consultation with the Moroccan Interprofessional Federation of Apiculturists (FIMAP) and the Interprofessional Federation of Fruits and Vegetables (FIFEL). This charter, which will define the technical and economic framework for the contracting of pollination services, will be implemented within the framework of the Argana Community Action Program (PAC) currently being reviewed by the project. This PAC will take into consideration the results of the technical and economic study of pollination in Inzerki as well as other local solutions of environmental finance (compensation of user rights of the Argan forest, crowdfunding, eco-certification ...)    4. Compensation for efforts to safeguard the beauty of natural and cultural landscapes for tourism purposes in the honey route circuit. In its responsible tourism strategy, the Rural Tourism Development Network (RDTR) has embarked on a low-carbon tourism economy through its "carbon neutral route of the honey route" program. This program is based on the trilogy of voluntary compensation of the carbon footprint by tourists, the energy efficiency in the accommodation structures and the implementation of an integrated program of waste treatment and pollution control for preserve the environment at the most popular natural and cultural sites of the circuit.  The latter program, agreed between the tour operators and the RDTR, will be implemented in a contractual framework where the RDTR agrees to organize waste collection campaigns and tour operators will ensure the voluntary mobilization of contribution to tourists.  This PES solution seems to be the most realistic, with the consent of the actors involved and the existence of models already demonstrated on the ground. | The project’s approach to ES and PES eventually underwent a major reorientation/reframing during the reporting period, through a series of reports and workshops supported by national and international experts.This happened after the choice and definition of the ES targeted earlier and the PES under implementation were not considered robust enough by the UNDP-GEF RTA and after an initial reorientation workshop in early 2018. The exercise led to the adoption of a single scheme integrating several (4 presently) inter-linked provisioning ES: Argan fruit, medicinal and aromatic plants, honey and goat meat.The goal is to ensure the provision of these ES in a sustainable manner, requiring improved management practices for the issuance of a new sustainable label for these products. The approach hence combined PES and certification.    This integrated PES scheme is being piloted in the area of Inzerk localted in the community of Argana, who has for some time expressed interest in and commitment to the scheme. . The integrated PES scheme is voluntary, engaging Argan forest custodians organized in a local association and regional businesses interested in using these ES. The quality and management of the ES will be assessed through proxy good practices for each product to be verified by the Argan Biosphere Reserve (ABR) Ecobranding Management Authority (EMA) being created by the project. Economic aspects of the PES contracts are submitted to parties for approval. The PES scheme shall be fully operational by January 2020 once the eco-branding standard has undergone a public consultation and is approved by the ABR-EMA. Initial best practices for the medicinal and aromatic plants sector will start by September 2019 and will be followed in march 2020 by the goat meat for which parties to PES reached an advanced negociation deal . Meanwhile, efforts are persued to find the right PES promotors of the argan and honey labeled products. |
| Number of hectares covered in each agro-ecological zone. | 0 hectares covered in each agro-ecological zone. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 9715 hectares covered in each agro-ecological zone. | Target achieved: a total of 3650 ha is covered by PES schemes: 250 ha in the Basin of Oued Tamaraght - Imouzzer Ida Outanane; 330 ha in the Chakoukane watershed; 3000 ha in Oued Massa sub-basin and Assif Oussaka and 70 ha in the Arghel watershed. | The reorientation of the project’s approach to PES affects the achievements under this indicator.  The Inzerki/Argana pilot area, which is located in the Ain AsmamaSEBI (Site of Ecological and Biodiversity Importance), covers 5836 ha that are expected to benefit from the reframed integrated PES scheme under development. |
| Number of hectares identified for the upscaling of PES schemes at the end of Project | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | - | Target achieved of 145 000 ha : 10 000 ha of land terracing ; 400 ha of eco-branding; 50 ha dedicated to the inzerki management plan and 134 550 ha covered by the honey circuit of idao tanane | The reorientation of the project’s approach to PES affects the achievements under this indicator.  The project does not expect to be able to upscale the PES pilot beyond the Inzerki/Argana area during its lifetime.  However, the ABR/EMA ecolabel is expected to help expand this and similar types of PES schemes in the wider ABR/Arganeraie, in other MAB/Biosphere Reserves in Morocco, and in Morocco more widely. .  The targeted area designated by the ABR management authority for certification based on PES is set to 50 000 ha for the five years ahead. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Environnement plus propice à l’établissement et à la promotion de modèles PSE dans la région SMD et à l’intégration de l’approche au niveau national.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Legislation and regulations developed and proposed for the adoption, the establishment and the implementation of a national PES schemes. | No – no law on PES  a regulatory and an institutional framework adapted to PES has not yet been identified and developed at a regional or at the national level | *(not set or not applicable)* | Yes - new legislation and regulations developed and proposed on the PES schemes | TORs were developed to secure expertise to develop a draft framework law for PES at the national level, drawing on the institutional and legal measures identified during the analysis of PES schemes at regional level by the project. | No legislation neither regulations on PES at the national level have been deemed necessary at this stage of the project implementation. However, an institutional framework (PES/Ecolabel Management Authority) has been set up for the Argan Biosphere Reserve to manage the ecolabel and associated PES. The statute of the EMA has been established and the internal rules are under development to operationalize concurrently the brand and PES. |
| Number of local and regional institutions actually engaged and supporting the PSE schemes | 0 local and regional institution actually engaged and supporting the PSE schemes | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 4 local and regional institutions actually engaged and supporting the PSE schemes. (HCEFLCD, professional organization, ADA, ANDZOA) | Target exceeded. The Agency for Agricultural Development (ADA), represented locally by the Regional Directorate for Agriculture DRA, and ANDZOA support: PES subsidy of terraces with the Union of Idaougnidif Cooperatives, PES related to eco-certification with the Cooperative Afoulki,, PES to promote pollination services with the Association of APAC of Inzerki, FIFEL, FIMAP and the municipal council of Argana, and the PES related to ecotourism with the Rural Tourism Development Network (RDTR) | The reorientation of the project’s approach to PES affects the achievements under this indicator.  Twelve regional and local institutions are engaged in supporting PES schemes including local and regional authorities (Argana municipality, Souss Massa regional council), government institutions (HCEFLCD, DRA, ANDZOA), in addition to professional organizations (FIFARGAN, FIMAP, FIMABIO, RDTR, local cooperatives, a business company and the Ecolabel Management Authority (ABR-EMA) . |
