February 2018

Mid-Term Evaluation of UNDP-Supported GEF Financed Project: Integrated Forest Management (PMIS 4434)

PMIS 4434: Integrated Approach to Management of Forests in Turkey, with Demonstration in High Conservation Value Forests in the Mediterranean Region

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Evaluation Team

This Mid-term Evaluation of the UNDP-GEF project Integrated Approach to Management of Forests in Turkey, with Demonstration in High Conservation Value Forests in the Mediterranean Region (PIMS 4434) was carried out between October and December 2017.

The evaluation has been conducted for the Turkish office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by Ms. Dima Reda and Ms. Esra Basak. Due to sudden requirement changes to visa issuance – Ms. Reda unfortunately could not conduct the field visit for the MTE. Ms. Basak, as the national consultant, was able to undertake an abbreviated field visit, conduct interviews in-country, and provide notes from her interviews. Input from the interviews as well as an extensive desk study and Skype interviews were utilized to develop the following MTE.

Acknowledgements

The author, Ms. Dima Reda, serving as an international MTE expert, would like to express her gratitude to Ms. Basak for her field interviews and notes taken during her interviews. She would also like to thank the UNDP Country Office, in particular, Mr. Bahtiyar Kurt and Mr. Nuri Ozbagdati for providing all relevant documentation for the MTE and their ability to act quickly to find alternate solutions to challenges faced during the MTE implementation. Thanks, should also be given to the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF), for their support of the evaluation as well as their input, feedback, and time provided by all those interviewed within the GDF. Finally, major thanks are due to all of the local and international stakeholders interviewed, who provided critical responses for understanding many details of the project.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use
APR/PIR	Annual Project Review/ Project Implementation Reports
AWOP	Annual Wildfire Operating Plans
CLC	Corine Land Cover
CPMF	Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests
DD	Nature Association
DHKD	Turkish Association for Protection of Nature
DKM	Nature Conservation Center
ENVANIS	Inventory and Statistical Database
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FED	Forest Enterprise Directorate
FIS Project	Forest Information System Project
GDF	General Directorate of Forestry
GDNCNP	General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
GDPNV	The General Directorate of Protection of Natural Values
GESIS	Solar panel micro-credit programme
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change of Forestry
LULUCF GPG	LULUCF Good Practice Guidance
MENA region	Middle East and North Africa region
MoFWA	Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs
MRV	Measurable, Reportable, Verifiable
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NCCAP	National Climate Change Action Plan
NCCS	Turkey's National Climate Change Strategy
NIR	National Inventory Reports
NWFPs	Non-wood forest products
ORKOOP	The Central Union of Turkish Forestry Cooperatives
ORKOY	Forest Village Relations Department
PA	Protected Area
PF	Protected Forest
PMU	Project Management Unit
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
SFM	Sustainable forest management
SFM C&I	Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicators
UNDPCO	United Nations Development Programme Country Office
UNDP RTA	United Nations Development Programme Regional Technical Advisor
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WWF Turkey	World Wide Fund Turkey

Executive Summary

Project Summary

Table 1. Summary of project information.

Project Title:	Integrated Approach to Management of Forests in Turkey, with Demonstration in High Conservation Value Forests in the Mediterranean Region			
GEF Project ID:	4469	Project financing	At endorsement (USD)	At time of mid-term review (USD)
UNDP ID:	4434	GEF Financing:	7,120,000	7,120,000
Country	Turkey	Co-Financing:	21,430,000	16,917,881
Focal Area(s)	Multi-Focal Areas Biodiversity Climate Change - Mitigation Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	Total Project Cost:	28,550,000	
		CEO Endorsement (Date):	Dec 28, 2012	
Executing Agency:	General Directorate of Forestry (GDF)	Project Document Signature date:	July 23, 2013	
Other Partners Involved:	Nature Conservation Center; Gold Standard Foundation	Actual Start Date (inception workshop):	Dec 17, 2013	
		Planned Closing Date:	July 23, 2018	

Project Objectives

The overarching objective of the UNDP-Supported GEF Financed Project project **Integrated Approach to Management of Forests in Turkey, with Demonstration in High Conservation Value Forests in the Mediterranean Region** (hereafter referred to as *"the Project"*) is to drive an integrated approach to forest management, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests. This will be achieved by generating, measuring, reporting on, and

verifying the multiple benefits (including carbon, biodiversity, and socio-economic conditions) of five Mediterranean forest sites under an integrated management approach.

The Project aims to deliver three principle outcomes:

1. **Outcome 1:** Policy and institutional framework for integrated forest management within landscape
2. **Outcome 2:** Implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within landscape
3. **Outcome 3**: Strengthening of high conservation value forests in Mediterranean landscape

Context, Purpose, and Limitations of the Evaluation

The Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is a critical component of monitoring and evaluation procedures of UNDP/GEF projects.

The objectives of the UNDP/GEF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) policy at the project level include:

- to monitor and evaluate results and impacts
- to provide a basis for decision-making on necessary amendments and improvements
- to promote accountability for resource use
- to document, provide feedback on, and disseminate lessons learned

Specifically, the MTE is to assess and review:

- the overall **project concept and design** in terms of appropriateness of objectives, planned outputs, activities and inputs compared to other cost-effective alternatives,

- the **implementation** of the project in terms of quality and timeliness of inputs and efficiency and effectiveness of activities carried out as well as overall management and stakeholder involvement

- the **project outputs, outcomes and impact** and how the objectives of the Project contribute to the overall project objectives.

Limitations of Current MTE

The current MTE faced some challenges with the initial scheduled field visit by the international consultant (October 10-21), which was cancelled due to last minute changes to visa requirements. With the uncertainty of how long it might take to issue a visa given the rule changes, the consultant's previous work commitments, and the need to complete the MTE soonest, UNDP's Regional Technical Advisor suggested hiring a national consultant to conduct the field visits.

A national consultant was hired quickly and was able to undertake an abbreviated field visit in December. She conducted interviews in-country and provided notes from her interviews. Input from the interviews as well as an extensive desk study and Skype interviews were utilized to develop the following MTE.

While the information gathered was sufficient for the international consultant to provide an overall evaluation, there are details that could not be fully explored given the time constraints and the inability of the international consultant to travel to the field. The national consultant was able to provide a series of notes targeting issues related to project relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability but did not have sufficient monitoring and evaluation expertise to be able to provide any assessment related to validation of results, ratings analysis, or verification of financial management.

For the terminal evaluation, it would be useful to have a team of one international consultant and a national consultant with monitoring and evaluation experience to verify results in the field and provide final confirmation of the findings from the MTE.

Summary of Achieved Outputs To-Date

The following results can be attributed to the project to date:

- Under Outcome 1: the project has made significant progress toward the creation of an enabling policy environment with capacitated institutions for multiple-use forest management ensuring enhanced protection of biodiversity, conservation of carbon pools and forest-based sequestration of GHG. This has been achieved through:
    - the establishment of a LULUCF Unit in 2015, which is fully staffed and has adequate financing.
    - the drafting of a guideline for biodiversity integration in forest management planning. The guideline has now been officially endorsed by the General Forest Directorate (GDF) and is being implemented.
- Under Outcome 2: the project has also made progress toward the implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within the forest landscape, through the following outputs:
    - the enhancement of silvicultural approaches to generate carbon benefits has risen to 6,244 ha as of June 2017 (vs the end of project target of 9,200 ha). The number of trial plots increased from 24 to 41 during the last year.
    - the allocation of 700 micro-credits (out of targeted 1,100) to villagers in five Forest Enterprise Directorates (FEDs) with a calculated carbon benefit of 8,380 CO2 eq.
- Under Outcome 3: the project has made progress on strengthening protection of high conservation Mediterranean forests, including through improved protection of high nature value forests and adjustments of special plans, specifically the following outputs have been achieved:
    - 53,218.73 ha of forest for nature conservation have been identified, zoned and integrated into the management plans of two pilot sites--Gulnar FED and Gazipasa FED
    - 4,333 ha of forest representing 3.94% of the total area of Gazipasa FED was identified as zone 1 for biodiversity conservation as well as 4,914 ha--representing 4.46% of the region--was identified as zone 2 (in total up to 9,247 ha or 8,4%).
    - METT scores have improved from baselines measures for both Aladaglar National Park (35 to 50) and Kartal Lake Nature Reserve (21 to 31).

Evaluation Results

Table 2 below provides an overall summary of the evaluation ratings Each output was evaluated (as far as possible at the MTE stage) against individual criteria of:

Relevance - the extent to which the aid activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient donor, and national development priorities.
Efficiency - the outputs (qualitative and quantitative) in relation to the inputs. It is an economic term that signifies that the aid uses the least costly resources possible in order to achieve the desired results.
Effectiveness – the extent to which an aid activity attains its objectives.
Results/Impacts – the positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. This involves the main impacts and effects resulting from the activity on the local social, economic, environmental and other development indicators.
Sustainability - the extent to which the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn.

Achievements of project objectives have been rated in terms of the criteria above at a six- level scale as follows:

- **Highly satisfactory (HS):** The project had no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- **Satisfactory (S):** The project had minor shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- **Moderately satisfactory (MS):** The project had moderate shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- **Moderately unsatisfactory (MU):** The project had significant shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- **Unsatisfactory (U):** The project had major shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- **Highly unsatisfactory (HU):** The project had severe shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency

Ratings for overall project sustainability are based on a four-point scale: Unlikely (U), moderately unlikely (MU), moderately likely (ML), and likely (L).

The overall rating of the Project is Satisfactory S based on the following:

Relevance: the topic of instituting an integrated approach to forest management, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests is highly relevant to the Turkish government. The project reflects the needs of Turkey to demonstrate a successful forest sector, which requires an effective carbon assessment methodology, database, institutional capacities and demonstration activities. The project seeks to establish the technical know-how and management framework needed to implement mitigation activities in the Mediterranean forests. The project will also showcase good examples of integrating multiple benefits of carbon sequestration,

biodiversity, and livelihood issues at all levels of government from the planning/policy level to those collecting data in the field. **The project is thus rated S for relevance**.

Efficiency: Due to the slow start of the project in 2013 and the project facing a major situation related to the coup attempt in the summer of 2016, the project is delayed by roughly 10-12 months. Project Management is performing well and has adapted extremely well to the difficult political situation. To fully secure all projects results, however, the project will need an extension. **The project is thus rated MS for efficiency**.

Effectiveness: Apart from activities that have not yet delivered major results, the achieved outputs to date have attained their objectives to a satisfactory level. Progress has been made across all three outcomes of the projects with strong improvements made across tracking tool scores. **The project is thus rated S for effectiveness**.

Table 2. Summary Ratings

Project Formulation	Rating	Description
Project Relevance	S	Design relevant to international and national priorities, instituting an integrated approach to forest management, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests is highly relevant to the Turkish government.
Implementation Approach	S	The project implementation approach contributes to the achievement of an integrated approach to management of forests in Turkey. The three components as a whole create an appropriate enabling environment and integrate the piloting of several tools to strengthen conservation efforts nationally.
Logical Framework	MS	With the multiple changes that have occurred the logical framework does not currently capture all the activities and new outputs proposed.
Country Ownership	S	Strong country ownership with GDF highly committed and broad range of stakeholders involved, including local communities and local NGOs.
Project Implementation	Rating	
Stakeholder Participation	S	From the project design stage, there has been strong stakeholder participation. The project has partners from civil society, NGOs, government, and academia.
Management, Monitoring and Evaluation	HS	The PMU has done a thorough and effective job of project management/administration since inception; regular monitoring of partner organizations, close coordination with UNDP CO. UNDP CO has provided supervision and backstopping; commitment to frequent monitoring and solid communication with partners has maintained the momentum of implementation progress.
Financial Management	S	Project funds have been managed efficiently, and cost-effectively. There are good financial management practices in place. In-kind co-finance is substantial.

Adaptive Management	HS	The project team has had to deal with many issues during the course of implementation including a coup attempt in the summer of 2016. The project team has demonstrated a high level of adaptive management skills in overcoming changes in the central government and regional institutions to ensure project activities could be implemented as planned as well as spearheading changes to project design when it became clear certain outputs could not be achieved due to circumstances outside of the project control (i.e., NAMA development).
Project Results (to date)	**Rating**	
Project Objective	S	Overall, project objective is on target and objective level indicator is likely to exceed end-of-project target.
Outcome 1: Policy and institutional framework for integrated forest management within landscape	S	The project has made significant progress toward the creation of an enabling policy environment with capacitated institutions for multiple-use forest management ensuring enhanced protection of biodiversity, conservation of carbon pools, and forest-based sequestration.
Outcome 2: Implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within landscape	S	The project shows strong progress on implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within the target landscape.
Outcome 3: Strengthening of high conservation value forests in Mediterranean landscape	S	The project has made solid progress on strengthening protection of high conservation Mediterranean forests, including through improved protection of high nature value forests and adjustments of special plans.
Sustainability	ML	Political and institutional risks to sustainability exist; most of these have been identified and are being addressed. However, the current project closing date (July 2018) does not allow sufficient time to mitigate risk factors.

Table 3 provides a break-down of co-financing agreed at CEO Endorsement against co-financing secured as of mid-term. While several partners did not ultimately contribute to co-financing (i.e., Chamber of Forest Engineers and Forest Cooperatives) due to institutional and political issues that arose during implementation, co-financing at mid-term is still close to 80% of amount confirmed at CEO endorsement. This is due in part to the Nature Conservancy more than doubling their grant contribution. Figure 1 provides information on financial delivery of the project as of June 30, 2017, with over 60% cumulative disbursements, the project is on target from a financial management perspective.

