



2023 Project Implementation Report (PIR)



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Mainstreaming BD into Tourism Egypt

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A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	4590
GEF ID	5073
Title	Mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into tourism development and operations in threatened ecosystems in Egypt
Country(ies)	Egypt, Egypt
UNDP-NCE Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Management Arrangements	NIM
Project Implementing Partner	Government
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	4th PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY23
Trust Fund	GEF Trust Fund

Project Description
To reduce the aforementioned threats from unsustainable tourism development and forestall the consequential impacts on biodiversity in Egypt, the project will seek to alter the trajectory of tourism development in the country and render tourism operations more biodiversity-friendly. At the same time the project will harness the opportunities more sustainable forms of tourism offer for biodiversity and local community development and thereby contribute to the quality diversification of Egypt's tourism product. Action will be needed on several levels and fronts: 1) at the national and regional landscape levels by mainstreaming biodiversity into regulations, spatial and tourism development planning and related investment strategies, to influence (avoid/reduce/restore/offset) the deployment of high-impact tourism developments in ecologically important and sensitive areas, this being the most fundamental irreversible direct threat; and by the concurrent designation of new protected areas and the adaptation of existing protected area boundaries; and 2) at the local site level in existing and prospective tourism zones, especially protected areas and adjacent areas of ecological significance, where physical development is set to occur and where there is a need to change the operational aspects of tourism through additional management interventions to address further direct and indirect threats on biodiversity; this will also entail enhancing the management in concerned protected areas.

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Other Partners	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

B. Overall ratings

Overall DO Rating	Satisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	low

C. Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

Description					
Objective					
To mainstream biodiversity conservation into tourism sector development and operations in ecologically important and sensitive areas					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2022	Cumulative progress since project start
IRRF 2.5.1.A.1.1: Extent to which legal frameworks are in place for conservation, sustainable use, and/or access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems	0	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Missing legal frameworks established	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period: - The project revised the working groups, especially WG1, to better represent all the stakeholders involved in project activities. This resulted in adding new stakeholders to WG1, such as the New Urban Communities Authority, the General Organization for Physical Planning, the Western North Coast Development Authority, and the National Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries. These are all stakeholders relevant to the North Coast and Siwa SEAs (scoping workshop report attached with attendees). - North Coast and Siwa SEAs (reports attached) as well as the development of PA management plans activity (Wadi El Gemal draft plan attached) have provided an extensive review of the existing legal framework. The resultant reports will also provide recommendations on how to address

					gaps and improve the legal frameworks. Both assignments should be complete by November 2023. Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: - Project established three working groups to support in the improvement of the existing legal framework. The project continuously engages members of the working groups in project activities (SEA workshops, trainings, consultation sessions), which supports identification of gaps. Legal framework instruments developed: • Law on the establishment and functioning of the Egyptian Tourism Federation (ETF) and Egyptian Hotel Association (EHA) revised, and still needs to be adopted (attached) • Revised visitor fee structure for PAs developed for Red Sea and South Sinai. Minister of Environment Decree 204/2019 (attached) • Minister of Environment Decree 202 /2019 (attached) • Ban of Plastic Bag usage in the Red Sea
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					Governorate. Red Sea Governor Decree 167/2019 (attached) • Updates planned for environmental law (1994) and protected areas law, including legalizing Strategic Environmental Assessments. Recommendations were submitted and accepted by the MoE awaiting to be submitted to the Parliament (attached final Red Sea SEA report with recommendations).
IRRF 2.5.1.B.1.1: Extent to which policy frameworks are in place for conservation, sustainable use, and/or access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems	0	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Missing policy frameworks established	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period: - Ecolodge guidelines and licensing criteria adopted by the MoTA (Attached Decree No. 90/2023, ecolodge operations guidelines, and criteria) - MoTA officially adopted the National Sustainable Tourism Strategy and performance indicators developed by the project (attached). - North Coast/Siwa SEAs operationalized and will further identify policy gaps in the targeted regions. New WG1 members were added to assist the revision of policy frameworks and gaps (reports attached). - Project is working on aligning activities and achievements to integrate them within the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP).

					- Supported the establishment of an ecotourism NGO, the Sustainable Tourism Organization (STO), which will play a key role in representing this sector and advocate for ecotourism policies capable to address issues that are specific to this sector. Project support for STO is ongoing until the end of the project, and the project will rely on STO as part of its sustainability strategy to build on the work done by the project (sustainability strategy and RfP for ecotourism NGO attached). Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: Policy frameworks developed: • Policy gaps identified through Red Sea Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and working groups (WGs). • Policy recommendation report for the diving sector, to increase sustainability (NCS and CDWS), and prohibiting diving/snorkeling trips from land without a certified CDWS diver. This was developed and will be implemented by the CDWS (attached report). • Green Fins policy recommendation proposed and submitted
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					to MoE to reduce PA fees for certified operators (entrance, licensing, and permit discounts) (attached report). • Policy banning use of single-use plastic bags in South Sinai Governorate (attached). • Policy recommendations for COVID-19, tourism and biodiversity were developed in May 2020, which included an assessment of the current scenario, recommendations for crisis management, recovery, tourism and environment protection measures, and cooperation between the MoTA and the MoE. The document also explored the short term and medium-term outlook for tourism resilience and reform (attached). • Ecotourism operations guidelines developed along with criteria for a licensing system (attached). The project also conducted a survey of ecotourism & tour operators (attached) • National Sustainable Tourism Strategy with Performance Indicators developed in 2020 (attached).
IRRF 2.5.1.C.1.1: Extent to which institutional frameworks are in place for conservation, sustainable use, and/or access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and	0	(not set or not applicable)	Missing institutional frameworks established	(not set or not applicable)	Progress in current reporting period: - Establishment of the Sustainable Tourism Organisation (STO) supports