| Management Structure for the development of PES scheme and eco-certification of agro-biodiversity in the ABR implemented and operational | No - no management structure is available | *(not set or not applicable)* | Yes - Management Structure for the development of PES scheme and eco-certification of agro-biodiversity in the ABR implemented and operational | There is no dedicated structure yet for the management of PES at the regional level; it will however be identified and reinforced on the basis of suitable existing local organizations. This includes notably: the unique role of DRA, responsible for implementing the FDA program; the group of professionals dedicated to managing the RBA eco-label; the RDTR, which has opened a green account especially to promote responsible tourism in the honey route; and the Inzerki APAC Association and the Argana Municipal Council that are considering a coordination mechanism to promote environmental finance solutions. | Yes - the Ecolabel Management Authority (ABR-EMA) was officially set up and has worked with the project on the definition of model contract templates and best practice requirements regarding the management of the targeted ES/PES.  The ABR-EMA board of directors counts 15 members representing five value chains (Argan, honey, MAP, tourism and diverse other products) while the office of the association comprises 7 members. Three technical advisors are supporting the ABR-EMA in setting up a standard based on the certification of good practices adopted in the PES schemes. Initial PES negotiations are initiated for the MAP sector with a regional export business. |
| - | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Renforcement des capacités pour mettre en œuvre et intégrer le paiement des services écosystémiques et l’utilisation durable de l’agro-biodiversité qui y est associée.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| number of female suppliers of ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | 0 female supplier of ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | *(not set or not applicable)* | 70 female suppliers of ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | 61 women ES-suppliers trained in sustainable management of Argan forests, sustainable use of medicinal and aromatic plants, breeding of bee queens, basic principles of payments for ecosystem services and mainstreaming of gender project activities | 71 female suppliers of ES trained overall with 10 women trained this year in the domain of PES, bee keeping, goat breeding, Argan planting, soil and water conservation and domestication of MAP. In addition, 1 female participated in the study trip to Spain dedicated to eco-branding. |
| Number of male suppliers of ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | 0 male supplier of ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | *(not set or not applicable)* | 130 male suppliers of ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | 142 male ES-suppliers trained on sustainable management of Argan forests, sustainable use of medicinal and aromatic plants, good beekeeping practices, agricultural terracing, and in basic principles of payments for ecosystem services and eco-certification. | 182 men trained since the beginning of the project with 40 male suppliers of ES trained this year in the field of PES, bee keeping, goat breeding, Argan planting, soil and water conservation and domestication of MAP. In addition 6 males participated in the study trip to Spain dedicated to eco-branding. |
| Number of suppliers of ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | 0 supplier of ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | *(not set or not applicable)* | 200 suppliers of ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | 203 individual ES suppliers trained on sustainable management of Argan forests, sustainable use of medicinal and aromatic plants, breeding of bee queens, agricultural terracing, eco-certification, in basic principles of payments for ecosystem services and eco-certification, and in gender mainstreaming in project activities. | 253 suppliers of ES trained this year in the domain of PES, bee keeping, goat breeding, Argan planting, soil and water conservation and domestication of MAP. In addition 7 suppliers participated in the study trip to Spain dedicated to eco-branding. |
| Number of operators suppling ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | 0 operator suppling ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | *(not set or not applicable)* | 20 operators suppling ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES, particularly in relation to the Argan and honey value chains | 32 ES-supplying operators trained on sustainable management of Argan forests, sustainable use of medicinal and aromatic plants, breeding of bee queens, agricultural terracing, eco-certification, in basic principles of payments for ecosystem services and eco-certification, and in gender mainstreaming in project activities | 37 operators supplying ecosystem services (ES) trained in the domain of PES in relation to Argan, honey, goat meat and MAP. In addition 6 operators participated in the study trip to Spain dedicated to eco-branding |
| Number of female Technicians and decisionmakers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | 0 female Technicians and decisionmakers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 25 female Technicians and decisionmakers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | 12 female technicians trained | 14 female technicians trained since the beginning of the project with 2 female technicians and decision-makers trained this year in the design and implementation of PES schemes. In addition 4 female technicians and decision makers participated in the study trip to Spain dedicated to eco-branding. |
| Number of male Technicians and decisionmakers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | 0 male Technicians and decisionmakers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 45 male Technicians and decisionmakers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | 41 male technicians trained | 46 total male technicians trained in the past 5 years with 5 male technicians and decision makers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. In addition 5 technicians and decision makers participated in the study trip to Spain dedicated to eco-branding. |
| number of Technicians and decisionmakers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | 0 Technicians and decisionmakers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 70 Technicians and decisionmakers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | 53 technicians trained | 60 technicians trained in total including 7 technicians and decision makers trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes in 2019. In addition to that 9 technicians and decision makers participated in the study trip to Spain dedicated to eco-branding. |
| Number of NGOs/ Associations trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | 0 NGOs/ Associations trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 20 NGOs/ Associations trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes. | 12 NGOs trained | 14 NGOS trained in total including 2 Associations trained in the design and implementation of PES schemes in 2019. |
| Number of disseminated documents related to the capitalisation on PES at regional and national levels in Ar/ FR | 0 document related to the capitalisation on PES at regional and national levels in Ar/ FR is disseminated. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1000 documents related to the capitalisation on PES at regional and national levels in Ar/ FR are disseminated. | No change, as in 2017 | 150 training documents printed in Arabic regarding best practices of argan plantation, bee keeping, goat breeding and soil and water conservation in addition. In sum,, a total of 1500 documents were dessiminated from the project start date.    20 handbooks containing GPI guidelines were dessiminated. |
| - | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| - | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Renforcement des entreprises biologiques respectueuses de la biodiversité par le biais d’une amélioration de la labellisation et de la commercialisation des produits du terroir issus de l’écosystème Arganier.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| An ecolabel of the ABR is established and implemented | No ecolabel of the ABR is established nor implemented yet | *(not set or not applicable)* | No ecolabel of the ABR is established nor implemented yet | No ecolabel has been established. However, a pilot of the SD VISta label is under development and will be certified towards the end of 2018 | An ecolabel of the ABR is established and its implementation was initiated. The management authority as well as specifications regarding five groups of products are being finalized. |