Table 3. Summary of Co-Financing

Sources of Co-Financing	Name of Co-financer*	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement (US $)/ Amt. at Pro-doc signing	Actual Amount Contributed at stage of Midterm Review (US$)	Actual % of Expected Amount
National Government	General Directorate of Forestry	Grant/ (changed to in-kind at pro-doc signing)	17,400,000	15, 088,889	78%
National Government	General Directorate of Forestry	In-kind	2,000,000		
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	640,000/ 100,000	80,000	80%
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	180,000/ 720,000	720,000	100%
Bilateral Agency	GIZ	Grant	600,000	600,000	100%
CSO	WWF Turkey	In-kind	150,000	0	
CSO	Nature Conservation Center	Grant	150,000	328,992	219%
CSO	Chamber of Forest Engineers	Grant	110,000	0	
CSO	Chamber of Forest Engineers	In-kind	50,000	0	
CSO	The Central Union of Turkish Forestry Cooperatives	In-kind	50,000	0	
Other	Gold Standard Foundation	In-kind	100,000	100,000	100%
		TOTAL	**21,430,000**	**16,917,881**	79%

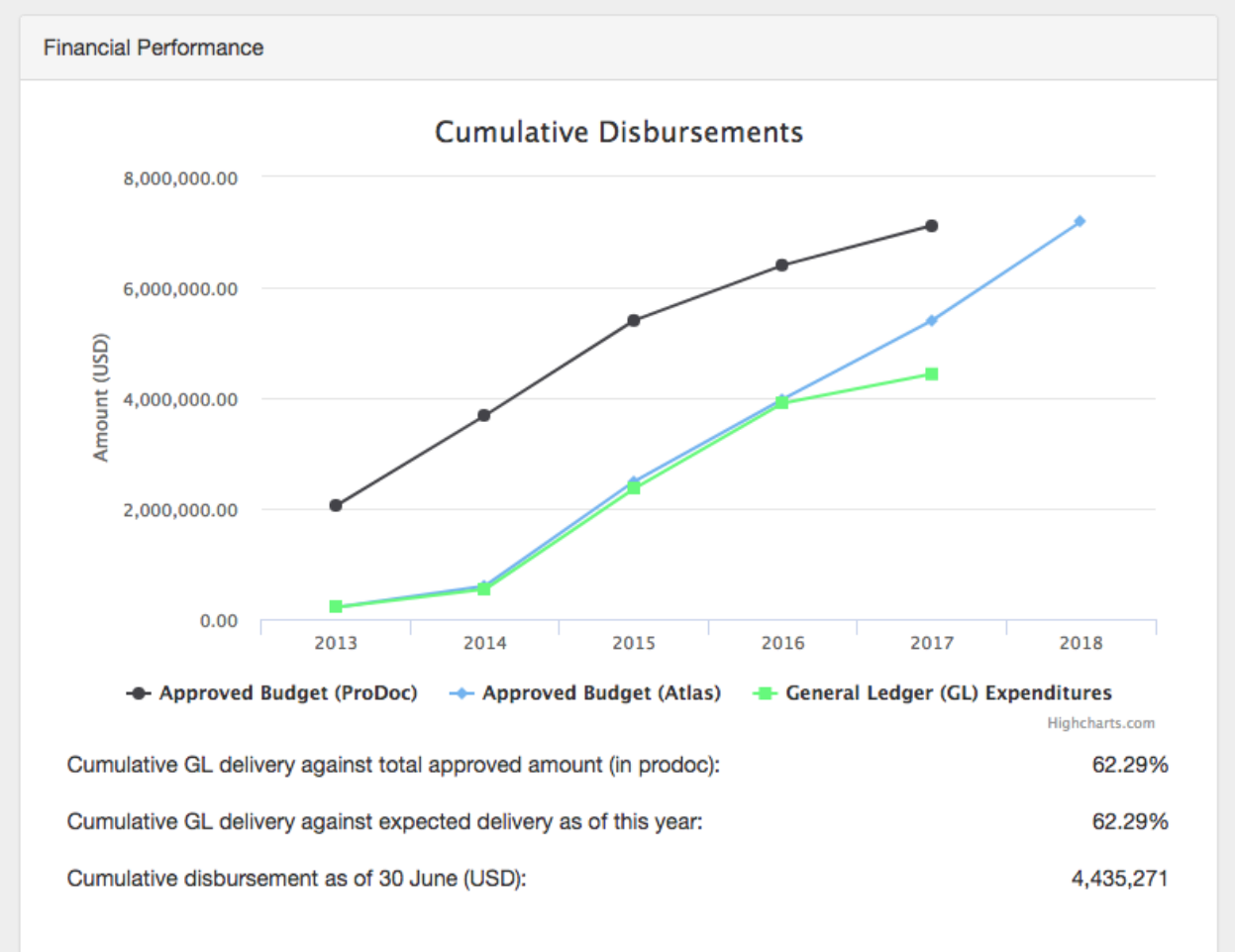

Figure 1. Cumulative Disbursements

Additional detail on results and explanation of the ratings provided can be found in Section 2.

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Ensure quality of field level data to deliver accurate and transparent information for management systems

The raw data submitted from the field for MRV calculations suffered somewhat from inconsistent quality.[1] Over time, as forest rangers become more accustomed to undertaking additional parameters this should improve. However, it is important that an emphasis on quality control and transparency of data be articulated moving forward.

There are inherent incentives for providing data that demonstrates "good" results versus accurate results; however, without accurate data any MRV system will be ineffective. Ensuring data

[1] The data quality assessment provided by consultant working on MRV model.

measurements are accurate is critical for decision-making and the long-term viability of the system.

Encouraging a situation where those in the field are comfortable reporting freely from the ground up to the central government is a key step in ensuring consistency of data. From the central government prospective, the GDF wants to understand what is happening in the field to understand the value being put on forests – the output of the MRV should support that kind of decision-making. A key element to MRV is ensuring transparency throughout the hierarchy.

Recommendation 2: Integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) into MRV is a pioneering model and should be used to incentivize accuracy

Tied to Recommendation 1 – the system being piloted in Turkey to integrate SDG's into an MRV system is pioneering and has the opportunity to be a model for other parts of the world. This innovate approach should be publicized, but in order to do so, the data must be accurate. Seeing the project as having the potential to elevate Turkish forest management as a showcase for a global model can provide an incentive from the field-level to central management for ensuring quality data. If it is possible to model data collection system after that of the fire department, which has proven they can achieve great information flow and undertake live management.

Recommendation 3: Re-enforce Forest Managers and Rangers' Capacity at the Five Pilot Forestry Enterprise Districts (FEDs)

Prior to project closure, the project team should conduct follow-up assessments with the five pilot FEDs to ensure forest managers and forest rangers have the required capacity to monitor pilot sites. Interviews reveal that local GDF staff at the pilot sites have demonstrated strong ownership of the project but that turnover (through rotation system) is high and it takes at least one year for a forest ranger to be fully on-boarded and to comfortably navigate his or her surroundings.

Recommendation 4: Logframe should be updated to reflect change to project activities

The project has not formally adopted new indicators to account for not developing a forest sector Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) (due to Turkey's eligibility under the UNFCCC agreement) and for integrating new activities/outputs during implementation. The project Steering Committee took two decisions on how to focus resources that were original dedicated to the NAMA. One was to devote resources to a more comprehensive MRV linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and the second was to create a decision support system (DSS) integrating carbon and other benefits such as biodiversity, water forest, health etc.

The specific recommendation for the logframe is to delete/remove the current Output 1.5 and associated indicator "Forest Sector Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA)" and to add an indicator to reflect the inclusion of a DSS - "Establish a decision support system to include LULUCF database as well as biodiversity and social benefits."

It is also recommended to adjust the indicator measurement and target for Output 3.3 (i.e., "improvement in biodiversity indicator species at pilot sites"), as the census of individual or populations of target species was not undertaken There are, however, proxy indicators that can be

used. The specific suggestion is included in Section 2.

The Project Board will need to approve any of the suggested changes to the logframe.

Recommendation 5: Shift Monitoring of Pilot Sites to GDF's Regional Forest Research Institutes

GDF's Regional Forest Research Institutes (FRIs) are the scientific and research arm within the GDF and as such can continue to build on the MRV developed under the current GEF project. The FRIs are best placed to model future scenarios and to build new methodologies and tools into the overall system over time. The FRI Council meeting recently approved a *Carbon Forest Project* with resources from the government budget. As part of this project, ownership of the MRV will be augmented within the GDF through the FRIs ensuring a link between the scientific/academic side of the GDF and the technical side.

Recommendation 6: Showcase MRV and DSS internationally to increase potential for scaling-up and replication

Collaboration with a wide-range of organizations both nationally and internationally (i.e., Nature Conservation Center, Gold Standard, and Yale University) has increased the innovative and scaling-up potential of the current project. The overall integrated management system with multiple environmental benefits could be showcased more broadly through international forums (similar to the launch of the MRV document at Turkish Pavilion during COP23 in Bonn).

The promotion of the strong project results could potentially attract additional investment and/or funding from international partners outside of the UNFCCC financial mechanism structure as Turkey's current status under the convention is unclear.

Recommendation 7: Change name of Decision Support Tool (DSS) to better capture the sustainability aspects of the tool's criteria

Building on recommendations 2, 3 and 6, changing the name of the DSS can better showcase the unique aspects of the tool. A decision support tool could be the descriptor of almost any criteria that helps management make decisions, from targeted brainstorming to sorting data using Excel to developing a sophisticated computer model. The DSS being developed for this project is supporting a forest and ecosystem management system that integrates not only carbon but other benefits such as biodiversity, water, forest health, and livelihood elements, the generic name does not capture this full picture. There are few places in the world with a system to calculate and visually demonstrate the sustainability trade-offs of different sectors across a forest ecosystem and allow for informed decisions along these dimensions. Suggested alternative nomenclature could be: *Sustainability Management Tool* or *Forest and Ecosystem Management System*.

It is recommended that the Project Board discus and agree to a new name to utilize moving forward internally within project documents and when publicizing the tool externally.

Recommendation 8: The project terminal date needs to be extended to allow sufficient time to achieve project objectives and ensure sustainability of results

A maximum 18-month extension may be considered by the project stakeholders in order to finalize all remaining activities and ensure longer-term sustainability of the project. Several activities still need to be completed, including the activation of the pest management labs and the small grants scheme under outcome 3, as well as the Decision Support System (DSS). The DSS will also need to integrate capacity building elements and transfer of knowledge so that the system will be understood and utilized.

Summary of Lessons Learned

The following lessons learned can be drawn from the Project so far:

- The GEF Project has provided value-added in Turkey by introducing the concept of an integrated approach to the management of forests. In particular, the integration of biodiversity elements to the management planning seems to have created real added-value considering all integration themes.
- The socio-economic surveys are time consuming but can provide valuable data. The funding allocated for such surveys was limited for future projects consider including additional finance for such surveys.
- The socio-economic survey results reveal that conducting these surveys earlier in implementation can help to better identify forest villagers' use of and relationship with the forest, determine gender aspects more clearly, and allow for the delineation of selected activities with villages to determine target beneficiary needs more accurately.
- A major advantage of the GEF multilateral funding is that it helped to build an interdisciplinary collaboration platform among the different sub-units of the GDF and helped to break the compartmental thinking including the hierarchy between central headquarters and regional implementation units.
- The fire management components have been quite successful and can serve as a model for Turkey, regionally and globally. Mangers within these units demonstrated innovation and forward thinking.
- Some sub-components of the project such as the firewood consumption for house heating may not have been conceptualized in required detail as most of those interviewed said that the demand for solar heaters was saturated in the target areas.
- Staff turnover is and will continue to be a challenge for the project's sustainability. Staff rotation both between departments of the GDF headquarters and between FEDs creates a major challenge for transferring the knowledge and memory required for making the outcomes possible.
- Project partners from civil society has helped to ensure greater country ownership beyond ownership at the national-level. In addition, the technical and project management experience of the NGOs have been efficiently and effectively utilized throughout the project used in the project.
- UNDP staff and specifically project management unit is very well respected and received thanks across all interviewed parties.

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Introduction

1 Background

The project, Integrated Approach to Management of Forests in Turkey, with Demonstration in High Conservation Value Forests in the Mediterranean Region (SFM GEF Project) in collaboration with the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) is a 5-year long (2013-2018) GEF Full Size Project. The project has a unique structure with its multi-focal area objectives (Climate Change Mitigation, Sustainable Forest Management and Biodiversity) that provide opportunities to implement activities in a holistic way for integrating forests with environmental and land use policies, rural development, wood and non-wood products and services.

Forests cover about 27 percent of Turkey (21.2 million ha). Turkey's Mediterranean forests cover an area of 9.4 million hectares in total, extending from the southwest of Turkey to the Amanos Mountains in the east of the country (see Map 1). The project area is dominated by the Taurus Mountains, which extend from west to east in four main chains: Western Taurus Mountains, Middle Taurus Mountains, Eastern Taurus Mountains and Amanos Mountains. Aladağlar (3756 m.) is the highest point of the Taurus Mountain ranges. Structurally, these are predominantly coniferous forests, accompanied by maquis formations along the coastal areas. Coverage of deciduous forests is less than five per cent. The Mediterranean forests are moderately fragmented due to past logging activities, yet in some parts (especially in the southernmost regions) relatively large continuous forest tracts remain. Mediterranean forests are listed as one of the global biodiversity hotspots of the world due to their exceptional biodiversity richness. Approximately five per cent of the flora of Mediterranean Basin is endemic.

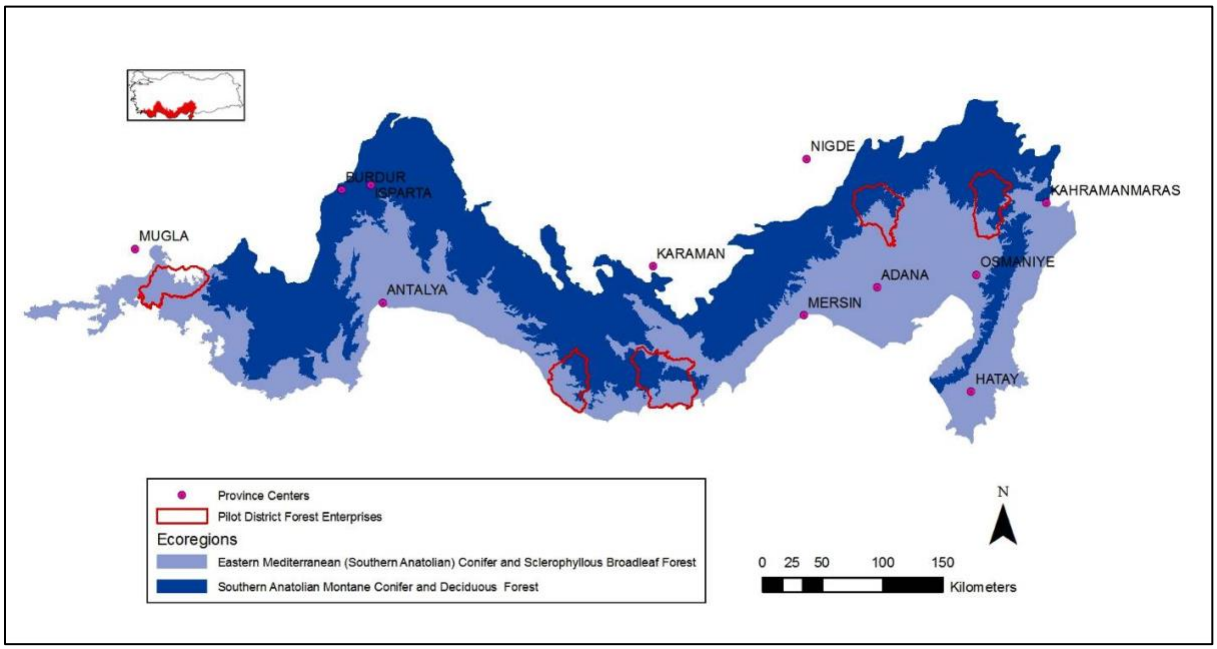

Figure 2. Map of the prioject and pilot Forest Enterprise Directorates (FEDs) from west to east (Koycegiz FED, Gazipasa FED, Gulnar FED, Pos FED, Andirin FED).

Turkey's Mediterranean forests provide important global and national benefits related to carbon storage and biodiversity, along with other natural products and ecosystem services. Despite these values and benefits, however, the Mediterranean forests face several threats. While large-scale deforestation ended in the late 1990s, about three million ha of the Mediterranean forest area have suffered from severe degradation due to past economic activities. Some of these 'forests' currently have a crown density of less than 10 percent. Many of these areas do, however, have moderate-to-high regeneration potential, which--if allowed to occur--would enable significant carbon build-up and connect currently fragmented forest patches.

Currently, the main threats to Mediterranean forests derive from anthropogenic wildfires, unsustainable fire wood collection by local villagers, illicit timber harvests, and pests. These threats have impacts on multiple forest values associated with the ecosystem goods and services that they provide. Of particular interest to the present project are damages related to the loss of globally significant ecosystem services associated with climate change mitigation and biodiversity. The long-term solution envisaged by the Government of Turkey is to secure the highly valuable Mediterranean forests by taking a landscape approach to conserve carbon pools and biodiversity.

1.1 Rationale for Project

Within Turkey's forest landscape there are certain areas that have high conservation value and need to be protected. Other areas suffer from threats such as pests and fires; still other locations may contain economic forests where silvicultural improvements can help to enhance carbon stocks. When implemented jointly as part of a single forest plan, measures to address each of the above needs will contribute to the integrity of the forest within an entire forest district and will therefore support long-term resilience to natural and anthropogenic threats while also delivering maximum effect for biodiversity and climate change.