ecosystems					good governance in the tourism sector and fills in an institutional gap. The establishment of STO promotes participation and inclusion of stakeholders in the tourism sector, especially where sustainability is concerned. Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: Institutional frameworks developed: • Project drafted a cooperation protocol between the MoE and the Ministry of Defense and Military Production (MoDMP) on the inclusive management of PAs. • Drafted an MoU between the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and Ministry of Environment developed for 3 years (attached). MoU included partnering in the following pillars: - o Eco Tourism Development of Nabq, Qaroun, Abou Galoum, Wadi El Gemal and Elba PAs - o Support Egyptian Sustainable Tourism Sector - o Capacity Development of members of both Ministries - o Training Program for Tourist Guides and escorts
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					o Establishment of joint committee to monitoring and implementing the MoU • As part of the NCS restructure, a PA Strategy and Business Model was prepared including 3 economic models in comparison (as is, after implementation of fee restructure based on decree 202/203/204 and after further economic utilization of PAs) (attached).
Biodiversity explicitly included in plans and policies for tourism development by government, planning authorities and the private sector	The NSTSP addresses water, waste, energy and other broader environmental issues but not specifically biodiversity	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	National, regional and sector tourism strategies, policies and plans (such as the NSTSP) that give due and explicit recognition of the importance of biodiversity, protected areas and natural landscapes and integrate conservation goals	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period: - Tourism Development Authority (TDA) resort guidelines were reviewed and SEA capacity-building program completed (workshop agenda attached). Through the SEA workshops, the project is building the capacity of different stakeholders, such as the New Urban Communities Authority, the General Organization for Physical Planning, the TDA, governorates, and EEAA/NCS. During the Red Sea SEA, the focus was on the TDA as the key planning authority in the region, and the project decided to conduct another workshop in January 2023 specifically for the TDA in order to build the organization's capacity to adopt and apply SEA outputs and

					recommendations. - The developed ecolodge establishment guidelines were submitted to the TDA for feedback and are currently undergoing revisions to address TDA comments (attached establishment guidelines and letter to TDA to initiate revision). - Building on the Technical Assistance for Hotel Operations (TAHO) activity (best practices report attached), the project developed a roadmap for the green transformation of different sectors in Sharm El Sheikh (attached). - NC/Siwa SEAs operationalized to ensure the integration of biodiversity considerations in policies, plans and programmes pertaining to tourism development (attached scoping reports) - Development of pilot model applying sustainable tourism guidelines together with TDA in Southern Red Sea (Attached scope of work) - ESTP website's scope is currently being updated to include the Green Fins program content, such as the beach guidelines, diving sector guidelines and best practices. (Website: https://estportal.org/) Cumulative progress in previous reporting
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					periods: Improved inter-ministerial coordination between MoE and MoTA. An MoU was prepared but has not yet been signed by either party (attached). Developed outputs to support this indicator: - National Sustainable Tourism Strategy with Performance Indicators submitted to MoTA for endorsement (attached) - Tourism Development Authority (TDA) resort guidelines reviewed, and then referred to in developing ecolodge establishment guidelines (attached). - Developed ESTP/Noshor online hub in English and Arabic with materials for sustainable hotels (factsheets, pre-feasibilities for measures with capex needs; a pool temperature calculator) (https://estportal.org/) - Technical Assistance for Hotel Operations (TAHO) activity was completed and led to integration of biodiversity conservation measures into hospitality criteria system of the MoTA during the first reviewal of Hotel Criteria guidelines (cooperation with MSBII)
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					(attached).
Tourism infrastructure development after land allocation by the TDA	Currently the sale of lands by the TDA and the design and placement of tourism infrastructures make no allowances for biodiversity (natural ecosystems and habitats, protected areas, species distribution, etc.)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Unsustainable infrastructure development in critical habitats inside and adjacent to protected areas, especially through coastal ribbon development for the mass tourism market, is prevented. Current and future TDA land allocation maps are reviewed against the SEA, integrating biodiversity and protected area concerns. Plots which are not already in private hands or have not had development take place in accordance with the Law but are deemed to be in sensitive areas are protected or have strict limitations imposed upon development.	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance to the decisions made as per the Midterm Review recommendations and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been changed. The new indicator stipulates; "Newly established tourism infrastructure/establishments designed and constructed applying sustainable tourism guidelines" Progress in current reporting period: - Development of pilot model applying sustainable tourism guidelines and following Red Sea SEA recommendations together with TDA in Sharm El Fokeiry in the Southern Red Sea. The project presented this proposal to the Steering Committee, and the Committee agreed to allocate part of the project budget to the re-planning activity (SC meeting minutes attached). Therefore, the project has commenced the environmental assessment of the area (consultation meeting minutes and environmental assessment scope of work attached).

					Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: Developed: • Tourism Development Authority (TDA) resort guidelines reviewed.
Conservation status in the southern Red Sea coastal belt: for coral reefs, seagrass beds important also for the Dugong (<i>Dugong dugon</i> VU) and coastal habitats including mangroves and beaches used for nesting by the Green Turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i> EN) and Hawksbill Turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i> CR) and forest groves including the Red Sea Fog Woodland	To be determined in the SEA	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Project lifetime: Reduction of threats to specific sites, habitats and species as identified and measured by the GEF Threat Reduction Assessment tool. Long term: Recovery of species populations and or area of coverage	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been removed. All changes to project indicators that resulted based on the MTR in 2022 and the consequent SC meeting are indicated in this PIR.
Conservation status in the north-west Mediterranean coastal belt: for the unique coastal vegetation, oolitic calcareous ridges and dunes, saline depressions and saltmarshes, and the limestone ridge habitats bordering the coastal plain to the south west	To be determined in the SEA	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Project lifetime: Reduction of threats to specific sites, habitats and species as identified and measured by the GEF Threat Reduction Assessment tool. Long term:	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been removed. All changes to project indicators that resulted based on the MTR in 2022 and the consequent SC meeting are indicated in this PIR.