| Number of professional organizations certified in accordance with the ABR eco-label | 0 professional organizations certified in accordance with the ABR eco-label . | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 4 professional organizations certified in accordance with the ABR eco-label . | 1 professional organization (Afoulki Cooperative) will be certified at the end of 2018 | 0 professional organizations certified as the system is still under preparation. In this regard, seven professionals are negotiating the way PES will be put into practice. |
| A new protected geographical indication (PGI) label is established and implemented for honey. | No- the PGI label is not yet established in the SMD region. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Yes- a new protected geographical indications (PGI) label is established and implemented for the honey sector. | The Souss regional honey association has been accredited to manage the thyme and Euphorb honey PGIs,with technical assistance by the project | Yes- a new protected geographical indication (PGI) label is established and implemented for thyme and euphorb honey. 20 professionals are being assisted in adopting the label. One of them has been attributed the label (Aguelif Agricultural Cooperative). |
| % Increase in revenue for professional organizations using the dedicated space for ABRcertified products within the SMD regional logistical platform for marketing of local agricultural products. | 0% Increase in revenue for professional organizations using the dedicated space for ABRcertified products within the SMD regional logistical platform for marketing of local agricultural products. | *(not set or not applicable)* | at least 25% Increase in revenue for professional organizations using the dedicated space for ABRcertified products within the SMD regional logistical platform for marketing of local agricultural products. | 0 % Increase in revenue for professional organizations using the dedicated space for ABR certified products | 0% increase in revenue for professional organizations. The certified cooperative has recently been agreed by the designated certification body. |
| Number of professional organizations adopt the new protected geographical indications (PGI) label for honey | 0 professional organization adopting the new protected geographical indication (PGI) label for honey | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 2 professional organizations adopt the new protected geographical indications (PGI) label for honey | 20 professional organizations have been designated to benefit from the project's support services for upgrading beekeeping units according to the specifications of the PGI label. | Only one professional is adopting the IGP label and 20 more professional organizations are taking steps to adopt it. |
| Number of strategic marketing plans for certified Argan oil and honey value chains developed and adopted by responsible institutions and key stakeholders | 0 strategic marketing plan for certified Argan oil and honey value chains developed and adopted by responsible institutions and key stakeholders | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2 strategic marketing plans for certified Argan oil and honey value chains developed and adopted by responsible institutions and key stakeholders | The strategic orientations for the development of the marketing plan for the labeled products are defined for Argan oil and honey and are under development. A market consultation has been launched for this purpose. | 1 strategic marketing plan for certified ABR ecolabel is under development and has been submitted to the management authority for approval |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 4**  **Renforcement de la conservation de l’agro-biodiversité dans l’écosystème Arganier par les modèles pilotes de PSE.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of developed PES schemes . | 0 PES schemes developed. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4 PES schemes developed. | Four PES schemes have been identified and their implementation is underway.  1. Payment for development and maintenance of agricultural terraces under the program of the Agricultural Development Fund (FDA).    2. The remuneration of the efforts made by the land/resource users to comply with the standards of ecological certification of local products of the Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve (RBA), together with MAB / UNESCO and Verra, with a pilot certification of the Afoulki Cooperative.    3. Monetarization of the value of pollination services provided by bees from the traditional Inzerki Apiary to farmers requesting these services.    4. Compensation for efforts to safeguard the beauty of natural and cultural landscapes for tourism purposes in the honey route circuit, with contracts linking RDTR, tour operators and local NGOs. | Please see the entry under the 2nd OBJECTIVE indicator above, with which this indicator here is fully redundant. |
| Number of stakeholders taking part in the implementation of the PES schemes. | 0 stakeholder is taking part in the implementation of the PES schemes. | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 8 stakeholders are taking part in the implementation of the PES schemes. | 13 stakeholders are taking part in the implementation of the ongoing PES schemes (ADA, 9 professional organizations, RDTR, Community of Argana) | 5 stakeholder groups gathering 469 beneficairies most of which are (422) women are involved in the negociations of the PES schemes: 1. the Inzerki association of right holders as suppliers of ES (45) 2. Nissaa Inzerki Agricultural Cooperative (13) for Argan, MAP and goat meat . 3. The CORSUD company (2) specialized in MAP. 4. The Afoulki Argan Agricultural Cooperative, (400) and 5. Wahat Inzerki Honey Cooperative (9) |
| % Of PES audits executed in accordance with the established procedures | 0% Of PES audits is executed in accordance with the established procedures | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 75% ( to 95%) Of PES audits is executed in accordance with the established procedures | No audit exercises on PES have yet been carried out. Verra will carry out a first compliance verification mission in accordance with the VISTA SD procedures in July / August 2018. | 0% Of PES audits executed as the auditing process is still under development |
| - | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| - | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 68.18% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 68.18% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 1,804,811 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 80,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 2,647,272 |
| Co-financing | 7,500,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 14, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Mar 19, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Jun 17, 2014 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Jan 15, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 14, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Dec 10, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Dec 30, 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)** |
| 2018-12-19 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |
| Operational | The remaining period for the project's official closure (December 2019) as well as the stipulated end of the mandate of the National Project Director in August 2019 are obstacles to carrying out remaining project activities and achieving the stipulated project outcomes, especially considering the recent reframing of the project. A draft project extension addendum was prepared and negotiation to appoint a DNP substitute was initiated.  Given all the following potential risks, sustainability of the project might be compromised. An exit strategy involving the ABR.EMA, the regional council and the Inzerki ICCA is necessary to achieve full implementation of the project. |
| Political | Upcoming election campaigns might influence the ABR label management body and might compromise a wider support from local stakeholders. A continuous awareness of the top professional members of the executive bureau is carried out by the PMU to stick to the project goals and ambitious supporting activities were planned to achieve expected outcomes. |