GEF support was requested to demonstrate a model for integration of carbon emission avoidance/carbon sequestration measures and protect areas in forest landscape management over a total area of 450,000 ha. It promotes policy, regulatory, and institutional changes to enable both the success of the demonstration efforts as well as that of larger-scale replication across Turkey's Mediterranean forests.

1.2 Project Objectives and Expected Results

The project objective is to promote an integrated approach to management of forests in Turkey, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean forest region at five sites (over a total area of 450,000 ha). The project consists of three main outcomes:

- Outcome 1 - Policy and institutional framework for integrated forest management within landscape;
- Outcome 2 – Implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within landscape; and

- Outcome 3 – Strengthening protection of high conservation value forests in Mediterranean landscape.

1.3 Mid-Term Evaluation

This Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) was initiated by the UNDP Turkey as the Implementation Agency for this project and it aims to provide managers (at the Project Implementation Unit, UNDP Turkey Country Office and UNDP-GEF levels) with strategy and policy options for more effectively and efficiently achieving the project's expected results and for replicating the results. It also provides the basis for learning and accountability for managers and stakeholders. The evaluation assesses progress made thus far toward the expected outcomes and overall objectives, and it will assist in ensuring the project is on track to achieve the maximum possible results by the time of project closure.

Ms. Dima Reda, a consultant from the United States, has been contracted to carry out the Evaluation. She was supported by the UNDP CO and Project Management Unit and assisted by a national consultant, Ms. Esra Basak, who conducted the field-level interviews.

1.3.1 Key Issues Addressed

This MTE follows the general rules for program evaluation, especially the **GEF Evaluation Criteria** as follows:

- **Relevance** - the extent to which the aid activity is suited to the priorities and policies of the target group, recipient donor, and national development priorities.
- **Efficiency** - the outputs (qualitative and quantitative) in relation to the inputs. It is an economic term that signifies the least costly use of resources in order to achieve the desired results.
- **Effectiveness** – the extent to which an aid activity attains its objectives.
- **Impacts** – the positive and negative changes produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. This involves the main impacts and effects resulting from the activity on the local social, economic, environmental and other development indicators.
- **Sustainability** - the extent to which the benefits of an activity are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn.

1.3.2 Methodology

The MTE involved four primary methodological elements:

1. Desk review of project documentation, and development of the inception report
2. In-country field visit, including visits to project field sites, and qualitative interviews with key stakeholders at the national and local levels, including: UNDP Country Office, project team, GDF, project partners, and any other stakeholders as deemed necessary
3. Drafting of the MTE report, and circulation for additional feedback and input, as appropriate

4. Finalization of the evaluation report

Three main sources of primary data and information were examined:

1. A wide variety of documents covering project design, implementation progress, monitoring, amongst others:
    a. Project document and CEO Endorsement.
    b. Inception report
    c. Periodic project reports including Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs), project budget revisions, technical reports produced during the project implementation.
    d. Baseline GEF focal area Tracking Tool submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement, and the midterm GEF focal area Tracking Tool completed before the MTE field mission began.
    e. Other relevant reports, documentation, assessments, etc.
2. Face-to-face consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, using "semi-structured interviews" with a key set of questions in a conversational format. The questions asked aimed to provide answers to the points described in the following section. Triangulation of results (i.e., the comparing information from different sources, such as documentation and interviews, or interviews on the same subject with different stakeholders) was used to corroborate or check the reliability of evidence.
3. Direct observations of project results and activities at a selection of field sites within two of the forest enterprise directorates, covered by the project:
    a. Köyceğiz Forest Enterprise Directorate, Muğla Regional Directorate
    b. Gazipaşa Forest Enterprise Directorate, Antalya Regional Directorate

A list of stakeholders interviewed either in-person or via Skype is attached as Annex 4; a list of documents reviewed is attached as Annex 3; and summaries for the field visit interviews are attached as Annex 5.

Evaluative evidence has been assessed against the primary GEF evaluation criteria:

Ratings are provided on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and results, based on the standard UNDP-GEF six-point ratings scale (below).

- Highly satisfactory (HS): The project had no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- Satisfactory (S): The project had minor shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- Moderately satisfactory (MS): The project had moderate shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- Moderately unsatisfactory (MU): The project had significant shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- Unsatisfactory (U): The project had major shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency
- Highly unsatisfactory (HU): The project had severe shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of relevance, effectiveness, or efficiency

Ratings for sustainability are based on a four-point scale: Unlikely (U), moderately unlikely (MU), moderately likely (ML), and likely (L).

Limitations of Current MTE

The current MTE faced some challenges. The initial scheduled field visit by the international consultant (October 10-21) had to be cancelled due to last minute changes to visa requirements. With the uncertainty of how long it might take to issue a visa given the rule changes, the consultant's previous work commitments, and the need to complete the MTE soonest, UNDP's Regional Technical Advisor suggested hiring a national consultant to conduct the field visits.

A national consultant was hired quickly and was able to undertake an abbreviated field visit in December. She conducted several interviews in-country and provided notes from her interviews. Input from the interviews as well as an extensive desk study and Skype interviews were utilized to develop the following MTE.

While the information gathered was sufficient for the international consultant to provide an overall evaluation, the notes provided from the field were generic and did not provide substantive details. A few areas could not be fully explored given the time constraints and the inability of the international consultant to travel to the field. The national consultant was able to provide a series of notes targeting issues related to project relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability but did not have sufficient monitoring and evaluation expertise to be able to provide any assessment related to validation of results, ratings analysis, or verification of financial management.

1.3.3 Project Implementation Arrangements

The project period began in December 2013 and has an expected closing date of July 2018. The Executing Agency for the project is the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF). UNDP is the GEF Implementing Agency. The project became operational as of July 2014 with the signing of the Inception Report (IR).

The project organigram below shows the project management structure.

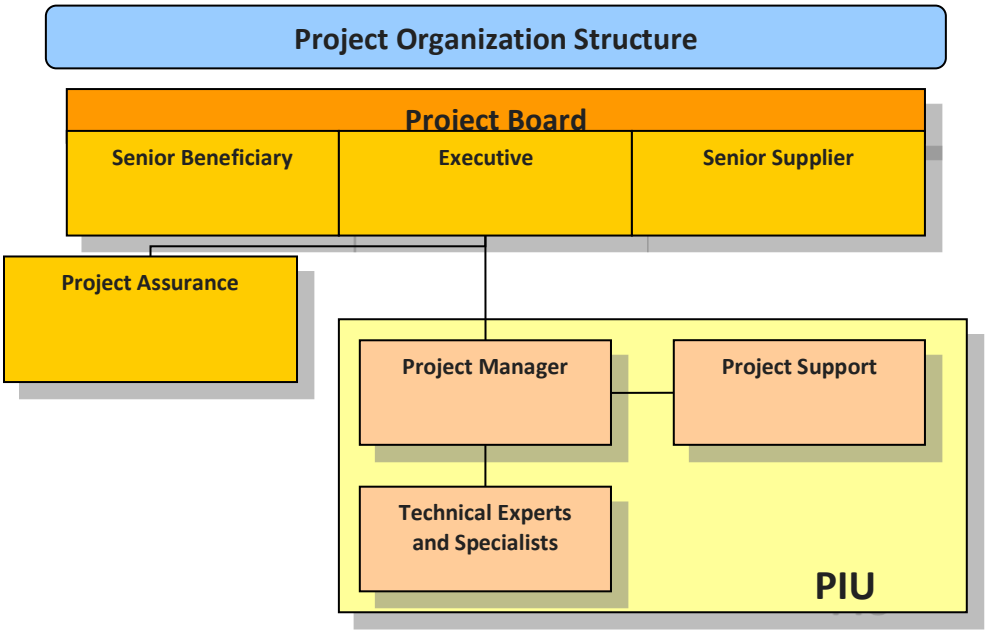

Figure 3. Project Management Structure

Key Findings of the Mid-Term Evaluation

2 Project Progress and Achievements To-Date

Overall, the project has demonstrated strong delivery across all three components. The project has adjusted during implementation to include additional activities and expand its MRV model to incorporate SDGs. These adjustments have helped the pilot sites deliver multiple environmental benefits with integrated management and implementation methods of biodiversity, fire and pest risk reduction, carbon focused silviculture and afforestation techniques along with non-wood forest products and scientific functions. Ecosystem services maps for two pilot sites have also been prepared and carbon benefits from no-logging zones for biodiversity areas have calculated.

Under Outcome 1: the project has made significant progress toward the creation of an enabling policy environment with capacitated institutions for multiple-use forest management ensuring enhanced protection of biodiversity, conservation of carbon pools and forest-based sequestration of GHG. This has been achieved through:

- the establishment of a LULUCF Unit in 2015, which is fully staffed and has adequate financing.
- the drafting of a guideline for biodiversity integration in forest management planning. The guideline has now been officially endorsed by the General Forest Directorate (GDF) and is being implemented.
- as a result of the official guideline, new forest management plans have included biodiversity and carbon chapters.
- the project also completed the MRV activities with Gold Standard Foundation

- more advanced carbon protocols linked with MRV and LULUCF database, a collaboration with Yale University started for creating a web-based, data driven decision support system to enable quantify and verify multiple benefits of forests at landscape level.

Under Outcome 2: the project has also made progress toward the implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within the forest landscape, through the following:

- the enhancement of silvicultural approaches to generate carbon benefits has risen to 6,244 ha as of June 2017 (vs the end of project target of 9,200 ha). The number of trial plots increased from 24 to 41 during the last year.
- the allocation of 700 micro-credits (out of targeted 1,100) to villagers in five Forest Enterprise Directorates (FEDs) with a calculated carbon benefit of 8,380 CO2 eq.
- the integrateration of fire management plans for all pilot sites have been completed.
- the application of silvicultural methods considering carbon and biodiversity aspects have been completed.
- a socio-economic study concept for forest villages to expand micro-credit programme for fuel wood removals was conducted.
- the socio-econoomic study carried out a clustering analysis on forest villagers living in Andırın, Gülnar, Gazipaşa, Köyceğiz and POS forest and determined the socio-demographic profiles of the villages in order to produce strategic information to contribute to the forestry policies
- the study also conducted a value chain analysis of the bay leaf, a non-wood forestry product and revealed the following key findings; (i) bay leaf production increased by 40% compared to the period between 2005 and 2009; (ii) Turkey meets more than 90% of the world's Bay leaf needs, however, the demand for raw materials is insufficient; (iii) in the last 10 years, the export volume has increased to 3 times; today, the export volume of bay leaf is about 40 million dollar; (iv) the kilogram value of bay leaf increased by 32% in the last 10 years; (v) bay leaf production / logistics and marketing processes are multi-actor and the impact of local actors in the procurement process is great.

Under Outcome 3: the project has made progress on strengthening protection of high conservation Mediterranean forests, including through improved protection of high nature value forests and adjustments of special plans, specifically the following have been achieved:

- 53,218.73 ha of forest for nature conservation have been identified, zoned and integrated into the management plans of two pilot sites--Gulnar FED and Gazipasa FED
- 4,333 ha of forest representing 3.94% of the total area of Gazipasa FED was identified as zone 1 for biodiversity conservation as well as 4,914 ha--representing 4.46% of the region--was identified as zone 2 (in total, up to 9,247 ha or 8.4%).
- METT scores have improved from baselines measures for both Aladaglar National Park (35 to 50) and Kartal Lake Nature Reserve (21 to 31).

Actual project outputs and achievements are summarized and compared with the initial Project log-frame in Table 4.

2.1 Project Results

Project results are presented in Table 4 on the following page.

Indicator Assessment Key

Green = Achieved	Yellow = On target to be achieved	Red = Not on target to be achieved

Table 4. Achievement of Outcomes Against End-of-Project Target.

Indicator	Baseline Level	Level at 30 June 2016	Level at 30 June 2017	Midterm Level & Assessment	End-of-Project Target	Achievement Rating/ Justification
Objective: To promote an integrated approach to management of forests in Turkey, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean forest region						
Indicator: Area of forest landscapes in Turkey with integrated forest- plans developed and under implementation that deliver multiple environmental benefits (biodiversity, climate change), ha.	0	183,208 ha realized in 2015/16 This figure represents the total size of Gulnar Forest Enterprise Directorate (one out of 5 pilot sites) that now has the ecosystem based multi-functional forest management planning system. The project assured the integration of biodiversity, fire risk, pest risk, carbon focused silviculture and afforestation technics to the new planning system of the Gulnar Forest Enterprise Directorate. The new management plan of the pilot site is approved by the General Directorate of Forestry. The plan will be improved with MRV system (Outcome 1), carbon calculations (Outcome 2),	293,312 ha of forest landscapes with integrated forest plans—cumulative project progress since its beginning including recent achievements in Gazipasa Forest Enterprise Directorate (FED) during this reporting period. - Biodiversity, fire risk, pest risk, carbon focused silviculture and afforestation technics were developed and included to the forest management plan of Gulnar FED. Non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and scientific functions of forests (trainings and research) were identified and integrated in the plan. The new forest management plan of Gulnar FED was adopted	Two of the integrated management plans (Gülnar and Gazipaşa) are complete. Revision of the management plans for the other three is ongoing but the roadmap is about to be completed. 604,649 of 450,000 ha of forest landscapes will integrated management plans (as of Feb 2018)	0.45 mln ha	Within a few months management plans for all pilot sites to be complete and project should exceed its initial target of ha with integrated forest-plans developed prior to project closure

		and ecosystem services mapping (Outcome 3) while the other pilot sites will be planned or re-planned with the same system. Studies on carbon calculation, biodiversity integrity and permanency along with social benefits will be conducted as an example for the other pilot sites. New planning system of the Gazipasa Forest Enterprise Directorate (another pilot site) has been started in the beginning of 2016 with assignment of the GDF officials. Management plans for other 3 pilot sites will be updated according to the new system in the following years of project implementation.	officially in 2016 and is being implemented. -This year, similar activities were carried out in Gazipasa FED. The plan was officially adopted in June 2017. This resulted in including additional 110,104 ha under integrated forest management. Thematic areas covered by the plan are biodiversity (conservation targets and recipes for biodiversity friendly silviculture techniques), NWFP (benefit/ utilization plans), forests for training and research, ecotourism (hiking routes and observation points mapped), maps of fire sensitive areas (with recipes for regions of highest sensitivity) and sensitive areas for pest invasions. - Following completion of the forest management plan for Gazipasa FED, a road map for other sites was identified jointly between UNDP project team and GDF HQ and			

			local staff. The project discussed themes to be integrated in other 3 pilot sites during the next years. Data needed for development of new integrated forest plans will be collected during the second half of 2017 with drafting plans in early 2018. This will enable the project to achieve the set target in July 2018. - Ecosystem services (ES) maps have been prepared for Koycegiz and Gazipasa pilot sites. Example themes identified as part of the ES mapping exercise include ecotourism, non-wood forest products and conservation of forests for flood prevention. Proposals for management plan of both sites were also drafted. -Models for integration (fire, pest, silviculture, biodiversity etc.) were finalized for Pos, Andirin and Gulnar FEDs. These models will be assessed by General Directorate of			