			Recovery of species populations and or area of coverage		
Conservation status in Siwa Oasis and PA: for vulnerable oasis and desert habitats representative of Egypt's Western Desert ecosystems, Slender-horned Gazelle (Gazella leptoceros VU), Dorcas Gazelle (Gazella dorcas EN)	To be determined in the SEA	(not set or not applicable)	Project lifetime: Reduction of threats to specific sites, habitats and species as identified and measured by the GEF Threat Reduction Assessment tool. Long term: Recovery of species populations and or area of coverage	(not set or not applicable)	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been removed. All changes to project indicators that resulted based on the MTR in 2022 and the consequent SC meeting are indicated in this PIR.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 1					
Output 1.1 Coherent and effective legal, policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks in place at the national and sub-national levels for multi-sectoral land-use planning at the landscape level, to avoid, reduce, mitigate and offset adverse impacts of tourism pressures on biodiversity					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2022	Cumulative progress since project start
Capacity at the MSEA/EEAA/NCS,	There is no SEA and	(not set or not	Capacity	(not set or not applicable)	In accordance with recommendations of

MoT/TDA for integrating biodiversity into SEAs, EIAs and related regulations in tourism planning and permitting, and for compliance monitoring and enforcement	biodiversity is poorly addressed in the EIA	<i>applicable)</i>	strengthened by ...To be determined during the inception phase	the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been merged with "Capacity of governorate and municipal authorities in the target areas for integrating biodiversity into tourism planning and permitting", and "Capacity of governorate and municipal authorities in the target areas for related compliance monitoring and enforcement" indicators. The new indicator stipulates "MSEA/EEAA/NCS, MoT/TDA and governorate and municipal authority staff are trained and capable of developing scenarios from the SEA, and capable of integrating biodiversity into SEAs, EIAs and related regulations in tourism planning and permitting, and can undertake compliance monitoring and enforcement" All changes to project indicators that resulted based on the MTR in 2022 and the consequent SC meeting are indicated in this PIR. Progress in current reporting period: - NC/Siwa SEAs incorporates capacity building of local and national stakeholders through periodic workshops.
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					Two workshops have been organized so far - the inception phase and the scoping phase workshops (meeting minutes and reports attached) - covering both the Western North Coast SEA and the Siwa SEA. - A specific capacity-building program for the TDA on SEAs and applying the Red Sea SEA recommendations has been completed in January 2023 (workshop agenda attached). - The project is currently assessing capacity building requirements for the EIA department in the EEAA. - Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) Restructuring proposal developed and approved by EEAA and Central Agency for Organization and Administration (CAOA) which should lead to improved capacity to manage tourism in PAs. Incorporates development of the PA Strategy & Business Model. The proposal will be adopted following the new recruitments in the EEAA's NCS (proposal attached). Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: - Participation of governorate representatives and other stakeholders in Red Sea SEA process, including
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					workshops and field visits. The SEA addressed integrating biodiversity into tourism planning and reviewed the EIA system, institutional frameworks and legal gaps. Additionally, it included options to improve capacity of the institutions (section 5.6.4 of sustainability assessment) (reports attached). - WGs have attended five scenario planning exercises and capable of integrating biodiversity measures in tourism planning and permitting. - Jetties guidelines compiled. The draft for a unified guideline for the maintenance and renew of jetties (including procedure and technical specifications (attached).
Capacity of governorate and municipal authorities in the target areas for integrating biodiversity into tourism planning and permitting	No specific policies and capacities on the biodiversity/interface. Governorate and municipal planning is largely concerned with urban planning and solid waste management	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Governorate and municipal planning reviews current plans against the needs of the SEA and imposes restrictions and mitigation measures where necessary	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been merged with "Capacity of governorate and municipal authorities in the target areas for integrating biodiversity into tourism planning and permitting", and "Capacity of governorate and municipal authorities in the target areas for related compliance monitoring and enforcement" indicators. The new indicator stipulates "MSEA/EEAA/NCS, MoT/TDA and governorate and municipal authority staff

					are trained and capable of developing scenarios from the SEA, and capable of integrating biodiversity into SEAs, EIAs and related regulations in tourism planning and permitting, and can undertake compliance monitoring and enforcement" Check previous indicator for progress and achievements.
Capacity of governorate and municipal authorities in the target areas for related compliance monitoring and enforcement	Very limited or no institutional capacities on effective regulation processes and oversight of tourism development and on promotion of NB/BFT	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Institutional and technical capacity increased	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been merged with "Capacity of governorate and municipal authorities in the target areas for integrating biodiversity into tourism planning and permitting", and "Capacity of governorate and municipal authorities in the target areas for related compliance monitoring and enforcement" indicators. The new indicator stipulates "MSEA/EEAA/NCS, MoT/TDA and governorate and municipal authority staff are trained and capable of developing scenarios from the SEA, and capable of integrating biodiversity into SEAs, EIAs and related regulations in tourism planning and permitting, and can undertake compliance monitoring and

					enforcement" Check previous indicator for progress and achievements.
Environmental infractions during the construction and operational phases	To be defined during Inception	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least a 50% reduction in environmental infractions achieved through monitoring and enforcement	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been removed. All changes to project indicators that resulted based on the MTR in 2022 and the consequent SC meeting are indicated in this PIR.
Available future scenarios	NSTSP provides a single vision for the future largely based upon increasing the number of tourists to Egypt each year	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	An agreed vision for the future of tourism in Egypt based upon the ecosystems ability to support the vision without loss of biodiversity	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been changed. The new indicator stipulates; "Future scenarios for the tourism in the PAs developed" Progress in current reporting period: - Scenario-planning workshop for ecotourism industry leaders and stakeholders (including eco-tour operators and STO) completed in February 2023, which led to conducive dialogue between different stakeholders in the ecotourism industry (workshop report attached).

					- Scenario-planning methodology will be used in the Sustainability Assessment phase of the NC-Siwa SEA to review the baseline and develop alternative scenarios for tourism planning in the target areas, including El Omayed PA and Siwa PA (reports attached). - Project is working on developing management and visitor management plans in 4 PAs, taking into account the carrying capacity for each area. This will inform the management of tourism flows as well as tourism activities in PAs (Wadi El Gemal management plan attached). Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: • Red Sea SEA included a series map of spatial areas where operations are desirable/ acceptable. Zoning descriptions are provided in the three alternatives elaborated (attached reports). Additionally, the final report included results of participatory scenario planning, with four scenarios: O A: The situation of the area in case of overcoming difficulty in presenting to the Supreme Council of Planning (biodiversity - water quality - freshwater scarcity) & the causes of competitive threats
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					O B: The situation of the area in case of overcoming: difficulty in presenting to the Supreme Council of Planning (biodiversity - water quality - freshwater scarcity) O C: The situation of the area in case of overcoming competitive threats: (High number of hotel rooms reduces rarity factors and reduces prices) O D: The situation of the area in case of overcoming: difficulty in presenting to the Supreme Council of Planning and the causes of competitive threats (High number of hotel rooms reduces rarity factors and reduces prices) The SEA elaborates and provides a synthesis of project alternatives: (1) Promoting Tourism Quality (Decrease quantity of hotel rooms); (2) Shifting away from traditional tourism products and (3) Business as Usual (LUMP).
Strategic Environmental Assessments to inform tourism development plans about spatial areas where tourism development and/or operations are desirable/acceptable from the biodiversity standpoint, where they may be permitted subject to management-mitigation-offsetting, and where they should be altogether	There is no strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for any of the three project sites which indicate the impact of tourism development upon biodiversity, and site-specific EIAs do not consider	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	SEAs developed for all three project sites and linked to the approval of EIAs	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period: Operationalization of Western North Coast and Siwa SEAs to be finalized in November 2023. Both SEAs are currently in the final stage of the scoping phase (reports attached). The sustainability assessment phase will thus commence in