# 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.** |
| Inception workshop: N/A    Mid-term review : A slight delay was observed in carrying out the initial mid term evaluation due to slow progress in the implementation of some activities at the beginning and lack of cross-sectoral coordination among the governmental departments responsible for biodiversity conservation and among beneficiaries to gain their trust and let them accept the idea of PES. As a consequence, the SC meeting of feb 2018 urged the necessity to reframe the project document in a way to focus on biodiversity outcomes and discard initial misleading concepts related to agro biodiversity conservation and the circular econpomy approach. All these, combined with the required international expertise, provoqued one more year delay with respect to the initial timeframe.    Terminal evaluation: N/A    Project closure: The innovation of PES and the ambitious dimension of its components result in the fact that the achievement of all the outcomes can only be partial by the time the project is scheduled to end. In fact, the project brings forth a new dimension for the conciliation of the environment, the economy and societal aspects in a broad and collaborative approach. Significant advances were however made possible thanks to the reframing mission undertaken following the midterm evaluation with support from the RTA.  The need for a project extension period of 12 to 18 months will make the exit strategy more effective through operationalizing the ABR.EMA and leveraging additional supporting contributions in addition to the previously planned activities to conduct the final evaluation and to facilitate mainstreaming of PES concept and tools into macroeconomic policies. |