			Forestry (GDF) experts through workshops and finalized before the end of 2017. -On promoting the new inventory approach as part of forest management planning, new data fields were added to the inventory cards. These fields were identified as part of MRV documentation process. Those new inventory fields were introduced to the inventory teams of GDF and tested in the field. The new fields are mainly related to litter and deadwood carbon pool measurements, which are currently non-existing in data collection practices of GDF. Currently the updated inventory cards are being used in Alara—the Antalya forest unit, one of the Mediterranean regions where an inventory study is ongoing. Final decisions on adding these data fields to the GDF forest inventory system based on Alara practice will be			

			taken by GDF staff/ decision makers. -Carbon focused silvicultural experimental activities have been practiced at pilot sites during previous years. This year, to measure the carbon benefits, field studies were conducted by the project's consultant. The related report will be prepared during the second half of 2017 and will be reported in the next PIR. -Finally, carbon benefits from the no-logging zones identified under the biodiversity studies were calculated for Gulnar FED. As per the finalization of forest management plans in other pilot areas, similar carbon calculations will be completed.			
Outcome 1: Policy and institutional framework for integrated forest management within landscape						
Indicator 1: LULUCF Unit	No properly capacitated LULUCF Unit in the Govt	LULUCF Unit with adequate staff and fund enhanced with established synergy with 12 Forest Research Institutes in Turkey. MRV and carbon	The LULUCF unit with adequate staff and funding has been operating successfully within GDF since its establishment in 2015.		One adequately staffed and funded LULUCF unit with technical capacities to drive forest carbon efforts	Target met

		calculation trainings at pilot sites and headquarter have been conducted with support of local consultant, Gold Standard, and governmental staff responsible on preparing Intended Nationally Determined Contribution Report of Turkey. LULUCF Unit takes necessary actions for LULUCF sector reporting with new silviculture data and methods improved by the project team. Activity data and emission factor will be upgraded during MRV work to be carried out by Gold Standard Foundation which was hired by the project via Project Cooperation Agreement modality upon Steering Committee decision.	- Field Monitoring and Measurement Standards workshop—as part of targeted capacity building activities--was organized in Ankara in November 2016 with participation of the LULUCF unit and other key GDF staff. A manual has been prepared by the project consultant with the same title and published. -Another key capacity building event--National Climate and Soil Baselines workshop—was organized with participation of staff and experts from GDF and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock. The workshop helped to introduce the necessary climate and soil baselines for GHG reporting and define the approach and methodology for developing the national baselines -A Field Inventory Training was provided in Koycegiz, Mugla during 18-19 April 2017 to test the MRV suggested litter		forward in the country	

			and deadwood inventory approaches targeted by the LULUCF Unit and other relevant GDF staff including local inventory experts. -As part of MRV document preparation process, the weak aspects of activity data and emission factors in regard to carbon reporting were identified. LULUCF Unit and related departments of the GDF, in consultation with the project experts, have decided to use the Canadian Carbon Budget Modeling (CBM) system to match those gaps in Turkish forestry sector reporting. The project team has prepared a work plan to further assess the transfer of CBM methodology to Turkey that envisaged a study visit by Werner Kurz, the key expert of Canadian Government on CBM. Werner Kurz and his associated team are expected to pay a visit to GDF during July 2017 to discuss the possibilities of			

			adopting this system for Turkey. He will also give a series of trainings/ lectures to GDF staff including the LULUCF Unit and related departments of the GDF in relevant subjects. The decision on using CBM in Turkish forestry sector will be given accordingly.			
Indicator 2: Forest protected area regulatory framework	No legal framework defining forest PA expansion and integration within broader landscape	Official guideline for biodiversity integration into the forest management plan prepared and issued by the GDF. This guideline prepared as a result of following project activities: Target species and habitats identified and mapped for each pilot site. Biodiversity maps overlapped with other maps such as fire risk, pest risk, silviculture and afforestation plans at Gulnar Forest Enterprise Directorate. Core zones and buffer zones identified and integrated into the Gulnar forest management plan. The same method with lessons learned adapted to Gazipasa Forest Enterprise	-A new biodiversity integration guideline is under implementation for the new forest management planning, including Gazipaşa FED. In addition, recipes for forestry activities in forests with high biodiversity values, including no-logging regimes and biodiversity friendly silviculture activities are included in specific forest management plans to assure integration within landscape and persistency. -Legislation on protected forest areas will be reviewed after finalization of management plans for five (5) pilot sites and will	The project management has indicated that legislative change will be suggested in 2018 and offered as an opportunity to fulfill Turkey's CBD requirements.	Effective regulatory framework enables GDF to establish forest PAs based on combined SFM criteria, including biodiversity and carbon	Project team is working on legislative change within the current work plan, likely to be achieved prior to project closure

		Directorate plan. As a result of official guideline, new plans have biodiversity and carbon chapters in an integrated way with other SFM criteria. Protected forest legislation will be reviewed after finalisation of 5 pilot sites' management plans.	be linked to the ongoing revision of current sustainable forest management criteria and indicators.			
Indicator 3: MRV for forest-based mitigation and sequestration	No MRV	Level 1 MRV prepared with the scope and content. Level 2 MRV will be prepared in the second half of 2016 with activity data and emission factors. A project cooperation agreement with Gold Standard Foundation signed and two workshops, MRV related meetings at pilot sites and headquarters organised. It is decided to upscale the MRV from carbon focus to SDG focus. A decision support system with landscape management software and MRV system was elaborated with GDF, Yale University, and Gold Standard Foundation. Steering committee decided to work with Yale University along with Gold	One MRV document has been prepared and finalized. The draft document was shared with GDF, and later, the updated English and Turkish versions were open for international consultations by Gold Standard. -As part of MRV process, a training and testing exercise was conducted in Koycegiz FED with the participation of LULUCF Unit and inventory experts of GDF. Currently, the new inventory approach is being used in Alara forest unit to further assess the applicability of the new approach. Although the Alara forest unit is not a pilot site of the project, it	The project management team reports that the feasibility and applicability of the carbon budget modeling for Turkey is being assessed by an expert, Prof. Yusuf Serengil, and eventually has to be decided upon by the GDF. Its preparation is expected to last 1.5 years and thus not likely to be completed by the end of the project.	One MRV for forest-based mitigation and sequestration in Turkey is developed, with initial emphasis on Mediterranean region.	MRV document has been prepared and finalized. Plan for remaining project period is for GDF o realize some of suggestions of the MRV.

		Standard to create a decision support system integrating carbon and other benefits such as biodiversity, water, forest health, etc. An MoU signed between UNDP and Yale University. A detailed work plan was drafted with involvement of GDF, local consultants, Yale School of Forestry, Gold Standard and project management unit.	is one of the regions in the Mediterranean part of Turkey where an inventory study is planned for 2017. -In relation to MRV and the LULUCF database, it was decided to construct a decision support system (DSS) for GDF. A MoU with Yale University was signed before and the means of cooperation were identified. Within this manner, a study visit was made to Yale University with the participation of GDF experts to define the DSS goals, current gaps and methodologies to be adopted. A joint workplan was prepared and put into implementation. The Yale project coordinator will be visiting GDF HQ during July 2017 to elaborate further on DSS, present the progress and undertake detailed technical work. The first tests of DSS will be done with the data that will be obtained from Alara forest unit inventory study (in line with MRV			

			inventory testing). The first version of the DSS is expected to start running as of 2017 and it will be finalized in the middle of 2018. -In line with MRV and DSS, the Canadian Carbon Budget Modeling approach will be assessed and decision will be taken on adoption of the system into Turkish forestry sector. The project will ensure swift collaboration of all systems with each other in terms of data needs, processes and producing informed outputs. -Finally, the project team led on organizing a side event in COP held in Marrakesh in November 2016. The event was aimed at presenting the forestry activities in Turkey and it was organized in partnership with Gold Standard, Yale University, GDF and GEF.			
Indicator 4: Forest sector Nationally Appropriate	No NAMA	In line with Paris agreement and the guidance of the Ministry of Environment and	In line with the Paris agreement and the guidance of the Ministry of Environment and		One fully developed NAMA covering 2-4 million ha Mediterranean-	**Indicator cannot be met as project not undertaken.**

Mitigation Action (NAMA)		Urbanisation, focal point for UNFCCC, it was decided to focus on LULUCF sector NDC with a stronger MRV system. NAMA preparation task has been replaced with preparation of MRV and reporting of LULUCF sector within NDC as per Steering Committee decision.	Urbanization, and the focal point for UNFCCC in Turkey, it was decided to focus on LULUCF sector Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) with a stronger MRV system. NAMA preparation task has been replaced with preparation of MRV and reporting of LULUCF sector within NDC as per Project Board decision (February 2015).		region forests (revised)	**Recommendation in MTE is to delete indicator from logframe and add indicator on DSS**
Outcome 2: Implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within landscape						
Indicator 1: Fire management and carbon losses from fires	Suppression-focused fire management system; annual carbon losses at five pilot sites average 3,629 tCO2/y	Integrated fire management plans for all pilot sites prepared. Stakeholder meetings at pilot sites organised and the final management plans with a detailed implementation plan submitted to GDF. Equipment and supplies for integrated fire management system are purchased and transferred to the GDF and local consultant. An early warning system working with meteorology data prepared. Prototype is submitted to the GDF and will be improved with fire risk maps, fuel management options and	The project's work on early warning software and hardware for fire management is pending for the reasons described below. -During the summer of 2016, a coup attempt has been organized in Turkey resulting in the declaration of the state of emergency. Several investigations have been initiated and the project consultant on fire management has been subject to one of the trials too. His contract was canceled and related tasks were delayed.	Early warning trainings for the target groups are planned for Spring 2018.	Proactive (prevention and load management focused) fire management methods at pilot sites generate carbon benefits of 1,646 tCO2/y over baseline.	The integrated fire management plans have been prepared for all pilot sites; early warning software/hardware likely to be completed by the end of project and trainings are scheduled to be completed prior to project closure. Only missing activity is to undertake fire trainings in the villages. This will be done during 2018.

		fire behaviour models. The software and hardware will be ready to work at national scale in 2017. A detailed training programme for local people and GDF staff prepared to be implemented in the second half of 2016. Current software and fire programme updated. An international training module developed and 20 countries' fire staff trained at the Antalya International Forest Centre. Moreover, fire prevention, fire preparedness and fire management programmes for all pilot sites prepared and submitted to the GDF. As a result, specific programmes in terms of fire prevention, preparedness and management for all pilot sites were prepared and integrated into site specific integrated fire management plans. Related trainings will be conducted according to the specific plans and	-It was originally planned to have the early warning software and hardware for fire management to be used at national scale. However, this activity was not fulfilled in the planned manner. To compensate for the time lost, corrective actions were planned in participation with GDF. The actions will be realized within the capacity of GDF and the test runs will be conducted in 2018. The data received from the General Directorate of Meteorology will be integrated to the early warning system too. -As for capacity building, a consultant was hired to develop and implement training activities on fire prevention. The key villages and target groups within five (5) pilot sites were identified according to a set criterion. The trainings will be initiated during the fall 2017 for the first 10 villages. The training materials will be			

		programmes in coming years.	prepared and published in advance. -Training materials were prepared for trainings targeting the GDF staff. These materials will be integrated into GDF's online training system too. - As part of knowledge building for fire prevention, informative short movies were prepared and distributed through several communication channels including GDF web page and social media. Also, a documentary was prepared and its first display was made in GDF premises. The national public channel TRT will be displaying the documentary (pending approval). -A fire prevention plan for Gazipasa was integrated into the forest management plan of the region. The same process will be run for other pilot sites: integration is expected to be realized during 2018.			

Indicator 2: Silvicultural methods consider carbon and biodiversity aspects. Assessment of associated carbon benefits	Carbon benefits not taken into account or measured ; locations not chosen to maximize connectivity enhance-ments.	Total 5,589 ha: 3,919 ha as reported in 2015 and 1,670 ha included in 2016 for carbon focused silviculture and afforestation activities in pilot sites. In total 24 trial plots with 3 different silviculture techniques identified, as a result 72 different carbon focused silviculture techniques were applied at pilot sites. Silviculture techniques for each trial plots implemented by local consultant and forestry staff at pilot sites. Tables and methods of carbon calculations for different techniques are planned to be undertaken in second half of 2016. All trial plots' boarders marked and mapped by the GDF departments with signboards. Training programmes for local staff and headquarter staff on carbon focused silviculture and afforestation activities were prepared and conducted with on-the-ground implementation. As a result, carbon focused	The total area covered by silvicultural approaches to generate carbon benefits has risen to 6,244 ha as of June 2017 (vs the EoP target of 9,200 ha). The number of trial plots increased from 24 to 41 during the last year. -The activities undertaken include regeneration thinning, cultural thinning, initial thinning, conversion of coppices to high forests (4,548 ha out of targeted 5,000 ha), industrial plantation (516 ha out of targeted 1,200 ha) and rehabilitation (1,143 ha out of targeted 3,000 ha). - Generated carbon benefits were measured at all plots and results will be finalized before the end of 2017. -Study visits aiming at investigating successful implementations of industrial plantations were organized to New Zealand and Spain. New Zealand study tour		Silvicultural approaches at pilot sites generate carbon benefits of 11,561 tCO2/y along with enhanced connectivity.	Total area covered likely to achieve EoP target of 9,200 and generate carbon benefit target by project closure

		silviculture and afforestation activities including carbon calculations and trainings are under implementation for each year to be finalised at the end of the project.	targeted the level of decision makers level while in Spain the participating experts were at operational level. -During the study visits, the gaps and needs for industrial plantation planning in Turkey was assessed in detail. As a result, insufficient controlled pollination was identified as one of the main barrier to enhanced industrial plantation in Turkey. Therefore, a training program for controlled pollination was prepared and it will be further developed and implemented in 2018 targeting the relevant GDF staff. -In addition to the carbon measurement trainings organized in previous years, a training will be organized in the fall of 2017 on carbon-focused silvicultural implementations introducing the technical approaches with practical tests.			