avoided;	connectivity, externalities and downstream effects				July 2023. In accordance with the Midterm Review recommendations, the project approached IUCN to request the peer review of project outputs, particularly the SEAs. A meeting was held in January 2023 to discuss the scope of the cooperation and it was agreed that an MoU is to be signed between both parties, in order to formalize the agreement. The IUCN shared a draft MoU (attached), which is now being revised to proceed with signing and implementing the terms of the agreement. Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: • SEA Red Sea finalized (report attached). • Project supported the MoE in undertaking a SEA for St. Katherine (report attached).
Existing developments and EIAs	Many sites have been developed in sensitive areas without any thought to mitigation; some developments have been poorly monitored and/*or	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	A review of existing developments against the original EIA and mitigation measures imposed on infractions	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been merged with "Biodiversity concerns requirements integrated in EIA and tourism-related landscape planning" indicator and both have been changed.

	are illegal				The new indicator stipulates "Biodiversity concerns requirements integrated in EIA and tourism-related landscape planning, with a new EIA template" Progress in current reporting period: Addressing gaps in the current EIA system with EEAA, and working on assessing needs to develop a capacity building program for the EIA department North Coast and Siwa SEAs will also contribute to assessing gaps in the EIA system (reports attached). Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: EIA process and systems were reviewed and recommendations for improvement are provided in the final draft Red Sea SEA section 8.3.3 (attached). Red Sea SEA included recommendations for EIAs and biodiversity in tourism-
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					related landscape planning. Based on the outcomes in relation to the EIA improvements that are needed, the project sent a letter to assess the applicability of the SEA recommendations to the EIA department in the EEAA. The focus of this activity is about the following areas: • Legal frameworks – area that need revision and change and to be implemented into the legislation and current regulations • Templates – templates to be assessed and updated for each set of EIA categories. • Procedures – revision of procedures applicable to the EIA, with the aim of streamline the process, make it more efficient, cost effective and transparent. • Capacity development – the capacity of departments managing EIA will be enhanced through training, capacity building, manuals, documentation and analysis of case-studies • Guidelines – the development of guidelines with the aim of enhancing the current EIA process and categories.
Biodiversity concerns requirements integrated in EIA and tourism-related landscape planning	There are no SEA recommendations	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 90% of new tourism-related infrastructural developments and	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been merged with the

			hotels are consistent with SEA recommendations and apply rigorous EIAs whose conclusions are respected in the permitting process		"Existing developments and EIAs" indicator and both have been changed. The new indicator stipulates "Biodiversity concerns requirements integrated in EIA and tourism-related landscape planning, with a new EIA template" Check previous indicator for progress and achievements.
Regulatory, institutional and financial arrangements for tourism-related biodiversity offset mechanism assessed and (if viable) established to define offset activities/outcomes and site selection and create a supply/demand database	There is no mechanism to offset tourism development within the existing EIA	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Feasibility study completed and if appropriate a National Policy on Biodiversity Offsetting in the Tourism Sector and a legal means (i.e. an amendment to the EIA Law) to allow offsetting	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period: Offsetting Consultant was selected in June 2023 after advertising the position 3 times, and the activity will commence in July 2023. (Attached TORs and awarded consultant's proposal) Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: The project team was involved in reviewing the theoretical background and existing literature about offsetting. Also, practices, guidelines, experiences, applications and methodologies were revised and analyzed in order to gather an understanding about how an offsetting policy can better fit the Egyptian context

					and conditions. The project team found that the Egyptian legislation does not foresee a legal base for introducing offsetting mechanisms.
Environmental penalties	Currently fines imposed on developers are considered to be part of the development costs	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Fines are punitive and equal to or greater than the cost of mitigation and or restoration	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been removed. All changes to project indicators that resulted based on the MTR in 2022 and the consequent SC meeting are indicated in this PIR.
Management systems for regulating dive industry use of reefs	The NSTSP has suggested different systems for limiting use but no decision has been made yet (still)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	National guidelines on acceptable limits of change and carrying capacity for specific areas and habitats (recommended in the NSTSP) prepared, adopted and reflected in the SEA. Conclusions and recommendations on dive industry use prepared and enforced through an appropriate management system	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period: The MBDT project introduced the Green Fins voluntary certification system for diving operators in 2019 and supported the implementation of the program through CDWS. The achieved results in the past 4 years surpassed expectations, as Green Fins Egypt became the fastest country in the Green Fins network to go from launching to country independence in four years (Green Fins October 2022 report attached). Green Fins Egypt in numbers: - 41 certified members which is the highest number of Green Fins members in a single country worldwide (Green Fins website:

					https://greenfins.net/countries/egypt/). This also includes a total of 6 liveaboard operators, the first six operators to be certified in the world. - Project support for the program led to training and certifying 11 assessors and 3 assessor trainers. - 621 people attended environmental awareness courses for diving & watersports centers and 46 sessions were conducted. - 285 people were trained through Green Fins assessments. - Continued project support for Green Fins through assessing interest of dive centers in and around Marsa Alam in the Red Sea in May 2023. The project has commenced the Shark spatial distribution study conducted to inform Coastal Zone Management (CZM). The first stakeholder consultation workshop was conducted in June 2023 to, with the attendance of different stakeholders including PA managements, relevant EEAA departments, NGOs, GAFRID, and NIOF (workshop report attached). Cumulative progress in previous reporting
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					periods: • Policy action plan for diving industry structure, including policy targets & key action areas, based on assessments and negative impacts in the Red Sea for 1. Minimum discharge, 2. Waste management, 3. Coastal zonation and management plans, 4. Mooring buoy system, 5. Awareness raising & 6. Fiscal incentives for GF members (discounts) (attached).
A national-level policy mainstreaming committee overseeing policy and planning coherence between tourism development and environmental/biodiversity management established	There is no such committee	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Committee established and meeting regularly to review all aspects of tourism related to biodiversity and participating in the scenario planning	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period (June 2023) - Project is consulting stakeholders about the best approach to formalize and institutionalize the 3 WGs. The project will hold a stakeholder consultation meeting in July 2023 to discuss the developed project sustainability strategy, which includes the formalization of the WGs (attached sustainability strategy). - Supporting the operationalization of the Environment and Sustainable Tourism Committee (ETF), through meeting with the ETF board and convincing them about the importance of the committee, putting them in contact with STO members, and suggesting the committee members. The committee is among the key stakeholders that the project has included in its sustainability

					strategy, to assume the role of the project in some areas after its conclusion (attached sustainability strategy). Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: WG1 established on Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Tourism Planning and Development. This is not a decision-making body, nor permanent, but important in influencing policy.
A biodiversity monitoring and evaluation mechanism or process created to assess disturbance of habitats and key species from tourism and related pressures, determine acceptable limits of change, and provide management recommendations;	No such indicators exists specifically targeted at tourism development and activities	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Specific indicators are incorporated into the NBSAP monitoring programme with a link to scenario planning. Performance of key agencies and authorities related to tourism and biodiversity is reported annually against the indicators and reports are available to the public	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period (June 2023): - Currently developing pathways to integrate the monitoring of critical marine species and habitats with CDWS mobile application. An MoU has been shared with CDWS, awaiting their signature (presentation and MoU attached). - Integration of the project's management plan activity with the NBSAP with the objective of developing a M&E component in the management plans that aligns with the biodiversity monitoring indicators of the NBSAP (Draft Wadi El Gemal Management Plan attached). - The project supported the establishment of the Galala Bird Observatory by Nature

					Conservation Egypt (NCE), with the objective of promoting long-term monitoring of migratory raptor populations, and to encourage ecotourism around birdwatching in general. This support was acknowledged in the article titled “Globally important proportions of six raptor populations migrate past Galala Bird Observatory, Egypt, in spring” (article attached). - The project is currently assessing the potential to establish a volunteer program in PAs, with the pilot model being in Wadi El Gemal PA. One of the objectives of this activity is to assist the PA in developing and implementing a biodiversity monitoring mechanism. Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: Red Sea SEA proposed recommendations for enhancing existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Final Red Sea SEA sustainability assessment report details threats to habitats and biodiversity (section 4). Report sections included on coral reefs, seagrass, mangroves and key species
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					(turtles). Linkages with IUCN project Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD) explored for the area. (attached reports). Green-Fins report includes recommendation for annual monitoring of dive operator impacts (attached).
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 2					
Output 2.1 Frameworks and tools for fostering adoption by tourism operators of best-practice standards for sustainable tourism and nature-based/biodiversity-friendly tourism (NB/BFT)					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2022	Cumulative progress since project start
New voluntary national certification schemes and verification mechanisms on responsible NB/BF tourism created for hotels and operators	Currently no such schemes or mechanisms exist in Egypt, there is no legal basis	(not set or not applicable)	One or several voluntary national certifications schemes in place, with appropriate penalties for misuse and miss-selling	(not set or not applicable)	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been removed. All changes to project indicators that resulted based on the MTR in 2022 and the consequent SC meeting are indicated in this PIR.
New responsible NB/BF tourism certification schemes adopted, and	Currently there are few tourist	(not set or not applicable)	In the target areas, demonstrated	(not set or not applicable)	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring

verification mechanisms operationalised (including through MoT/TDA/MSAE endorsements and campaigns)	developments with any form of certification or accreditation, and none for NB/BFT	<i>applicable</i>	adoption of and compliance with the selected responsible NB/BF tourism certification schemes by - at least 10% of existing and 20% of new tourism-related infrastructural developments, hotels and tourism service providers; - by at least 50% of NB/BFT operators.		the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been removed. All changes to project indicators that resulted based on the MTR in 2022 and the consequent SC meeting are indicated in this PIR.
Tourism marketing strategies by MoT/ETA and private sector	Egypt is currently marketed as a “sun and sea” and cultural heritage destination	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	MoT/ETA and private sector in their marketing campaigns also integrate Egypt's natural heritage through NB/BFT and references to natural landscapes and protected areas	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been merged with “Tourism Pricing” indicator and both have been changed. The new indicator stipulates; "Sustainable Tourism Strategy and relevant marketing strategies developed by MoT/ETA and private sector and in place" Progress in current reporting period (June