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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.** |
| Not applicable |

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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.** |
| After CEO Endorsement of this 5-year FSP in March 2014, the Project Document was signed without delay in June 2014 and the National Project Manager was hired soon after. The IW had taken place by August 2014, and project activities then took off yet at a low level for c. 1 year, after which the project only achieved full implementation.    With the PRODOC signed in June 2014, the Mid-Term Review should have been completed after 2.5 years and the 2nd PIR, by Dec 2016. However, the UNDP system entry was Dec 2017, and the MTR was launched only during the 2017-2018 reporting period, in Sep 2017, after which a rather poor report in French was made available in late Dec 2017, and when the RTA sent his (substantial) comments in Feb 2018 these were not considered any further by the MTR team; the MTR report was then translated to English and submitted to the GEF during the reporting period in Dec 2018.    To complement the weak MTR on technical aspects of project implementation, the RTA eventually conducted a long-requested oversight field mission in Feb 2018, during which an agreement was reached at a Project Steering Committee meeting to engage an independent reorientation mission for the project’s PES work. This contract (field missions, workshops, concluding report) stretched far into the present reporting period and led to a significant reframing of the project that is currently being implemented in an attempt to secure a few more relevant outcomes by the time the project’s resources are spent. The summary report of the final workshop, one of the key products, can be downloaded here: https://www.dropbox.com/s/h6u159rar7zl0rp/Projet%20EC-SMD\_Compte%20rendu%20de%20l%27atelier%20Agadir%207-8%20mars%202019\_version%20finale%20290319.doc?dl=0    With the PRODOC signed in June 2014, closure of this 5-year project should have been scheduled for June 2019; the system entry is however 30 Dec 2019. To date no change of closure date has been formally registered, yet an extension request has been expected for months and was received on 10 September with a request to postpone closure until 30 Dec 2020 – a one-year extension. Approval of the request cannot be guaranteed yet would seem sensible to allow the time to deliver some results in line with the admittedly late reframing of the project. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project reframing mission recommended by the RTA and adopted during the steering committee of Feb 2018 has improved implementation of the project through a result-based management process focused on biodiversity conservation outputs. The SC agreed to have an international expert mission took place. Only one pilot area was therefore retained and four PES scheme are yet to be consolidated instead of four sites initially planned.  The annual workplan might not be fully implemented because of the delay in delivering the Mid-term Review report in 2018 and the delay in signing the work plan document.  Project inception should take into consideration the national institutional context that would ensure full achievement of project goals. Given that the project focuses on biodiversity conservation through improvement of regulatory and technical aspects of grazing set-aside programs the HCEFLCD should have been officially and fully involved in the Project | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | • A project reframing study was conducted (its results presented and approved in March 2019) for the technical/conceptual reorientation of the PES initially proposed by the project, to put in place relevant pilot PES model and mechanisms aimed at the preservation of the agrobiodiversity of the Argan ecosystem;  • One pilot site (Commune of Argana) was retained and a consolidated PES scheme is proposed instead of four distinct PES initially planned. The proposed PES scheme is integrated with the ABR ecolabel that predict :  - The establishment of an umbrella ABR Ecolabel for 4 sectors (PAM, argan oil, honey and goat meat);  - For each sector, specifications will be established including, among others, good practices to respect for the preservation of the natural habitat and the conservation of biodiversity;  - Contracts will be established between cooperatives (users of the resource) and associations of rights holders (suppliers of the resource);  - The cooperatives that will be labeled "Ecolabel RBA" will get a premium price on their products (PAM, Honey Argan, goat meat), part of which will be donated to associations of rights holders (suppliers of the resource) to apply good practices (Agdal , put in defens, terassettes, preservation of the melliferous habitat ... etc.);  - The management body of the eco-label (ensuring compliance with the specifications) was recently created;  - The specifications are under development for each sector  • Capacity building of different stakeholders to implement and integrate the concept of PES and the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity associated with it is well advanced. The project has achieved the objectives set.  •Communication is one of the highlights of this project. Several communication tools have been developed in Arabic, French, English and Tamazight and posted on social networks, namely: brochures and posters presenting the project, good practice guides, educational/promotional videos.    Thus, we consider that the project is on track to achieve the objectives set following the project's reframing mission, given that since the project reframing study was conducted and its results were approved by the steering committee, an institutional framework (PES/Ecolabel Management Authority) has been set up for the Argan Biosphere Reserve to manage the ecolabel and associated PES. The statute of the ABR-EMA has been established and the internal rules are under development to operationalize concurrently the brand and PES. | |