Indicator 3: Fuel wood removals and associated carbon fluxes	High levels of legal and illegal fuel wood removals for household consumption, especially home heating, with resulting annual carbon losses at five pilot sites averaging 18,774 tCO2/y. No alterative system to replace fire wood consumption in place.	Procurement process for socio-economic study in terms of the detailed work plan and methodology will be finalised in the third quarter of 2016. Socio-economic study is expected to be finalised in 2017. Results of the socio-economic study and biodiversity study will identify the geographic focus of the micro-credit program (i.e., forest villages to be targeted by the project). The micro-credit programme is planned to be implemented through the end of 2017.	Up to date, app. 700 micro-credits (out of targeted 1,100) were given to the villagers in five (5) FEDs with a calculated carbon benefit of 8,380 CO2 eq. -Socio-economic and biodiversity studies were finalized and the associated final reports will be published during the second half of 2017. The reports will underline the status of micro-credits as well as geographical and thematic priorities for the micro crediting for future implementations. -The remaining 400 micro-credits will be distributed according to those priorities raised by the socio-economic report.	The total micro-credits provided reached 1,237 – over the target of 1,100	Expansion of micro-credit program into Mediterranean region generates carbon benefits of 13,038 tCO2/y over baseline	The expansion of the micr0-credit program has achieved EoP targets. The Socio-economic report has been finalized and presented to the GDF
Indicator 4: Integrated pest management (IPM) and associated carbon fluxes	No proactive IPM, resulting annual carbon losses at	Two pest lab equipments are purchased and transferred to two forest regional directorate, i.e. Mersin and Antalya. Pest lab in Mersin regional directorate was renovated	-A new building for the Antalya pest lab was constructed by GDF and the official opening ceremony held in April 2017.		Introduction of IPM methods and establishment of two pest centres generates carbon benefits of 30,187 tCO2/y over baseline.	Activities are on track to meet targets by end of project. Will likely be difficult to fully achieve by current

	five pilot sites averaging 45,281 tCO2/y.	according to the needs of integrated pest management system while pest lab in Antalya was just equipped. However, it is decided that Antalya pest lab need to be improved to meet the needs of the integrated pest management system. As a result, a new construction with new capacity will be built in 2016. Once the new building will be ready in Antalya, all equipments will be relocated from the current pest lab. The new pest lab building in Antalya will be ready in September 2016. While the equipped pest labs are ready, the human capacity for running the pest lab was improved through new assignments from forest research institutes in Antalya and Mersin. The lab segment of integrated pest management will be fully operated with human capacity before second half of 2017. Specific trainings for the lab staff will be conducted	-Pre-purchased equipment was transferred to the lab and is operational. As of June 2017, four (4) staff members work in the lab. Hiring of etymology experts is currently pending. Once the hiring process is finalized, comprehensive training programs will be undertaken to increase capacities of the new staff. -Surveys have been finalized in five (5) pilot sites. Pest combating principles and silvicultural measures suggested from surveys have been integrated into the Gazipasa Forest Management Plan. Integration of pest related approaches and activities into the management plans of Andirin, Pos and Koycegiz will be undertaken during early 2018.			closing date of July 2018 but with a project extension, completion should not be an issue.

		in 2016 and 2017. Early warning system was assessed by local consultant and GDF's pest department. First assessment resulted that the pest department is in preparation of early warning system within another project of the GDF, i.e. forest information system project (ORBIS Project). Local consultant and the pest department will prepare a report on the needs for establishment of early warning system in line with ORBIS project at the end of 2016. Field surveys of the integrated pest management system were carried out at all pilot sites. Inventory of pests at all pilot sites will be finalised at the end of 2016 according to the results of pheromone traps. Addition to all, applied trainings at pilot sites conducted according to the integrated pest management training programmes which were prepared and approved by the GDF in the second quarter of 2016. Carbon calculations of the result of				

		integrated pest management will be studied in 2017 upon the inventory and hazard results.				
Indicator 5: Carbon protocols designed and completed before, during and after implementation of enhancement and mitigation efforts	No carbon protocol	Two national consultants, one is on forest management planning and one is on LULUCF, were hired. ENVANIS database and LULUCF database requirements are studied. MRV and LULUCF interactions are identified and included in the Gold Standard cooperation agreement. In addition to MRV and LULUCF interactions, it is decided to prepare a comprehensive decision support system including LULUCF database with a broader scope and scale for ensuring sustainable forest management criteria and indicators. Consultations with Yale University, Gold Standard, project management unit, and GDF, it is decided to prepare a decision support system working with a landscape management software to measure, report and verify (MRV) all	-As part of MRV process, carbon protocols were finalized, tested and integrated into inventory cards of GDF. Moreover, carbon protocols were integrated into forest management planning process. -As per the Project Board decision of February 2016, a decision support system will be established including not only LULUCF database but also biodiversity and social benefits. According to the decision support system workplan, a MoU was signed between UNDP and Yale and related development activities were initiated. As a first activity, a study visit was organized to Yale University Forestry School. Representatives from UNDP and GDF participated in the visit and detailed work plan		Introduction of carbon protocols in line with MRV system (Output 1.3) enabling integration of climate change into forest management plans through a central LULUCF Database under Forest Information System (FIS) Project of GDF.	Target has been achieved; however additional elements in the MRV process were added as well as DSS. Recommendation is to add separate indicator on DSS (see Outcome 1, indicator 4)

		forestry activities (silviculture, afforestation, pest, fire, biodiversity, non-timber forest products, eco-turism, etc) in terms of carbon, biodiversity and social benefits. A working plan integrating MRV, LULUCF database, and landscape management software to produce a forest decision support system was prepared. The system will be open source, working with google earth engine, serving for not only optimising but also simulating and projecting of multiple benefits. The first version of the system is expected to be running in 2017.	was prepared. The Yale project coordinator plans to visit GDF experts and decision makers during July 2017 to work on specific issues of DSS such as growth model modalities, grouping and scoping approaches as well as identifying the GDF's IT infrastructure to align DSS with the current system. Graphic user interface in Turkish will be prepared as well as the first growth models for key species in 2017. The project expects to finalize the DSS during the second half of 2018. -As a key aspect of decision support system, it was identified to undertake inventories in Turkey with higher resolution and in cost-effective way. An approach will be identified and it will be tested in one of the forest planning units during 2017. The findings will be assessed and means of upscaling will be searched in line with the DSS.			

Outcome 3: Strengthening protection of high conservation value forests in Mediterranean landscape						
Indicator 1: Extent of forest PAs	Mediterranean forest habitats are under-represented in national PA system	All of the field surveys completed in this period and maps prepared for all sites. 34,201 ha (18,73% of total area) of biodiversity important areas in the Gulnar Forest Enterprise Directorate identified where 18,608 ha (10,19%) was zoned with core and buffer zone specifications. Biodiversity important areas identified through the field surveys already integrated into the Gulnar Forest Management plan and issued by the GDF. Same process is undergoing for Gazipasa Forest Enterprise Directorate where the new management plan with the biodiversity integration will be issued in 2017. Biodiversity important areas identified with core zones, buffer zones and corridors officially included in the management plans. During this process, trainings at pilot sites and headquarter organised. Moreover, a capacity assessment plan prepared to be implemented in the	Cumulative areas identified as nature conservation function in the forest management plan is 53,218.73 ha which are in line with IUCN Protected Area Criteria VI. 27,855 ha out of 53, 218 ha, including zone 1 and zone 2, issued to the management plan with areas aiming to protect particular species or habitats (IUCN Criteria IV). -In this reporting period, 4,333 ha of forest representing 3.94% of the total area of Gazipasa FED was identified as zone 1 for biodiversity conservation. And 4,914 ha representing 4.46% of the region was identified as zone 2. In total, this adds up to 9,247 ha (or 8,4%). -Cumulatively, 53,218.73 ha of forest for nature conservation is identified, zoned and integrated into the management plans of	53,218 of 79,960 ha (~67%) of forest for nature conservation has been identified, zoned, and integrated into the management plans of two pilot sites	Effective protection extended to 79,960 ha, including under-represented Mediterranean forest habitats.	Target expected to be achieved at the end of February.

		last quarter of 2016 to assure successful dissemination of knowledge and experience gained.	two pilot sites--Gulnar FED and Gazipasa FED. -For other sites, management planning revisions in relation to project's integration targets were discussed with GDF. A work plan with detailed technical and administrative procurement documents was prepared. The revised management plans for another three (3) pilot sites will be finalized and approved by GDF during the next PIR period.			
Indicator 2: PA management effectiveness: METT Score	Aladağlar National Parks - 35 METT Score Kartal Lake Nature Reserve - 21 METT score	Aladaglar National Parks - 35 METT Score Kartal Lake Nature Reserve - 21 METT Score	For Aladaglar National Park, the METT score has increased from 35 to 50 to be confirmed by the mid-term evaluation. For Kartal Lake Nature Reserve, the METT Score increased from 21 to 31. The main reasons for this increase in METT are as follows: - For Aladaglar National Park, a management plan	The replication of the Gazipaşa model to the other sites is to be done through a final workshop that was held 12-14 December in Antalya.	Aladağlar National Parks - 40 METT Score Kartal Lake Nature Reserve - 40 METT score	METT score of the Aladağlar National Parks has surpassed target (50 vs. 40) METT score of the Kartal Lake Nature Reserve has increased but still under target (31 vs. 40). It is unlikely to reach 40 by the end of project as it is a strict nature reserve and there

			was approved and its implementation started. As a result, annual budget for implementation increased, equipment purchased, and the forest areas adjacent to the national park's Adana section were defined as high nature value forest areas with no or limited forestry activities. -For Kartal Lake Nature Reserve, the adjacent old growth forests and the corridors for the bezoar goat and the brown bear have been defined in the Köyceğiz Forest Enterprise District forest management planning process as well as the communication between the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks, and the General Directorate of Forestry has been increased for better management of the site. Moreover, the recipes for biodiversity friendly silvicultural plans were identified for Gazipasa FED; the same process			are only protection and limited monitoring activities on the ground.

			will be replicated and finalized for other sites. The capacity assessment plan for GDF local staff in relation to protected areas and biodiversity was prepared in 2016 and it will be implemented in coordination with related GDF departments in line with the new SFM criteria and indicators.			
Indicator 3: Improvement in biodiversity indicator species at pilot sites	See baseline values for pilot sites in table	Field surveys for species and habitats finalised between 2014 and 2015. All target and indicator species+habitats for each pilot sites identified, listed, and evaluated. Target species and habitat suitability for Gulnar Forest Enterprise Directorate integrated into the forest management plan with silviculture activities good for life cycle of species. Moreover, special measures for endangered species (CR and/or EN according to IUCN criteria) identified and will be submitted to the management plans. A monitoring and evaluation	Project experts work on species and habitat suitability assessment for zone 1 and zone 2 sites within the 5 pilot sites. Given that the assessment will not include actual count of target species population, the project prepares an additional Monitoring and Evaluation section for the forest management plan related to target species. This issue will be discussed at length during the Midterm review to see how this indicator can be adjusted to represent the project's impact, which is not the case at the moment.	No individual or population census has been taken at the pilot site from the beginning of the project. Instead, the team is studying the species of concern and determining their habitat needs to protect and manage the forest for the effective conservation of these prioritized species. For all sites, the "minimum habitat size" for the targets (individual,		**Cannot be determined at this time as no target has been set. Recommendation to use "minimum habitat size" for targets as proxy for improved biodiversity indicator**

		plan will be drafted in line with the capacity need assessment, and requirements of species/habitats at the pilot site in coming years. The monitoring and evaluation plan will be included into the forest management plans for species and habitats. Exciting news is that a new butterfly species, namely Polyommatus (Agrodiaetus) alibalii, discovered at Andirin Forest Enterprise Directorate this year, after local endemic orchid discovery in Gulnar Forest Enterprise Directorate last year. Forestry activities will be studied and revised for the needs of the new discovered butterfly.		population) are being calculated		
Indicator 4: Carbon benefits from forest Pas	Areas are subject to regular logging according to management plans, carbon pools diminishing.	Final maps with biodiversity important areas prepared and integrated into Gulnar forest management plan. Final map for Gazipasa forest management plan is ready and under process of integration with other forest benefits. Other three pilot sites' management plans will be revised in coming years	Cumulative net carbon benefit associated with two conservation areas estimated at 48,419 tCO2e/year. Net carbon benefit associated with protected areas (Core zone+buffer zone+transition zone) in Gulnar FED is calculated at 34,379 tCO2e for two	Carbon benefits from forest PAs are estimated at 48,419 tCO2e/year, app. 75% of the target	Net carbon benefit associated with new conservation areas estimated at 64,187 t CO2e/year.	On target to achieve results by end of project

		with the final maps on biodiversity important areas. Logging schemes revised for Gulnar according to the new biodiversity areas. Others will also be revised upon integration process will be finalized. Carbon calculations for Gulnar will be provided upon detailed study on land use change (i.e. forest to forest) with activity data (i.e. logging to no or partial logging) with emission factors (i.e. coniferous or broad leave, etc.) in the beginning of 2017.	years since the approval of management plan in 2016. Net carbon benefit for Gazipasa FED is calculated at 14.040 tCO2e for one year since the approval of the plan in 2017. These figures represent carbon benefits of protected areas in Gulnar FED and Gazipasa FED officially established in 2016 and 2017, respectively.			

2.2 Project Design and Relevance

2.2.1 Project Design

The Government of Turkey and UNDP have been working in collaboration toward the integration of environmental and sustainable development principles into national and regional development plans since 2010. Turkey's National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) was approved by the Higher Planning Council Decision on May 03, 2010 and sets forth a national strategy, main principles, targets, and an action plan related to negotiations, technology transfer, finance, capacity building, public awareness and education, and infrastructure and adaptation strategy to climate change. Within the scope of land use and forestry, the strategy deals with afforestation and protection measures and research and development actions in the short term; national reforestation mobilization and biomass-based energy production in the medium term, and increasing green belt and establishing protected areas in metropolitan areas in the long term.

The project was initially designed to support implementation of the following strategic goals of the National Climate Change Strategy:

- "Status of forestry in Turkey is assessed focusing on deforestation and forest degradation, which have critical importance in terms of mitigating climate change";
- "Scientific studies will be carried out to assess climate change impacts on forest ecosystems and to identify potential adaptation strategies in this regard, and policies will be developed based on these studies"; and
- "A central geographic information system shall be established for all land use classes in Turkey in order to prepare the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and National Inventory Report in line with guidelines from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The project also aligned with Turkey's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), which was developed with technical assistance from UNDP and adopted by the Government in July 2011. The recommendations of the NCCAP pointed to the need to develop a Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) in the forest sector, as well as a carbon assessment methodology and related demonstration activities. In this regard, the Government of Turkey submitted a request to COP 16 (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/MISC.8), which reiterated its self-identification as a developing country for the purposes of carbon trading mechanisms. At the time, the response from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) at COP-16 was: "the COP Requests the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention to continue consideration of these issues with a view to promoting access by Turkey to finance, technology and capacity-building in order to enhance its ability to better implement the Convention."

All of these activities were initially considered within the project design in order to support the country to promote an integrated approach to the management of forests. From this perspective, the design of activities and targeted outputs were quite relevant from the beginning and still are. However, the main project components were designed back in 2011 and 2012, and shortly after the project began implementation in 2014, the activities related to the NAMA became untenable. The Government of Turkey moved forward with a decision to prepare an Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) for Turkey, which would replace NAMA for the new climate

agenda. As per consultation with GDF and related Ministries, the project team directed resources to MRV for including SDGs, trainings for LULUCF reporting within INDC, and a decision support tool for calculating activity based GHG amounts.

Other than this unforeseen issue, the project design overall was comprehensive and inclusive.

Project Design Rating	**S**

2.2.2 Relevance

The topic of instituting an integrated approach to forest management, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests is highly relevant to the Turkish government. As outlined above, the project was designed to align closely with the government's strategic priorities and international commitments. The choice of executing entity is also highly relevant, the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF), which is responsible for managing all forests belonging to the State, 99 per cent of forests in Turkey. According to its website, "GDF's fundamental mission is to protect forest resources against any threats and danger, to enhance forest resources in a nature-friendly manner and to achieve sustainable forest management at a level that will provide far-reaching sustainable benefits for society in ecosystem integrity." In seeking to fulfill this mission, GDF works at a central and local level. At the central level, GDF has 21 Departments. At this level, GDF's Forest Management and Planning Department is directly responsible for preparation of management plans. At local level, GDF includes 27 Regional Directorates, each of which is further sub-divided into five or more Forest Enterprise Directorates (FEDs); altogether, there are 249 FEDs in Turkey. A final hierarchical level is that of Forest Enterprise Sub-Directorates, where 10-year forest management plans developed at FED level are implemented. All of the relevant levels across GDF have been integrated adequately in the project.

Within Turkey's forest landscape, there are certain areas that have high conservation value and need to be protected. Other areas suffer from threats such as pests and fires; still other locations may contain economic forests where silvicultural improvements can help to enhance carbon stocks. When implemented jointly as part of single district forest plans, measures to address each of the above needs contribute to the integrity of a forest within an entire forest district, and hence to its long-term resilience to natural and anthropogenic threats, and have maximum effect for biodiversity and climate. GEF resources are helping to demonstrate a model for integration of carbon emission avoidance / carbon sequestration measures and protected areas in forest landscape management over a total area of 450,000 ha. It is promoting policy, regulatory and institutional changes to enable both the success of the demonstration efforts. The project reflects the needs of Turkey to demonstrate a successful forest sector, which requires an effective carbon assessment methodology, database, institutional capacities and demonstration activities. The project seeks to establish the technical know-how and management framework needed to implement mitigation activities in the Mediterranean forests. The project will also showcase good examples of integrating multiple benefits of carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and livelihood issues at all levels of government from the planning/policy level to those collecting data in the field.