					2023) - Adoption of National Sustainable Tourism Strategy by MoTA (attached). - Within the framework of cooperation between the MoE and MoTA, the ETA marketing strategies have been updated to include natural and cultural heritage content developed by ECO EGYPT. The ETA's official Egypt tourism portal (https://egypt.travel/) now directs visitors to the ECO EGYPT website if they click on the Ecotourism webpage. - Ongoing partnership with Jaz Hotel Group to feature ECO EGYPT videos at receptions and guest rooms (Marine Conservation Campaign and Green List Video). The project team and Jaz Hotels Marsa Alam Area Manager agreed on further development of the Oriental Nights Programme during a visit to Marsa Alam in May 2023, to include a bazar for the Ababda Tribe's handicrafts (meeting minutes attached). - Cooperation with different international organizations such as AFD to promote awareness about ecotourism activities in Egypt (included in the attached knowledge communications center PIR). - ECO EGYPT participation in local and international expos, including COP27. The campaign engaged with a large
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					number of participants in the COP 27, through taking them on virtual tours of some of Egypt's PAs, promoting awareness about ecotourism activities and PAs in Egypt, as well as raising awareness about the importance of reducing environmental impact while travelling through the Green List pillars. Additionally, ecotourism trips organized jointly with MoTA to promote Ras Muhammad and Nabq PAs in Sharm El Sheikh (included in the attached knowledge communications center PIR). - Promotion of Egypt's protected areas on 3 social media platforms (included in the attached knowledge communications center PIR). - Creating value for environmental labels through social media, workshops and seminars (included in the attached knowledge communications center PIR). - The project launched the "Tribal Talks" campaign, which showcases the cultural heritage of 11 local communities living in and around protected areas in Egypt, thus raising awareness about the cultural diversity in Egypt. The campaign focuses on how the natural resources and environments in each area shaped these cultures from their tribal laws and traditions to traditional food, clothes, and crafts. The campaign was launched in
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					Wadi Degla Protected Area Visitor Center in June 2023, with a screening of the Tribal Talks documentary, as well as a panel discussion and a photo gallery. The campaign will remain ongoing for the upcoming months, with several public and private screenings and social media content being developed (concept paper attached and included in the attached knowledge communications center PIR). - An Anti-Littering Campaign was launched in May 2023 in Wadi Degla Protected Area, as the most visited PA in Egypt. The aim was to promote conservation efforts, led by local and international visitors as well as the PA management (concept paper attached and included in the attached knowledge communications center PIR). - ECO EGYPT organized 8 hikes during Ramadan 2023 in Wadi Degla Protected Area to raise awareness about the relation between mental wellbeing and nature. ECO EGYPT hosted a guest speaker in each hike, to share their experiences of how nature-based and ecotourism activities has improved their wellbeing (concept paper attached and included in the attached knowledge communications center PIR). - Translation of the ECO EGYPT brochure to Spanish by students from Cairo University, and was added to an Egyptian national awareness project
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					called “W3i”. The promotional campaign for the translated brochure is still ongoing (Spanish brochure attached). - A marine activities zonation map was developed by the project for Sharm El Sheikh, including Ras Muhammad Protected Area and Tiran Straits, delineating the spots for marine activities, as well as the environmental instructions and PA contact information in three languages. The map was installed in the most visited spots in Sharm El Shiekh (included in the attached knowledge communications center PIR). Progress in previous reporting periods: - Close coordination with MoTA/ETA has ensured integration of biodiversity and sustainability into current tourism plans and marketing strategies. Support for implementation of sustainable tourism standards through: - Development of Best Practices for Hotel Operations.(attached) - “Strategy for the inclusion of environmental criteria in touristic Restaurants” developed, including water conservation, energy efficiency, waste
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					management, environmental policies and biodiversity conservation (attached) Through the ECO EGYPT campaign, the project introduced the Green List initiative, which targets tourism destinations and promotes for national and international green labels for hotels and diving centers. On the list, the project also included categories for ecolodges and products.
Tourism pricing	Currently there is no premium on NB/BFT tourism. Eco-certified developments have no competitive advantage	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	NB/BFT tourism consistently achieving a higher price per day than none NB/BFT. Eco-certified developments achieve a competitive advantage in pricing	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been merged with "Tourism marketing strategies by MoT/ETA and private sector" indicator and both have been changed. The new indicator stipulates; "Sustainable Tourism Strategy and relevant marketing strategies developed by MoT/ETA and private sector and in place" Check previous indicator for progress and achievements.
Economic/fiscal and other incentives (e.g. subsidies, tax deductions, promotion through national or regional government tourism)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period (June 2023)

materials/websites) and penalties (e.g. special taxes), to advance the adherence of private sector and local community businesses to the certification systems.					- Preliminary approval of the Minister of Environment for discounted PA fees for Green Fins members. This is a proposal that was included in the Green Fins Policy Recommendations report (attached). - ECO EGYPT launched Green List and eco-shop for green products in Sharm El Shiekh. The project highlighted selected local ecofriendly products through a PR campaign, that included a VIP kit with product samples that was distributed to different target audiences (included in the attached knowledge communications center PIR). Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: • Green-Fins policy recommendation to proposed reduced fees for certified operators (entrance, licensing, and permit discounts) developed (attached). The report also includes recommendation for dealing with infractions against the law & patrols. • Project promoting Green Fins and Green Star certifications to reduce operational infractions. • Policy action plan for dive industry has targets including discharge & waste
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					management. These could reduce infractions (attached). Jetties guidelines compiled (attached). The draft for a unified guideline for the maintenance and renew of jetties (including procedure and technical specifications).
Number of clearly labelled NB/BFT operators in the target regions	Almost non-existent	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least 10 new operators in each target region	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Progress in current reporting period (June 2023): NB/BFT operators in target regions: - Green Fins: 41 diving centers - Greens Star expanded to certify more than 170 hotels. (80 hotels in Sharm El Sheikh, 12 hotels in the Southern Red Sea, 3 hotels in the western north coast). The project carried out a ToT activity for Green Star auditors and assessors, as well as on the job training (activity final report attached), which reflected in the substantial increase in the number of certified green star hotels in Egypt. 171 staff members in 84 hotels were trained on sustainable hotel practices including restaurants and cafes. The project's support for the programme was acknowledged in one of the GSH newsletters (attached).

					- Development and submission of proposal for the adoption of Travelife as an ecolabel for tour operators to MoTA - ECO EGYPT Green List was launched promoting green-labeled hotels and diving centers as well as giving sustainable ecolodge and product recommendations. The four main pillars of the Green List were highlighted through a promotional video, filmed during a trip to the Southern Red Sea region (included the attached knowledge communications center PIR). - The project team is organizing a tour guide training in Wadi El Gemal PA, in cooperation with the PA and expert ecotour operators to certify tour guides. The training is scheduled to take place mid-July 2023 (meeting minutes attached). - To further support the licensing of ecolodges, the project developed a best practices manual for ecolodge operations (attached). Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: - Development of Best Practices for Hotel Operation (attached). - Audited 22 hotels (attached
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					reports), resulting tailor-made recommendations as well as technical assistance to implementing certain solutions. The audits also emphasized on how hotels can apply for green funding and linked to financial feasibility/technical complexity, CapEx needs and expected savings. Series of 'best practice' factsheets produced were also produced. - NB/BFT operators: Green-Fins: 258 people were trained through Green Fins Assessments. There were also 46 Environmental Awareness course sessions for diving & watersports centers, attended by 621 people so far. - "Strategy for the inclusion of environmental criteria in touristic Restaurants" developed, including water conservation, energy efficiency, waste management, environmental policies and biodiversity conservation (attached). • Integration of biodiversity into hospitality criteria system through the support to the Green Star Program to update the criteria, and revised and updated the GSH manual "How to Become a Green Star Hotel" (attached final report of activity).
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				

Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 3					
Output 3.1: Gazettement of the new PA(s), especially in the north-west Mediterranean coastal belt, and expansion of boundaries of existing PAs					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2022	Cumulative progress since project start
Number and area of protected areas in the target areas	5 protected areas in the target areas	(not set or not applicable)	6 protected areas in the target areas and an additional 30,000 ha of new PA and 15,000 ha of expanded PA	(not set or not applicable)	Progress in current reporting period: The project assessed potential spots to be proposed as a new MPA. A field visit was conducted in January 2023 to three dives sites proposed for the declaration of the MPA. Information was gathered on the status and health of these dive sites along with their biodiversity. Baseline assessments were conducted on the areas of interest. The project is currently awaiting final recommendations from the EEAA on the baseline and the area of interest to start with the declaration and management plan of the MPA (reports attached). During UNFCCC COP27, the Minister of Environment announced Egypt's commitment to protect the Red Sea's Fringing Reef. Therefore, the project is supporting the ongoing feasibility study. Project is assessing net change in PA

					area size. The current PA size is 140579 km2 according to NCS. Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: - The project assessed potential for declaring a PA on the northern coast, in Al Sheweila, but stakeholders consulted were not supportive. - NCS informed that there has been a policy change on not increasing further expansion of PAs. NCS formed a committee to adjust areas and boundaries of around 14 PAs in the country, and remove areas with some incompatible activities (e.g., mining).
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 4					
Output 4.1: Institutional and technical management framework in place in the new and existing PAs, depending on specific site needs: staffing, capacitation, physical demarcation of boundaries, basic infrastructure and equipment, participatory management planning, multi-stakeholder management boards, etc					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2022	Cumulative progress since project start
PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools (METTs) demonstrate satisfactory improvements, in	Current METT scores Siwa: 59	(not set or not applicable)	Current METT scores + 20%	(not set or not applicable)	Progress in current reporting period: The project worked on updating the METT

particular in relation to a) tourism planning and visitor management b) a reduction of the direct and indirect impacts from tourism c) revenue generation d) relations with local communities	Omayed: 47 Wadi Gemal: 59				scores for 2022, with the following results: Siwa: 64 Omayed: 46 Wadi Gemal: 65 The project conducted interviews with PA managers and relied on the experience of project consultants to complete the assessments, which were finalized in February 2023. It should be noted that comparing results with the previous assessment would not give a proper representation of the management effectiveness, given that the previous documents were incomplete and underdeveloped (2022 METTs attached). Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: METT scores as at November 2020: Siwa: 40 Omayed: 31 Wadi El Gemal: 55 These were the latest scores provided by the NCS. There are no available results
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					for 2021.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 5					
Output 4.2: Effective management and servicing of tourism flows, minimising adverse impacts on biodiversity, and maximising positive opportunities for protected area and biodiversity management					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2022	Cumulative progress since project start
Existence of visitor management plans Interpretation facilities for sensitising tourists, operators and local populations to regulations and good practices in tourist activities and souvenir shopping	None of the PAs in the target areas have visitor management plans None of the PAs in the target area have facilities for interpretation and there are no regulations and good practices	(not set or not applicable)	6 PAs in the target areas have visitor management plans Regulations and good practices agreed and widely broadcast with high degree of compliance	(not set or not applicable)	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been merged with “ Interpretation facilities for tourists, operators and local populations to regulations and good practices in tourist activities and souvenir shopping ” indicator and both have been changed. The new indicator stipulates; "Visitor Management Plans for selected PAs developed and in use" Cumulative progress since project start:

					The project is currently working on the Management Plans for 4 PAs (Nabq, Siwa, Wadi El Gemal and El Omayed) in addition to the proposed MPA. The assignment will be finalized by October 2023. The Wadi El Gemal Management Plan is currently being finalized (attached). The assignment organized several workshops so far including the kickoff meeting, the inception workshop, a strategic planning workshop and a stakeholder consultation workshop, all of which were attended by members of the working groups which including protected areas managers, government officials, NGOs and additional stakeholders in the private sector. It was agreed that the management plans will apply international best practice such as Limits of Acceptable Change, Visitor Use Management Framework, and limit the usage of Carrying Capacity. The methodological approach for the revision of PAs management plans was completed and the outcomes of the approach adopted reflected in the attached Wadi el Gemal Management Plan. One of the key innovation introduced by the project is to assess limits of acceptable change and allowing a more attentive management of
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					visitation in the context of sensitive nature rich areas, such as PAs. This methodology will also be applied to the remaining PAs management plan that the project is developing. The project is also supporting tourism in PAs in the target areas through ensuring the availability of informational signs, interpretive facilities, and guidelines. The project has conducted scoping visits to Wadi El Gemal Protected Area in May 2023 and to Siwa Protected Area in June 2023 to assess needs and determine appropriate installation locations. The project upgraded some signs in the Siwa PA Visitor Center during the same visit. The project will also work on interpretation facilities in Nabq and Ras Muhammad PAs (attached interpretation facilities concept paper, Wadi El Gemal scoping visit summary, and included in the knowledge communications center PIR).
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 6					
Output 4.3: Community-based integrated land and resource management plans developed, and implementation initiated;					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target	End of project	Level at 30 June 2022	Cumulative progress since project

		level	target level		start
Implementation of CBNRM agreements	A template for such agreements exists but has not been signed by the EEAA	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Four local communities receive the appropriate authority to access and sustainably manage biodiversity and landscape resources	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been changed. The new indicator stipulates; "CBNRM agreements with local communities in place in project sites" Progress in current reporting period: National CBNRM expert hired to assess economic feasibility of identified schemes. The expert assessed the Wadi El Gemal proposed schemes and the result was the development of 6 business model canvases (attached) for the following schemes: 1. Farm in Abo Ghosoun 2. Biking and Trekking trail 3. Hankorab Restaurant 4. Mountain Safari 5. Qulaan Ecolodge 6. Wadi El Gemal Ecolodge