| **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** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the 5th PIR for this full-sized project that was GEF CEO endorsed in March 2014 and signed in June 2014 and has caused the undersigning RTA many headaches regarding quality assurance and technical rigour, as will be explained again in the following.    Yet as a preamble: in Feb 2018, the RTA eventually conducted a long-requested field mission and found important gaps in technical capacity and barriers to relevant improvements that needed to be addressed, most notably i) a lack of clarity and technical rigour about the concepts of ES/PES (an impression shared by some local stakeholders including in the Steering Committee), with 3-4 PES schemes promoted by the project missing a clear logic linking payments back to services provided by ecosystems (e.g. payments given to farmers for agricultural terracing in highly degraded sites of questionable biodiversity potential; or payments given to apiculturists providing commercial pollination services to farmers in other locations); ii) a questionable choice of intervention sites that did not appear to follow biodiversity priorities; and iii) an inappropriate integration of Circular Economy elements into project activities expanding its project scope and narrative to include work on waste management, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, all far outside the project’s framework, and adding to the confusion around PES (NB: Circular Economy was included in the project’s title originally written by IFAD in 2011, but mentioned nowhere else in the project or its results framework). This was partly related to the project being hosted by the Regional Directorate for Agriculture in Agadir for whom rural development has been the long-standing primary objective – but which under this GEF project needed to be complemented by more visible biodiversity conservation elements. Three Critical Risks to project implementation were identified: the capacity issues relating to PES in the team and oversight committees, delays in the development of a (technically rigorous) national PES framework, and the risk that key stakeholders may not participate in the adoption and implementation of PES schemes. To manage these risks, an agreement was reached at a Project Steering Committee meeting in Feb 2018 to engage an independent reorientation mission. This contract (field missions, workshops, concluding report) stretched far into the present reporting period and led to a significant reframing of the project (the summary report of the final workshop, one of the key products, can be downloaded here: https://www.dropbox.com/s/h6u159rar7zl0rp/Projet%20EC-SMD\_Compte%20rendu%20de%20l%27atelier%20Agadir%207-8%20mars%202019\_version%20finale%20290319.doc?dl=0). As per the reorientation, at least in theory, the project will have a clearer focus on a newly defined single integrated PES-bundle (ES: Argan fruit, honey, goat meat, animal forage, etc.) aimed at ecosystem restoration (incl. through terracing promoted and financed by the DRA/FDA) and sustainable natural resource exploitation in the Argan forest, linked to and financed through a Argan Biosphere Reserve Certification Ecolabel under development; while other poorly-aligned ecosystem services and circular economy notions (tourism, carbon credits) that did not fit the ecosystem setting and envisaged PES scheme and its beneficiaries were dropped from the project. This new integrated, bundled PES-Ecolabel scheme is currently being refined and piloted in an attempt to secure a few more relevant outcomes by the time the project’s resources are spent.    Regarding IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS over the reporting period:    Project Governance under the Implementing Partner and the Steering Committee including the IP’s National Project Director over the duration of the project has had good sides, such as the strong involvement of local stakeholders, and no-so-good sides, such as years of too-limited technical scrutiny and quality assurance, a failure to fully mobilise the transport means purchased with GEF resources, and a failure to fully keep close to the project (mobilise, re-invite) a key stakeholder: the High Commission on Forests, Water and Fight against Desertification. Ever since the MTR and an RTA missions between early 2018 and early 2019, however, the SC to its credit has endorsed and supported the necessary technical reframing of the project and its implementation.    Project management over the last reporting period was acceptable to good in most aspects (agreeing to the reframing and beginning to implement recommendations, work planning, delivery) but should have strived to deliver more on the ground activities. Gaps in technical knowledge haven improved through a concerted effort and the RTA welcomes the eventual openness of the PM – as well as of the IP and SC – to agree to the reorientation. Project support from UNDP Morocco, limited to negligent and oblivious to the project’s technical shortcomings in the earlier years, has come around as well – such as by supporting the recruitment of international experts rather than national consultancy bureaus of questionable competence for some of the remaining work. In this context, the communication and collaboration between project team, UNDP Morocco, and the UNDP-GEF RTA and PA in the Istanbul Regional Hub has evolved positively - in both directions. The project now faces two new Critical Risks as explained in the Adjustments section.    The project’s cumulated financial delivery increased from $1,418,016 (54%) of the total GEF project grant of $2,647,272 by June 2018 to $1,804,811 (68%) by June 2019 – 5 years after PRODOC signature for this 5-year project. The annual financial delivery was only $386,795, leaving a balance of $842,461 by June 2019. Given that only 6 months remain until the scheduled project closure in Dec 2019 this remaining GEF grant balance (c. $1.2m) cannot be delivered without a project extension. To date no change of closure date has been formally registered, yet an extension request has been expected for months and was received on 10 September with a request to postpone closure until 30 Dec 2020 – a one-year extension. Approval of the request cannot be guaranteed yet would seem sensible to allow the time to deliver some results in line with the project’s reorientation.    The RTA rates Implementation Progress over this reporting period between MS and MU, with MODERATELY UNSATISFACTORY still the chosen rating despite a notable positive change in project implementation and management over the past reporting period, by applying the rating guidance as follows: implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues; implementation progress could be further improved; cumulative financial delivery and timing of key implementation milestones are significantly off track (requiring the extension).    