Relevance Rating	**S**

2.2.3 Implementation Approach

The project implementation approach addresses areas to be improved while building on and filling gaps in essential baseline areas in order to achieve the project objective and contribute to the long-term objective. The projects three components/outcomes are interdependent and operate at several geographic levels. Interactions among these levels constitute an important element of the project's logic and overall implementation approach.

At the national level, the project is creating an enabling environment, including policies, regulations, capacities, and institutions for integrated forest management (the target of Component 1). The outputs implemented under component 1 are essential to improve the areas both to site-level demonstration work as well as to broader Mediterranean level replication efforts.

At the demonstration site level, five selected demonstration sites, totaling 651,921 ha, represent the geographic boundaries for Component 2 and portions of Component 3. Administratively, these areas are managed as Forest Enterprise Districts (FEDs). Given the substantial size of each FED, their ecologically driven boundaries, and the fact that they are only partially forested, these pilot sites provide the project's primary venue for demonstrating a landscape approach to managing for multiple benefits. Carbon benefits accrued under Component 2 are being measured and verified at this scale, while buffer zones and corridors for protected forests defined under Component 3 are planned for under FED management plans. Finally, inter-sectoral coordination with productive sectors play out at the level of FEDs.

At the protected forest level, under Component 3, areas of globally significant biodiversity within the demonstration sites / FEDs have been identified as 'protected forests' and are subject to a more conservation-oriented management system, based on regulations developed under Component 1. These areas together cover 79,960 ha.

Implementation Approach Rating	**S**

2.2.4 Logical Framework

The GEF Project Results Framework (logframe) is a key basis for planning of detailed activities under the implementation framework that was defined in the Project Document. It is also used for reporting to GEF through the Project Implementation Report (PIR). The log-frame in principle serves to monitor and evaluate overall project achievements – based on defined targets and indicators to measure these targets.

The main issue with the current logframe of the project is that several aspects of the project have changed. However, the logframe does not yet reflect those changes. Part of the purpose of the MTE is to provide suggestions for changes to the Project Board, which in turn can make the final decision to change the logframe.

The suggested changes to the logframe are as follows:

- Delete/remove indicator on for Output 1.5: "Forest Sector Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA)
- Add an indicator to reflect the inclusion of a DSS - "Establish a decision support system to include LULUCF database as well as biodiversity and social benefits."
- As the census of individual or populations of target species was not undertaken, adjust the indicator measurement and target for Output 3.3 "improvement in biodiversity indicator species at pilot sites" to a proxy indicator for improved biodiversity such as "minimum habitat size."

The project currently has moderate shortcomings in the structure of the logical framework as it does not capture the changes made during implementation. Incorporating the suggested changes to the framework through a Project Board decision will improve the rating on this dimension.

Logical Framework Rating	**MS**

2.2.5 Country Ownership

National partners have full ownership of the project and led the process of the development of the project jointly with UNDP. The project is being implemented through the National Implementation Modality of Turkey's Country Office (CO) where national systems and CO support are used in combination with an active project management unit. All relevant stakeholders and partners are fully and actively engaged through project management structure identified in the project document. Key targeted groups are involving in the project (see Stakeholder Participation section below).

The General Directorate of Forestry (GDF), as the executing entity has been activity involved at all levels. Strong support from the GDF has allowed many elements of the project to be seamlessly integrated into the mainstream work of the GDF, which have or will become business as usual areas for across GDF's units.

Another indication of country ownership is the strong and active participation of national implementing partners. Nature Conservation Center (NCC), the only national level NGO that specializes in forest biodiversity, is implementing the third component of the project. NCC's 10+ long year experience on integrating biodiversity into the management plans of productive landscape, specifically forests, is helping the project achieve its one of the most important objectives. It is highly applicable to use NCC's current methodologies and approaches at other GEF projects in Turkey and other countries.

Country Ownership	**S**

2.3 Project Implementation Arrangements

2.3.1 Stakeholder Participation

Stakeholder participation has been quite strong from the project design stage and through the implementation of the project. The engagement with civil society early on and through engaging implementing partners such as the NCC has led to stronger country ownership and local investment in the project results.

One key group is the forest engineers, and forest chiefs are the staff of the GDF working out in the field in forestry management. Many of those working in the pilot sites have actively participated in project implementation. Prior to the project, forest engineers and chiefs were not aware of the integrated approach to forest management, interrelation of various aspects of forest management and are able plan their work accordingly. Moreover, the idea of combating climate change no longer sounds unrealistic; they know it is possible through integrated and sustainable forest management. And now, with the project's assistance, the staff is experienced with silvicultural implementation that is carbon oriented. Forest engineers and chiefs have shown a strong interest in having further trainings from the project team.

Another key group--forest planners—are the GDF staff who are key to forest management planning in Turkey. The planners have played a key role in project implementation in terms of integration of project topics such as fire management, carbon oriented silvicultural implementation, biodiversity integration, etc. into the forest management plans. The idea of multi-functional forest management plans has been accepted by the GDF. However, integrated approaches were lacking in practice. The planners have indicated that the project has given them the opportunity to realize this target.

The project has also—jointly with GDF and the Ministry of National Education—created a website (www.ogmegitim.org). This website presents a wide range of sources, activities, tests and information on nature, species, and forests to students and teachers that are in line with the national curriculum. Similar systems do exist in Turkey, but they are generally expensive and, therefore, public schools have no access to them. This website provides the same service without any cost. Up to now, more than 56,000 students and1,400 teachers have been registered in the system. Moreover, the project team has participated in the Ankara Province Coordination Meeting of Eco-Schools Initiative where a representative from each school of Ankara was present. The project team had a presentation on the project and the web site and all schools were invited to join. That event boosted the number of visitors to the website by teachers and students

Stakeholder Participation	**S**

2.3.2 Project Management and M&E

The project's governance mechanism is operating well, and it serves a model for other projects. The project board meets regularly as stated in the project document with minutes of all meetings available on file. There is regular (annual) evidence-based progress reporting to the project board on results, risks and opportunities. It is clear that the project board explicitly reviews and uses evidence--including progress data, knowledge, lessons, and evaluations--as the basis for informing management decisions (e.g., change in strategy, approach, work plan). In this regard, steering committee meetings held in good collaboration and decisions taken during the meetings were reflected to the project activities accordingly.

The project has a comprehensive M&E plan with adequate costs included. Baselines, targets, and milestones are fully populated. Progress data against indicators in the project's logframe are being reported regularly using credible data sources and collected according to the frequency stated in the M&E plan. The tracking tools have been completed to a high standard for the mid-term review.

The project is also actively monitoring the risks periodically consulting with key stakeholders to identify continuing and emerging risks to project implementation and to assess if the main assumptions remain valid. Relevant management plans and mitigating measures are being fully implemented to address each key project risk, and have been updated to reflect the latest risk assessment.

Project Management and M&E	**S**

2.3.3 Budget and Cost Effectiveness

The project's annual work plans are prepared in coordination with the beneficiary. Annual work plans and budget are submitted to the steering committee for approval purposes. Decisions taken by the committee are reflected properly in the project activities in line with the project objectives. Progress data has informed regular reviews of the project work plan to ensure that the activities implemented are focused on achieving the desired results. Data and lessons learned (including from evaluations and/or After-Action Reviews) have been used to inform the course corrections, as needed.

Changes to project design, in particular not undertaking a NAMA has resulted in allocating budget toward new activities. The concrete nature of the new activities being undertaking in place of the NAMA, specifically the introduction of the DSS, is a cost-effective use of these resources.

As of 30 June 2017, the project registered a cumulative disbursement rate of 62% against total approved amount in the project document having already spent 4,435,271 USD out of 7,120,000 USD of total GEF grant.

Budget and Cost Effectiveness	**S**

2.3.4 Adaptive Management

The project team has faced many challenges during the course of implementation, including the coup attempt in 2016, delayed several elements of the project. The team also had to deal with potential security risks and changes to government positions after the coup attempt. Specifically, the project experienced some delays with early warning software and hardware for fire management due to a coup attempt in 2016. The project there moved away from introducing an early warning system for fire management at the national scale and implemented corrective actions to compensate for the time lost. GDF staff will realize corrective activities with test runs to be conducted in 2018. The data received from the General Directorate of Meteorology will be integrated to the early warning system, as well.

Another challenge faced early in the project was the decision by the government of Turkey to not pursue NAMA preparation. The task was replaced with preparation of MRV and reporting of LULUCF sector within the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)—in line with the Paris agreement and the follow-up Project Board's decision. The project management was able to bring on board a new partnership with Yale University and combine the work with that by Gold Standard and the Nature Conservation Center to develop a web-based, data driven decision support system to enable the quantification and verification of multiple benefits across the forest landscape. The completion of such a system adds a tremendous degree of innovation to the entire project and has the potential to increase the scaling up probability of the project across a wider landscape.

Adaptive Management	**HS**

2.4 Evaluation of the Project

Overall, the project is on track to meet its development objectives. Most areas are rated as Satisfactory. The Logical Framework is currently rated as MS but if the Project Board agrees to changes to the framework to align with the updated project outputs, the rating should improve to an S by the time of the final evaluation. Similarly, sustainability is currently rated as Moderately Likely, however, if the project is extended and steps taken to mitigate the political risk faced by the project as well as giving the project time to truly showcase the innovate work done through the MRV and DSS – the likelihood of scaling up and/or replicating the project in Turkey and potentially globally will increase.

Table 5. Project Evaluation.

Project Formulation	Rating	Description
Project Relevance	S	Design relevant to international and national priorities, instituting an integrated approach to forest management, demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests is highly relevant to the Turkish government.
Implementation Approach	S	The project implementation approach contributes to the achievement of an integrated approach to management of forests in Turkey. The three components as a whole create an appropriate enabling environment and integrate the piloting of several tools to strengthen conservation efforts nationally.
Logical Framework	MS	With the multiple changes that have occurred the logical framework does not currently capture the activities and new outputs proposed.
Country Ownership	S	Strong country ownership with GDF highly committed and broad range of stakeholders involved, including local communities and local NGOs.
Project Implementation	Rating	Description

Stakeholder Participation	S	From the project design stage, there has been strong stakeholder participation. The project has partners from civil society, NGOs, government, and academia.
Management, Monitoring and Evaluation	HS	The PMU has done a thorough and effective job of project management/administration since inception; regular monitoring of partner organizations, close coordination with UNDP CO. UNDP CO has provided supervision and backstopping; commitment to frequent monitoring and solid communication with partners has maintained the momentum of implementation progress.
Financial Management	S	Project funds have been managed efficiently, and cost-effectively. There are good financial management practices in place. In-kind co-finance is substantial.
Adaptive Management	HS	The project team has had to deal with many issues during the course of implementation including a coup attempt in the summer of 2016. The project team has demonstrated a high level of adaptive management skills in overcoming changes in the central government and regional institutions to ensure project activities could be implemented as planned as well as spearheading changes to project design when it became clear certain outputs could not be achieved due to circumstances outside of the project control (i.e. NAMA development)
Project Results (to date)	Rating	Description
Project Objective	S	Overall, project objective is on target and objective level indicator is likely to exceed end-of-project target.
Outcome 1: Policy and institutional framework for integrated forest management within landscape	S	The project has made significant progress toward the creation of an enabling policy environment with capacitated institutions for multiple-use forest management ensuring enhanced protection of biodiversity, conservation of carbon pools and forest-based sequestration.
Outcome 2: Implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within landscape	S	The project shows strong progress on implementation of forest-based GHG mitigation and carbon sequestration tools within the target landscape.
Outcome 3: Strengthening of high conservation value forests in Mediterranean landscape	S	The project has made solid progress on strengthening protection of high conservation Mediterranean forests, including through improved protection of high nature value forests and adjustments of special plans.
Sustainability	ML	Political and institutional risks to sustainability exist; most of these have been identified and are being addressed. However, the current project closing date does (July 2018) not allow sufficient time to mitigate risk factors.

2.5 Sustainability

The project has been designed to deliver sustainable impacts with establishment of a policy and institutional framework for integrated forest management within the government system. However, the political and institutional risks to sustainability do exist – the political environment combined with high staff turn-over could derail the longer-term impact potential of the project. Most of these have been identified and are being addressed. However, the current project closing date (July 2018) does not allow sufficient time to mitigate these risk factors.

To strengthen the sustainability impacts, the projects needs time to complete all activities and, more importantly, to undertake the necessary training of local actors so they have the capacity to continue the work beyond the project close date. The additional time would also allow the project team to reinforce the capacity of the field managers and rangers as well as establish stronger institutional ownership of the Forest Research Institutes.

Sustainability	**ML**

Conclusions

Overall, the project is in a strong position and on track to meet the development objectives originally laid out in the project document. To date, the project has delivered toward demonstrating multiple environmental benefits in high conservation value forests in the Mediterranean forest region. It has also demonstrated unique approaches to generating, measuring, reporting on and verifying carbon, biodiversity, and socio-economic benefits generated through this integrated approach at the five targeted Mediterranean forest sites.

The mid-term evaluation found that most indicators are either already completed or are on track to be completed by project close. The one exception is an indicator on the development of the NAMA, which is no longer part of the project. Once adjusted in the logframe, this should no longer be an issue for the terminal evaluation.

For the remaining project period, the current evaluation has suggested a number of recommendations aimed at ensuring sustainability of the results achieved and publicizing the unique approach to forest management through the integration of sustainability criteria. This has the potential not only to be replicated within Turkey but globally to other countries in both the developed and developing world – allowing Turkey's forest management to be used as a global model.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Ensure quality of field level data to deliver accurate and transparent information for management systems

The raw data submitted from the field for MRV calculations suffered somewhat from inconsistent quality.[2] Over time, as forest rangers become more accustomed to undertaking additional parameters this should improve. However, it is important that an emphasis on quality control and transparency of data be articulated moving forward.

There are inherent incentives for providing data that demonstrates "good" results versus accurate results; however, without accurate data any MRV system will be ineffective. Ensuring data measurements are accurate is critical for decision-making and the long-term viability of the system.

Encouraging a situation where those in the field are comfortable reporting freely from the ground up to the central government is a key step in ensuring consistency of data. From the central government prospective, the GDF wants to understand what is happening in the field to understand the value being put on forests – the output of the MRV should support that kind of decision-making. A key element to MRV is ensuring transparency throughout the hierarchy.

Recommendation 2: Integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) into MRV is a pioneering model and should be used to incentivize accuracy

[2] The data quality assessment provided by consultant working on MRV model.

Tied to Recommendation 1 – the system being piloted in Turkey to integrate SDG's into an MRV system is pioneering and has the opportunity to be a model for other parts of the world. This innovate approach should be publicized, but in order to do so, the data must be accurate. Seeing the project as having the potential to elevate Turkish forest management as a showcase for a global model can provide an incentive from the field-level to central management for ensuring quality data. If it is possible to model data collection system after that of the fire department, which has proven they can achieve great information flow and undertake live management.

Recommendation 3: Re-enforce Forest Managers and Rangers' Capacity at the Five Pilot Forestry Enterprise Districts (FEDs)

Prior to project closure, the project team should conduct follow-up assessments with the five pilot FEDs to ensure forest managers and forest rangers have the required capacity to monitor pilot sites. Interviews reveal that local GDF staff at the pilot sites have demonstrated strong ownership of the project but that turnover (through rotation system) is high and it takes at least one year for a forest ranger to be fully on-boarded and to comfortably navigate his or her surroundings.

Recommendation 4: Logframe should be updated to reflect change to project activities

The project has not formally adopted new indicators to account for not developing a forest sector Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) (due to Turkey's eligibility under the UNFCCC agreement) and for integrating new activities/outputs during implementation. The project Steering Committee took two decisions on how to focus resources that were original dedicated to the NAMA. One was to devote resources to a more comprehensive MRV linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and the second was to create a decision support system (DSS) integrating carbon and other benefits such as biodiversity, water forest, health etc.