Regarding DO PROGRESS over the reporting period:    The technical reorientation of the project towards the piloting of a single integrated bundled RBA Ecolabel / PES scheme most notably ’s approach to PES, significantly affects the achievements reported in prior PIRs, towards the indicators under the Project Objective and Components 1, 2 and 4. In addition, especially if/once the project is extended, the change must be reflected in the project’s remaining work as much as it begs for a careful review of past activities regarding technical consistency (e.g. the project should not promote a legal framework built around a poorly framed PES pilot) .    Regarding OUTCOME 1, linked to the creation of a better enabling environment for PES in the targeted Souss Massa Draa (SMD) region and its integration at national level: the project did set up an institutional framework (RBA Ecolabel/PES Management Authority, legally formed as an Association) with a board of directors counting 15 members representing five value chains (Argan, honey, MAP, tourism and other products); the EMA has 7 staff including a dedicated manager. Internal rules are under development to operationalize concurrently the Label and PES, and three technical advisors are supporting the development of a certification standard for rules and practices underlying sustainability practices under the PES scheme, and on model contract templates. Initial PES negotiations are initiated for the MAP sector with a regional export business. Twelve regional and local institutions are supporting the promotion of PES including local and regional authorities (Argana municipality, Souss Massa regional council), government institutions (HCEFLCD, DRA, ANDZOA), in addition to professional organizations (FIFARGAN, FIMAP, FIMABIO, RDTR, local cooperatives, a business company and the ABR-EMA. As the project has not done any work on a national legal framework for PES, no problems arise from the reframing. While the project thinks otherwise, the RTA still believes that some discussions on a PES legal framework could be launched in the remainder of the project. In spite of the recent reorientation, progress towards OUTCOME 1 is rated MU, given also how little time remains for the project to deliver related and relevant results.    With regard to OUTCOME 2, under which capacity will be developed for better implementation of PES and associated sustainable agro-biodiversity schemes, 182 male and 72 female ES providers, 253 ES suppliers, 37 ES operators, 14 female and 46 male technicians and 14 NGOs have been trained on PES. The project claims this dealt with sustainable management of Argan forests, sustainable use of medicinal and aromatic plants, breeding of bee queens, goat meat production, agricultural terracing, eco-certification, in basic principles of payments for ecosystem services and eco-certification, and in gender mainstreaming in project activities. This is in line with the stipulated outputs and indicators; however, given the incomplete understanding of PES in the project team, the recent reframing of the project, and the fact that most of these trainings were delivered before even the 2017-2018 reporting period, the usefulness of the trainings provided may have to be questioned. In spite of the recent reorientation, progress towards OUTCOME 2 is rated MU, given also how little time remains for the project to deliver related and relevant results.    With regard to OUTCOME 3, under which capacity will be developed for biodiversity-friendly companies working on the certification/eco-labelling of local agro-products from the Argan ecosystem, the project during this reporting period continued to deliver relevant results. The RBA Ecolabel is now established, as mentioned under Outcome 1 above, and a marketing plan is under development. However, no organisation has yet been certified and no related revenue have been generated. The Souss Regional Honey Association is now accredited to manage the new protected geographical indication (PGI) label established for thyme and Euphorb honey. These activities and results are in line with the stipulated indicators and can be expected to deliver rural development benefits to beneficiaries, which is important, and yet the project should attempt to also ensure and collect evidence that this leads to biodiversity benefits. In spite of the recent reorientation, progress towards OUTCOME 3 is rated S.    The assessment of progress under OUTCOME 4, aimed at strengthening the conservation of agro-biodiversity in the Argan ecosystem through pilot PES schemes, is fully in line with progress under Outcome 1 – the ES/PES targeted before have been replaced/bundled and the new PES scheme is designed yet bot yet operational. 5 stakeholder groups gathering 469 beneficiaries (most of which are (422) women) are involved in the negotiations for the new PES schemes in the community of Argana: 1. the Inzerki association of right holders as suppliers of ES (45) 2. Nissaa Inzerki Agricultural Cooperative (13) for Argan, MAP and goat meat . 3. The CORSUD company (2) specialized in MAP. 4. The Afoulki Argan Agricultural Cooperative, (400) and 5. Wahat Inzerki Honey Cooperative. In spite of the recent reorientation, progress towards OUTCOME 4 is rated MU, given also how little time remains for the project to deliver related and relevant results.    With regard to achieving the overall PROJECT OBJECTIVE, which is to conserve the globally important Argan ecosystem in the SMD region through PES and the sustainable use of associated agro-biodiversity, the same observations on PES/ES apply that were outlined in the preamble abiove, as well as under Outcomes 1 2 and 4. At this point, one integrated PES has been newly designed (Indic 2) that will undergo piloting, however no revenue has been generated yet for ES suppliers (Indic 1). The project cannot claim at this stage that any area has benefited from PES-related improved management; yet the expectation is that the reorientation - which will focus on the Inzerki/Argana pilot area located in the Ain Asmama Site of Ecological and Biodiversity Importance – will benefit 5836 ha of Argan forests. In spite of the recent reorientation, progress towards the PROJECT OBJECTIVE is rated MU, given also how little time remains for the project to deliver related and relevant results.    The RTA rates DO Progress MODERATELY UNSATISFACTORY.    The RTA also maintains the OVERALL ASSESSMENT rating calculated by the PIR platform - MODERATELY UNSATISFACTORY. | |

# Gender

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
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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: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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

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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.** |
| N/A |

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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.** |
| PES under development are engaging women in managing natural resources and valuation of domestic products of high economic value. Women are making more money from Argan and honey value chains. Among the 5 professionals engaged in PES, two are at the top management of cooperatives. More women are also changing attitudes and attended the latest training sessions |

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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.** |
| Too premature to assess the environmental 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?** |
| Yes |

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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.** |
| Political tensions usually emerge when territorial changes are emerging. The case of the ecolabel that is being upscaled might be challenging. To tackle this threat, envolvement of top management professionals and regional institutions in the management of the ABR ecolabel will ease these tensions. |

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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 |

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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.** |
|  |

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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.** |
| No |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| Yes |

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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.** |
| The project received a request to extend the scope of intervention to all right-holders of the Inzerki apiary. As a consequence, a steering committee of the ICCA was created and engaged in the project implementation in consultation with the targeted community of Argana |

# 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 order to help mainstreaming ES and PES into decision making policies, the project developped a communication plan to reach a wide range of stakeholders. Diverse communications tools (video capsules, films, booklets, posters), were developped and dessiminated through meetings and workshops, as well as social media networks.  These efforts had majors impacts on people's lives particularily at the inzerki community were the ecosystem approach is used to set out a management plan based on PES. The community of inzerki labeled as an Indigenous Community Conserved Area is engaged with ES users to accomplish PES schemes for a sustainable production and consumption patterns supported by the ABR ecobranding system. |

**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.** |
| Project's website: http://pec-smd.org/  Project page on the UNDP website: http://www.ma.undp.org/content/morocco/fr/home/operations/projects/environment\_and\_energy/ec-smd.html  Adaptation Learning Mechanism (UNDP-ALM) platform, N/A  Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ProjetECSM/  Twitter: https://twitter.com/PECSMD  Flickr: N/A  YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7hYB205mcDLH0GnDfh0hSA?view\_as=subscriber  as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source:  Most stories and media coverage can be found in the project’s Facebook and Youtube pages,  Some of the latest videos and articles are:  SNRT report: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2U9y-n5C20&t=  MAP Interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-P34WFKeKc  Inzerki: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=155TLN7AxhI  Institutional Film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkpJoBW47Fc&t=  https://directbusiness.ma/%C3%A9v%C3%A8nements/event/pollinisation-des-abeilles-agadir-abrite-le-forum.html  http://marocenv.com/10499.html |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

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

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

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| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

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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?** |
| Yes |
| Yes |

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| --- |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| Yes |
| 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:** [2 - GEF3989-UNDP5079\_BD Morocco SoussMassaDraa\_CEO-End-Req\_16Jan14.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5079/213778/1679557/1679842/2%20-%20GEF3989-UNDP5079_BD%20Morocco%20SoussMassaDraa_CEO-End-Req_16Jan14.docx) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| Stakeholders engagement is marked this year by a robust envolvement of the ABR.EMA as the management authority of the ecobranding system and relevant PES schemes. This structure, representing all the professional sector of the argan biosphere reserve, is supported by the regional council and other government institutions to achieve the project's outcomes according to the project exit stratégy. For this purpose a business plan for the next five years is under development and specific engagements of potential stakeholders will be determined and negociated.  This project shift is a result of the project reframing mission and a series of meeting with the argana community and the Forestry administration that accepted to introduce PES in territorial planning. |

# 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.