The specific recommendation for the logframe is to delete/remove the current Output 1.5 and associated indicator "Forest Sector Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA)" and to add an indicator to reflect the inclusion of a DSS - "Establish a decision support system to include LULUCF database as well as biodiversity and social benefits."

It is also recommended to adjust the indicator measurement and target for Output 3.3 (i.e., "improvement in biodiversity indicator species at pilot sites"), as the census of individual or populations of target species was not undertaken There are, however, proxy indicators that can be used. The specific suggestion is included in Section 2.

The Project Board will need to approve any of the suggested changes to the logframe.

Recommendation 5: Shift Monitoring of Pilot Sites to GDF's Regional Forest Research Institutes

GDF's Regional Forest Research Institutes (FRIs) are the scientific and research arm within the GDF and as such can continue to build on the MRV developed under the current GEF project. The FRIs are best placed to model future scenarios and to build new methodologies and tools into the overall system over time. The FRI Council meeting recently approved a *Carbon Forest Project*

with resources from the government budget. As part of this project, ownership of the MRV will be augmented within the GDF through the FRIs ensuring a link between the scientific/academic side of the GDF and the technical side.

Recommendation 6: Showcase MRV and DSS internationally to increase potential for scaling-up and replication

Collaboration with a wide-range of organizations both nationally and internationally (i.e., Nature Conservation Center, Gold Standard, and Yale University) has increased the innovative and scaling-up potential of the current project. The overall integrated management system with multiple environmental benefits could be showcased more broadly through international forums (similar to the launch of the MRV document at Turkish Pavilion during COP23 in Bonn).

The promotion of the strong project results could potentially attract additional investment and/or funding from international partners outside of the UNFCCC financial mechanism structure as Turkey's current status under the convention is unclear.

Recommendation 7: Change name of Decision Support Tool (DSS) to better capture the sustainability aspects of the tool's criteria

Building on recommendations 2, 3 and 6, changing the name of the DSS can better showcase the unique aspects of the tool. A decision support tool could be the descriptor of almost any criteria that helps management make decisions, from targeted brainstorming to sorting data using Excel to developing a sophisticated computer model. The DSS being developed for this project is supporting a forest and ecosystem management system that integrates not only carbon but other benefits such as biodiversity, water, forest health, and livelihood elements, the generic name does not capture this full picture. There are few places in the world with a system to calculate and visually demonstrate the sustainability trade-offs of different sectors across a forest ecosystem and allow for informed decisions along these dimensions. Suggested alternative nomenclature could be: *Sustainability Management Tool* or *Forest and Ecosystem Management System*.

It is recommended that the Project Board discus and agree to a new name to utilize moving forward internally within project documents and when publicizing the tool externally.

Recommendation 8: The project terminal date needs to be extended to allow sufficient time to achieve project objectives and ensure sustainability of results

A maximum 18-month extension may be considered by the project stakeholders in order to finalize all remaining activities and ensure longer-term sustainability of the project. Several activities still need to be completed, including the activation of the pest management labs and the small grants scheme under outcome 3, as well as the Decision Support System (DSS). The DSS will also need to integrate capacity building elements and transfer of knowledge so that the system will be understood and utilized.

Lessons Learned

The following lessons learned can be drawn from the Project so far:

- The GEF Project has provided value-added in Turkey by introducing the concept of an integrated approach to the management of forests. In particular, the integration of biodiversity elements to the management planning seems to have created real added-value considering all integration themes.
- The socio-economic surveys are time consuming but can provide valuable data. The funding allocated for such surveys was limited for future projects consider including additional finance for such surveys.
- The socio-economic survey results reveal that conducting these surveys earlier in implementation can help to better identify forest villagers' use of and relationship with the forest, determine gender aspects more clearly, and allow for the delineation of selected activities with villages to determine target beneficiary needs more accurately.
- A major advantage of the GEF multilateral funding is that it helped to build an interdisciplinary collaboration platform among the different sub-units of the GDF and helped to break the compartmental thinking including the hierarchy between central headquarters and regional implementation units.
- The fire management components have been quite successful and can serve as a model for Turkey, regionally and globally. Mangers within these units demonstrated innovation and forward thinking.
- Some sub-components of the project such as the firewood consumption for house heating may not have been conceptualized in required detail as most of those interviewed said that the demand for solar heaters was saturated in the target areas.
- Staff turnover is and will continue to be a challenge for the project's sustainability. Staff rotation both between departments of the GDF headquarters and between FEDs creates a major challenge for transferring the knowledge and memory required for making the outcomes possible.
- Project partners from civil society has helped to ensure greater country ownership beyond ownership at the national-level. In addition, the technical and project management experience of the NGOs have been efficiently and effectively utilized throughout the project used in the project.
- UNDP staff and specifically project management unit is very well respected and received thanks across all interviewed parties.

Annex 1. Scoring Matrix

PROJECT COMPONENT OR OBJECTIVE	RATING SCALE						RATING
	HU	U	MU	MS	S	HS	
PROJECT FORMULATION							S
Conceptualization/Design					X		
Stakeholder participation					X		
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION							S
Implementation Approach							
Logical framework				X			
Adaptive management						X	
Use/establishment of information technologies					X		
Operational relationships between the institutions involved						X	
Monitoring and evaluation					X		
Stakeholder participation					X		
Production and dissemination of information					X		
Local resource users and NGOs participation					X		
Establishment of partnerships					X		
Involvement and support of governmental institutions					X		
PROJECT RESULTS							S
Attainment of Outcomes/ Achievement of Objectives							
Achievement of objective							
Outcome 1					X		
Outcome 2					X		
Outcome 3					X		
OVERALL PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT & IMPACT							S

Annex 2. Documents Reviewed

Document	Author/Sponsor
Independent Auditor's Report and Management Response, December 2016	Rehber Consulting
Independent Auditor's Report and Management Response, December 2015	Rehber Consulting
Baseline: Tracking Tools BD, CC, SFM-REDD+, 2012	PMU
Mid-term Tracking Tools BD, CC, SFM-REDD+, 2017	PMU
2015 Project Implementation Review (PIR)	PMU
2016 Project Implementation Review (PIR)	PMU
2017 Project Implementation Review (PIR)	PMU
Request for CEO Endorsement – December 17, 2012	UNDP
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2013	PMU
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2014	PMU
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2015	PMU
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2016 Q1	PMU
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2016 Q2	PMU
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2016 Q3	PMU
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2016 Q4	PMU
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2017 Q1	PMU
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2017 Q2	PMU
Combined Delivery Report by Project, 2017 Q3	PMU
Transfer of Title of Assets from the United Nations Development Programme to the Government of Turkey, 2015	UNDP
Transfer of Title of Assets from the United Nations Development Programme to the Government of Turkey, 2016	UNDP
Data Sheets for Forest District Directorates (FDD) Pilot Sites 1-5: 1. Andirin FDD 2. Pos FDD 3. Gülnar FDD 4. Gazipaşa FDD 5. Koycegiz FDD	UNDP
Inception Report: Integrated Forest Management, July 2014	PMU
Imagery Assisted Cruising: CruiseBoost for Stands and Strata	Zack Parisa
Details of Partners' Contributions,	

Forest & Ecosystem Management System Capacity Development: Concept and Schedule, January 2018	Anna Schuerkmann, Yale FES
Framework Based Technical Consultancy Services on Forestry Projects of UNDP Turkey and associated Annexes, December 2016	Bahtiyar Kurt
"Minutes of PSC Meeting "	
"Minutes of PSC Meeting "	
"Minutes of PSC Meeting "	
"Software Design Description - Forest Assessment Model"	Luke Rogers, Jeff Comnick, Andrew Cooke
"Software Requirements Specification - Forest Assessment Model"	Luke RogersJeff Comnick, Andrew Cooke
"Terms of Reference"	UNDP
“2015 Procurements and Direct Payment Modality”	Naz Ozguc
"GDF Budget Timeline"	Yale
"Decision Support System Development Contract""	T.R. Ministry of Forestry & Water Affairs, General Directorate of Forestry, Yale University

Annex 3. List of Interviewees

Date	Place	Institution	Unit/Sub-Department	Name of Expert/ Interviewee	Title
28.11.17	Ankara	UNDP	Forestry Cluster	Bahtiyar Kurt	Project Manager
28.11.17	Ankara	UNDP	Forestry Cluster	Nuri Özbağdatlı	Portfolio manager for environment and CC
28.11.17	Ankara	UNDP	Forestry Cluster	Mesut Yaşar Kamiloğlu	Pilot Implementation Associate
28.11.17	Ankara	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Foreign Relations, Training and Research	Ramazan Balı	Manager of Projects department; focal point of the Project
28.11.17	Ankara	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	LULUCF Unit	Ümit Turhan	Division Director
28.11.17	Ankara	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Department of Combating Forest Pests	Metin Karadağ & Akın Emin	Division Director
28.11.17	Ankara	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Department of Silviculture	Said Dağdaş	Division Director
28.11.17	Ankara	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Department of Fire Management	İlhami Aydın	Deputy Department Chief
28.11.17	Ankara	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Planning and Management Department	Mithat Koç & Tamer Ertürk	Deputy Department Chief; Division Director
28.11.17	Ankara	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry		Musa Kaya	Former Department Chief of Foreign Relations
05.12.17	Antalya - Gazipaşa	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	İlker Öztürk	Assistant District Director
05.12.17	Antalya - Gazipaşa	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	M. Savtekin Vayvaylı	Forest Ranger
05.12.17	Antalya - Gazipaşa	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Mustafa Bülbül	Forest Ranger
05.12.17	Antalya - Gazipaşa	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Mürsel Erdem	Forest Ranger

05.12.17	Antalya - Gazipaşa	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Ahmet Dönmez	Forest Ranger
05.12.17	Antalya - Gazipaşa	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	İsa Tarhan	Forest Ranger
05.12.17	Antalya - Gazipaşa	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Mehmet Aksakal	Forest Ranger
05.12.17	Antalya - Gazipaşa	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Zeynel Domaç	Forest Engineer
09.12.17	Muğla - Köyceğiz	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Hakan Zeybek	District Director
09.12.17	Muğla - Köyceğiz	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Serdar Avcı	Forest Ranger
09.12.17	Muğla - Köyceğiz	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Erol Sönmez	Forest Ranger
09.12.17	Muğla - Köyceğiz	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Aras Taştan	Forest Ranger
09.12.17	Muğla - Köyceğiz	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Akif Koç	Forest Engineer
09.12.17	Muğla - Köyceğiz	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Yusuf Çelik	Forest Ranger
09.12.17	Muğla - Köyceğiz	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Murat Küpeli	Forest Engineer
09.12.17	Muğla - Köyceğiz	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Mehmet Ali Şahin	Forest Ranger
12.12.17	Phone interview	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Forest District Directorate	Halil Kısacık	Former Manager of Gazipaşa
13.12.17	Phone interview	Min. Of Forestry and Water Affairs - Gen. Dir. Forestry	Antalya Forest District Directorate	Akın Mırzaklı	Chief Engineer
15.9.17	Skype interview	TreesConsulting			
10.17	Skype interview	Yada Foudation			
10.17	Skype interview	Nature Conservance			

07.02.18	Skype Interview	Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies	Chad Oliver Anna	Professor

Annex 4. ToR Evaluation Consultant Code of Conduct Agreement Form

Evaluators:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and: respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form[8]

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant: ~~Dima Reda~~

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant)**:** _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation. Signed at ~~Goleta, California~~ on ~~October 5, 2017~~

Signature: Dima S Reda

Annex 5. Field Notes

Field notes taken by national consultant, Esra Basak reproduced in this Annex.

Date: 05 December 2017
Place: Gazipaşa Forestry District Directorate Headquarters, Antalya
Person/Persons Interviewed: Please see the Excel for the full list of participants to the collective evaluation meeting

Introductory Note	Question Theme				
	Relevance	**Efficiency**	**Effectiveness**	**Results**	**Sustainability**
Gazipaşa Forestry District Directorate of GDF has been through a substantial amount of staff turnover. Even though the majority of Gazipaşa's forest rangers were present in the meeting, mainly those who had exposure to the project could contribute to the addressed evaluation questions.	The participants generally believe that the project objectives are hand in hand with the forestry work they carry out helping them additionally to lean to nature conservation. The dichotomy of nature conservation versus forestry production: they say that the project in a way is a 'relief' bringing limitations to forestry production (wood, timber etc.) and the fact that they observe wildlife even in town center in Gazipaşa, they find the project very relevant. Silvicultural work also makes up GDF's work and carbon aspects of the GEF project are also relevant because its monitoring is extremely positive in terms of how forestry is perceived. However, towards the end of the meeting, the forest engineer has said that the carbon calculation objectives of the project as far as he is concerned seemed a bit 'forced' in that such work	No major issues in this regard. They address their procurement needs and UNDP helps them. They encountered a rather slow procurement process for the sensitive GPS which was raised during the meeting.	The district directorate representatives do not think that the project objective is likely to be met by 2018. This is mainly because trial plots cannot generate the type of data and information feedback in such a short time. Other objectives such as using Sustainable Forestry criteria across Turkey also do not seem too feasible for them. On a rather political note, some participants see a lack of sincerity when it comes to global carbon emissions level (the responsibility of the more developed, industrialized nations) and the expectations that the environmental agenda poses on Turkey (which remains a relatively modest carbon emitter).	The district directorate representatives say that the most important result of the project is the generation of prescription tables that reflect the production areas and identified zones of conservation. In some of the forest stands, the management is reported to have gained flexibility (even in some stands, it was found appropriate to increase the production). They also state that the project has had great impacts on fire management thus far and that the same is expected for pest management. In general, they say that the 'project leaves a good footprint' for example in fire monitoring towers	The general impression regarding the sustainability of the project's objectives once the GEF financing comes to an end is that the integrated plan has become their routine work. They highlight that the trial plots have also been integrated to the management plans and the directorates of Antalya, Mersin have agreed to sustain their continuity with GDF's soil lab in Eskişehir as part of an extended research project springing from the GEF initiative. On the other hand, some of the Gazipaşa district directorate representatives express that forest management plans have a limited binding power or enforcement in that

	was already being conducted by the Mediterranean forest research institutes that are tied to the GDF Some of the participants confirm that the choice of the trial plots and all aspects of forest management has been done in conjunction with the local staff from the beginning.		Success factors of the project are the use of science taking nature as a basis of analysis and the advantages of using technology. On the other hand, among the factors that lead to underachievement is changes in the project's committee and academic experts which delayed some activities. One person specified that each Spring the district directorate needs the reproduction of pest predators and that the project should allocate funding and prioritize this in the foreseen labs more urgently (the IPM component). M&E activities are conducted as part of their regular work program: at the end of each year, all realized works and applications are reported. For the M&E of the trial plots they say that mainly UNDP experts are engaged in this	where less human resources are required and turning towards more technological solutions. The participants say that the project has enabled them to measure things that were unmeasured previously (such as ecosystem services work done in each pilot site, including their monetization - carbon). The management unit tables produced as part of the project highlight the management issues that require attention such as wildlife corridors (i.e. for wild goats in Gazipaşa).	some profit making sectors' lobbying (especially mine prospecting is mentioned) is above what the management plan says. The fact that management plan provisions remain limited is not just an issue of GDF but many Ministries Staff rotation is reported to pose an important challenge for the project's objectives in terms of technical capacity to carry out the activities. The GEF V related observation logs, book keeping, recording and institutional memory is a consequent problem. Forest rangers keep the different data that project experts generated on carbon or silvicultural works but the forest engineer did not seem aware that they are kept in a common area.

Date: 12 December 2017
Phone Interview
Person/Persons Interviewed: Halil Kısacak
Position: Former Forest District Directorate Manager of Gazipaşa, GDF, Antalya (during 6 years)

Introductory Note	Question Theme				
	Relevance	**Efficiency**	**Effectiveness**	**Results**	**Sustainability**
	Halil believes the project objectives are compatible with Turkey's priorities; it has produced many more effects than expected. He says that the project has triggered a change in the way they perceive the forests, especially through carbon aspects and widlife. Integration work has been infused to the five forestry directorates of the project's pilot sites and especially Gazipaşa's planning has been a very good plan as it was being done from zero and making use of the existing experience in Gülnar. He joined the project at its kick-off phase so he does not know the project idea development phase.	He generally thinks that some of the procurement procedures took long (such as sensitive GPS) but that project management unit has been always helpful and he thanks them. M&E activities: Halil states that they were participating to all of the relevant project meetings, workshops etc.; however, representatives from central GDF in Ankara would always change thus affecting the project including M&E. Likewise, due to the staff rotation cycles within GDF's institutional policy, the forest rangers are also changing which affect the project's effectiveness. He says that there had been a	The project has already met its objective according to Halil. He simply thinks that monitoring the data on carbon calculations, C sequestration, field analyses would need to be followed up and if the project is extended this would be more beneficial. Yet another dimension of the project that Halil believes could have been better is the involvement of GDF's regional forest research institutes that could have been engaged to the project for choosing the trial plots. Halil says that these research institutes sometimes carry out long term projects in Turkey's forests spanning 20-30 years and choosing these plots with them	What makes the project successful for Halil is the project management unit's command of the topic and their commitment in all senses: the flow of communication between the project management in Ankara and them on the ground has been very satisfying. He underlines that project staff in UNDP have always followed up the project and are very good managers ('it was them dealing with the problems'). On the other hand, among the factors that led to underachievement is project's delay in contracting the academic experts. Halil thinks that integration of fire management and silvicultural methods	With the existing staff rotation reality, Halil does not think that the project's objectives will be sustainable after the GEF project's closure. He believes that those who replace the staff with experience at the forestry district directorates' level do not grasp the integrated management approach and lack competence. Therefore, he recommends that for the five pilot forestry district directorates of the GEF project, necessary preparations be made to ensure that follow-up is done with GDF staff and other people with capacity. In general, he believes that local GDF staff at the pilot sites have demonstrated good ownership of the project but that staff rotation problem also

		verbal entente between UNDP/GDF and Ministry of Forestry's Deputy Undersecretary İbrahim Çiftçi for ensuring there would be no staff changes during project implementation but this was unbinding and was not realized. Another point for improvement he sees in the project is to have established a digital data infrastructure or a common platform (not of the GDF's system but project's own digital solution) to maintain and access the data generated during the project. In line with the GDF procedures, collected data is kept in the district forestry directorates' tables; however, the project's own data sharing facility would have been better also for M&E.	would have had implications for the project's sustainability as well (thus also covering some parts of the evaluation questions on sustainability). But he says that the trial plots of the project and those of the research institutes did not match up. The priorities of the project concern integration work in the remaining pilot sites by making use of the Gazipaşa experience and that a new, follow up projects should be developed (such as GEF VI.) He raises no major concerns about adaptive management and repeats that they were in tight communication with the project management.	are the though parts to the forest management plans and that the professors involved in the project came on board a little bit late – though, now they have caught up with the workplan.	affects this issue (especially ownership of the trial plots is shaken when the rangers change). Halil believes that the GEF V project has led to an increased technical capacity especially thanks to the academicians involved in the project but he finds that the foreign language capacity of the forest rangers could have been improved to make the contacts/dialogue with the international experts more meaningful.

Date: 13 December 2017
Phone Interview
Person/Persons Interviewed: Akın Mızraklı
Position: Chief Engineer - Guidance and Auditing Unit, GDF, Antalya

Introductory Note	Question Theme				
	Relevance	**Efficiency**	**Effectiveness**	**Results**	**Sustainability**
	The chief engineer agrees that the project objectives are compatible with Turkey's reality and priorities; he says that they are even a further step for the forestry planning procedures that are in place in Turkey which have added quality to the work thus far conducted within GDF. Akın has been working in different areas of forestry management since 39 years and 20 of this has been in guidance and auditing. He hopes that the approach to forestry planning can be scaled up to all forests in the future in Turkey. He did not participate to the project conception phase and he got involved with the project for Gazipaşa district forestry planning phase. He said he also worked in the GEF II project at the Black Sea forests.	The only financial challenge he considers is the affordability of working with as many academic experts as the project did when we consider that there are more than 1400 forestry district directorates across Turkey. He proposes that a way of dealing with this challenge would be to prioritize the integration work in the most biodiverse rich forested areas or where biodiversity is	Akın is in the opinion that there won't be a problem in the finalization of the updating for the three additional integrated management plans for Pos, Andırın, Köyceğiz however, he does not think that the remaining project time will suffice for the analysis of the carbon work and calculations. The success factors is the enhancement of the forestry plans with biodiversity, fire/pest management, eco-tourism, NTFPs all of which is 'revolutionary' in the sense of increasing the quality of the work that they do. He is concerned, however, how the GDF staff	The PIR is not a document that Akın seems being exposed thus he does not follow all components of the project. The perception of Akın regarding the possibility of reaching overall objective is that, performing integrated forest management is rather demanding, requiring commitment and steady staff thus scaling-up to the rest of Turkey is not going to be at once. Akın does not think that project results dependent too much on socio-political factors as he thinks that GDF is a robust organization. Nevertheless, he mentions instances in the project where	Akın does think that when GEF V funding stops this will constitute a problem to sustain the project. He believes that GDF has its own financial means (allocated public funding – otherwise GDF is not a lucrative institution). known to be under pressure. Another issue of sustainability is the continuity of the trial plots. Akın believes that not only the forest rangers' work load is too heavy to be able to monitor these plots effectively but also that due to the staff rotation policy of GDF, the rangers have to shift where they work every 5 years (it takes at least one year for a forest ranger to know his region). This staff rotation or turnover weakens the project. In some of the district forestry directorates, forest rangers fail to be appointed by GDF and these also would affect the

			responsible for on the ground implementation will adapt to this way of working and whether they will have enough technical capacity to follow these new guidelines. During one of his inspections, he shares an instance of catching a forest unit zone that was marked by mistake as 'production' zone while it was in one of the Zone 1 (for nature conservation) of Gazipaşa. He finds that the role of forest rangers and sustaining their technical capacity are crucial in this sense. For Akın, the priorities of the project concern the soil carbon analyses regarding litter and deadwood that are conducted in Eskişehir; he thinks that these soil analyses have brought an extra work load. Regarding adaptive .	ruptures occurred because of the government's attitude towards some of the academic experts previously employed/outsourced from the project. In particular, consultations with academicians who had previously contributed to the project on specialized topics such as etymologists, forest management etc. have been distanced due to political reasons (especially the coup attempt of 15 July 2016) and he proposes a recommendation that for the project's continuity and sustainability, when necessary, these academicians are re-contacted for consultation.	special and sensitive work done under the GEF V project. In his opinion, for the project's consistency, the defined trial plots should be monitored by GDF's forest research institutes. Akın thinks that the level of ownership for the project is very good at the Planning and Management Department as it created an excitement as well as contractor companies that have been responsible for management planning. The same is valid, he believes, with the local implementation units of GDF at the pilot sites but he added he could not say the same thing for the very juxtaposing forestry district directorates to the pilot sites as they have no idea about the project.

Date: 09 December 2017
Place: Köyceğiz Forestry District Directorate Headquarters, Muğla
Person/Persons Interviewed: Please see the Excel for the full list of participants to the evaluation meeting

Introductory Note	Question Theme				
	Relevance	**Efficiency**	**Effectiveness**	**Results**	**Sustainability**
Köyceğiz Forestry District Directorate has a relatively stable staff with much less turnover compared to Gazipaşa; the new manager is definitely interested, knowledgeable and motivated by the project thus taking ownership of it in short time. However, he has a hierarchical dominance (he talked quite a bit even though he is rather new in the region – only 3 months) but as I kept turning my attention and addressing directly the older staff, they were able to speak up as well	The district directorate representatives agree that the project fits within the priorities of Turkey and GDF. Muğla being one of the most important provinces of Turkey in terms of forest sub-flora diversity and one of the riskiest fire zones as well, the objectives are perceived to be very relevant. They report that in identifying the stricter Zone 1 sites for the directorate they had a bit of a hard time (if I am not mistaken, due to the land ownership issues). Meeting participants say that the project has come rather top down and their opinion has not been asked in its development.	Köyceğiz directorate lack the essential field equipment such as a GPS, binoculars and increment borer. The decisions made centrally in the GDF headquarters do not seem to match the real local needs. The main problem regarding M&E is the staff turnover; when forest rangers change and information not passed down, the trial plots may be even forgotten. ORBİS (GDF's forest info system project) could have been a platform to permanently record the data from these plots however this system is not functioning a 100% either.	The district directorate representatives do not think that the project objective is likely to be met by the end of the expected project time. Had the project started on time, in 2013, perhaps it would have been possible. Some think that a two-year extension would be necessary. Enforcement of forest rangers' capacity: Technical study tours should be targeting the local forest rangers and not irrelevant staff of GDF such as department managers etc. as has generally been the case in the project There are six forest rangers in Köyceğiz and none has ever participated to the technical study tours (for one person, the project got a passport for one of the tours but	Success factors of the project mainly articulated regarding the biodiversity added-value in the integrated management approach. The district directorate representatives define themselves as 'implementers' and that their work cover long-term activities. They believe that the minimum observation time for forest trials is 10 years and mention that in Europe such studies cover 50-60 years. Therefore, they find that it is of great importance to assess the data from the different project experiments regarding soil carbon, silvicultural methods and industrial plantations. Comparative fire studies: Muğla province GDF is	Like Gazipaşa, the general impression regarding the sustainability of the project's objectives once the GEF financing ends is that the work defined in the GEF project has now become their routine work and that it will not affect the overall objective. They state that for each branch office under GDF such as fire management, pest management, silviculture etc. the budget proposals are submitted every year so financially this should not pose a problem. They believe that once ORBIS becomes more operational this will also positively contribute to the project. Köyceğiz staff report that social factors play a role in the

			later on his name was cancelled by the Ministry) and this has apparent implications for project's ownership and staff motivation. tSaff turnover is seen as the main risk in the project. A particular challenge in Köyceğiz regarding the eco-tourism objectives under Component 3 is that Köyceğiz-Dalyan has the Special Environmental Protection Area (SEPA) conservation status under the authority of the General Directorate of Natural Assets Management of the Min. of Environment and Urbanization where there are existing rules and regulations regarding the general .	known to have quite advanced fire management practices (as this is one of the most fire prone regions or high risk spots of Turkey). On the other hand, few detailed studies are truly available to assess fire and fire management options Adaptive management is generally applied in the project, but the micro-credit program for solar panels aimed at home heating is reported to have reached a sort of a saturation (they say 'the forest villagers are the forest villagers of before') as there was no use of the area, footpaths etc. demand for these panels. The local staff suggested instead that the micro-credit program was tested for exterior thermal sheathing and insulation works in forest houses (such an example was available from Trabzon province in the Black Sea region) but this was not followed up by GDF and the project management.	directorate's work plans which may also affect the project objectives. People that are employed for thinning activities of the forests are forest dwelling villagers but since GDF does not provide social security, these jobs are not preferred and in some villages where the income earning has moved to more lucrative sectors such as tourism, forestry work which is both difficult and low paid is not preferred. Thus the Ministry has a problem with labor supply. It is reported that a series of technical capacity building activities have been conducted in the project (i.e. how to conduct calculations in the *Liquidamber* forests) but the local staff say they do not sufficiently feel technically competent.

Date: 28 November 2017
Place: UNDP Turkey Office, Ankara
Person/Persons Interviewed: Nuri Özbağdatlı & Bahtiyar Kurt

Introductory Note	Question Theme				
	Relevance	**Efficiency**	**Effectiveness**	**Results**	**Sustainability**
	The project idea (working on Mediterranean forests and carbon issues) is reported to be suggested by GDF itself and has evolved with the GEF priority areas concerning climate change. All related units and departments of GDF have helped develop the project and took ownership of the process.	Cost-effectiveness: Project start was delayed. GEF CEO approval was in December 2012. Project document was approved in August 2013 by the Turkish Min. Of Foreign Affairs and Min. of Development and UNDP. The inception workshop took place in December 2013 and the inception report was approved in May 2014. The initial steering committee meeting took place in June 2014 and finally in September 2014 the project has officially started being implemented. Thus, there was quite a bit of a delay in the project; nevertheless, the activities started rolling quickly and allocated money for these activities was spent. Nuri believes it requires time to 'infuse' to the relevant units and departments of the	Among the elements that make the project weak according to UNDP team is the general attitude that public officers in GDF have towards internationally financed projects: these types of projects are perceived as offering opportunities to travel abroad and do procurement. This mindset is apparent across all departments and to new coming GDF staff Nuri underlines. But this mindset has been shattered with the Forestry Planning Department of the GDF. Furthermore, the integrated forestry management is not a habitual practice in the GDF and poses a	UNDP project management team feels as though the anticipated outcomes are likely to be achieved and the main issues for the remaining project implementation timeframe are the DSS/MRV, small grants scheme, pest management (functioning labs) and the forest PA regulatory framework. The PMU believes that it is possible to attain project objectives however especially the following need to be fulfilled: the activation of the pest management labs and the small grants scheme under Component 3. For the latter, it is a 200 thousand USD scheme for eco-tourism; "the	The PMU team feels that project results are not likely to be dependent on continued financial support. They state that the objective for this is to turn the project results to GDF's business as usual approach. They also agree that project's relevant stakeholders have already achieved an adequate level of "ownership" of the results. There are certain project partners such as The Central Union of Turkish Forestry Cooperatives that have not collaborated as foreseen by the project document due to mutual divergence with GDF – this was not a technical capacity issue but it has been raised and noted. Project team thinks that the project results dependent on socio-political factors to a great extent. They feel as though anything can happen anytime politically and see the Presidential election of 2019 as a risk factor. Regarding the

		Ministry of Forestry especially considering the policy framework issues. Nuri and Bahtiyar report that the expenditures are in line with international standards and norms for development projects. Otherwise "their job would be in jeopardy".	challenge within GDF. Since there is a strictly hierarchical structure of management and conducting work in GDF (centrally GDF, regionally the FEDs under which the forest engineers/rangers etc. operate), there is a serious lack of self-confidence and capacity which makes it very difficult to get people's personal opinion. On the other hand, Nuri says that when GDF centrally takes sincere ownership of certain elements of the project it creates amazing impacts such seeing the Canadian industrial forestry practices and being motivated to try and implement such methods.	infrastructure is ready but needs to be solidified/strengthened". Overall, Nuri thinks that great tools have been developed so far in the project but time is needed to ensure their durability within the existing institutional structures. He says that the tools need to become 'business as usual' in due course. Key priorities for the remainder of the implementation period: small grants scheme and the MRV accompanied by the DSS. Adaptive management is a daily practice according to project staff.	environmental risks, the project team thinks that the project itself addresses these risks – fires, pest, climate change. The PMU says that it has tried to leave an institutional structure in each FED and in each GDF department such as a GEF V project folder but the high turn-over affects this. Even though GDF had taken very good ownership of the project, the staff turn-over leads to important challenges.

Annex 6. MTE Terms of Reference (ToR)