					The project is assessing financials for the CBNRM schemes and assessing the most viable schemes. The project team and CBNRM expert also conducted a field visit to the Western North Coast (El Hammam/El Omayed and Marsa Matourh) as well as to Siwa in June 2023. The visit included 20 site visits/meetings with stakeholders to explore opportunities for the development of CBNRM schemes. Stakeholders included local community development associations, research centers, craftspeople, bazar owners, hotel/ecolodge managers, business owners and community leaders. Consequently, business model canvases will be developed to assess the viability of different schemes. The identified opportunities for the North Coast include: - Conservation of endangered and medical plants and supporting local farmers. - Dried fruits - Jam production
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					- Storage facilities for fresh fruit - Carpet (Kleem) production support Identified opportunities for Siwa: - Silver making - Basket making - El Gara ecotourism product - El Gara packaged products and handicrafts - Handicraft workshop - Greed (palm tree) furniture - Siwan pottery Furthermore, the project collaborated with the Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Phase III project to create marketing opportunities for handicrafts produced by craftswomen in Wadi El Gemal. The project also provided production tools and materials to create three products: leather bags, leather wallets, and leather and wood frames. Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods:
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					The project identified (6) potential CBNRM schemes in Wadi El Gemal, (8) potential CBNRM schemes in Siwa and (3) potential schemes in the Northern Coast (cooperation with HERD project). The schemes in Wadi El Gemal benefit 2 local communities (Abo Ghosoun and Hamata), in Siwa it benefits the Siwan people, and in the north coast it benefits the local communities in El Hammam and in Marsa Matrouh. Wadi El Gemal: - Cooperation with EIECP/III in handicrafts capacity building - Hankourab, with Abo Ghosoun Association (AGA) and private sector; resource management plan and visitor management plan. - Qulaan – Local community and AGA – management plan and visitor management plan; evaluation to be done of local capacity & mobilizing women; handicraft (enhancing), restaurant management, fishing, herding, and honey (enhancing). - Sharm El Luli - Glass Boats: The project renovated two glass boats to be operated by Abo Ghosoun and Hamata communities, and managed by their
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					respective associations. - Wadi El Gemal – potential use of hiking trails for biking. Continued support for 2 separate schemes in Siwa: • Safari – local communities and SOS – sustainable management and operations. The project conducted 3 capacity-building workshops for safari drivers, tour guides and ecolodges in the Siwa. • Established formal ecotourism WG in Siwa to help streamline and initiate CBNRM agreements.
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The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track
Evidence uploaded:	YES

Outcome 7

Output 4.4: Local communities engaged in NB/BFT ventures for livelihood including services and products (e.g. hotels, eco-lodges, environmental camp sites, eco-products and environmentally-friendly transportation and managed hunting tourism where appropriate)

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2022	Cumulative progress since project start
Local community participation in NB/BFT	Local community participation in	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Community guidelines for the	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring

	tourism is largely unplanned and opportunistic. While there are elements of NB/BFT there are no guiding policies		development and management of NB/BFT developed and accepted by the TDA and three local communities recognised as managers of local tourism resources in defined areas		the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been changed. The new indicator stipulates "Local community participation in NB/BFT increased (with at least 30% female participation in decision making processes)" Progress in current reporting period: The project is developing a Nature Services Partnership Guidelines in cooperation with the Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Phase III Project. The objective of this document is to provide guidance to PA managers, private sector, and policy makers, as well as other interested parties, on developing partnerships with local communities for the sustainable use, access and management of natural resources. The guidelines will be finalized in July 2023 (draft attached). Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: - Ecolodge operations guidelines developed and address involvement/participation of local
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					communities. The Ecotourism guideline criteria included Participation of Local Community 'provide direct and indirect job opportunities for local community'. - Sustainable Tourism Strategy Indicators include one objective on Tourism Participation in Tourism, among 18 indicators. - The project has developed the Eco South Sinai tourism product in cooperation with 3 local communities (Tarabin, Mazayna, Jabaliya) and in support of local tourism service providers (Al Madawa Lodge, Navig8, Dune Raider and Reef Oasis Dive Club). These are outside the project sites. For these activities the project does not rely on resources that are committed to the development of CBNRM in the project target areas. Instead by supporting this campaign the project is fulfilling its objectives of mainstreaming biodiversity into the tourism sector in Egypt as well as supporting PAs to generate benefits for their financial sustainability, while creating opportunities for local communities to benefit from tourism development. - The "Traditional Oriental Nights" programme is an example of another
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					successful partnership between local communities and the private sector. The programme included a series of night shows that have taken place in Sharm El Sheikh and Marsa Alam. The objectives of this programme are to highlight the cultural and traditional heritage of local communities in South Sinai and the South Red Sea, promote Egypt's Protected Areas, and highlight opportunities for NB/BFT tourism products and services. This programme also supports the hospitality sector to implement the Green Star environmental label procedures or any other environmental label that covers the preservation of cultural heritage and community development.
Community-based NB/BFT enterprises	No baseline is established but there are very few tourism enterprises registered to the local communities	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	5 community-based NB/BFT enterprises in each target region	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been changed. The new indicator stipulates "Number of Community-based NB/BFT enterprises increased (with at least 30% female headed)" Progress in current reporting period: The project developed the Oriental Nights program in Marsa Alam in cooperation with the Abo Ghosoun association, as a community-based scheme under the

					association. The program is now a regular part of the Jaz Hotel Group entertainment program in Marsa Alam. The project discussed opportunities for Wadi El Gemal craftswomen to join the program by displaying handicrafts which will be arranged through the association (meeting minutes attached). The project team conducted field visits to Wadi El Gemal, Siwa and the North Coast to meet with local community members, civil society organizations, research institutes, private sector, and craftspeople to assess potential NB/BFT enterprises. The project team found the applicability of tourism-based local community ventures in the North Coast difficult because of local customs. However, opportunities to benefit from the influx of tourists in other types of ventures were identified. The project was able to identify a number of potential ventures in Siwa and Wadi El Gemal. The project is supporting private sector investors in the mapping of concessions, partnership agreements, and investment opportunities in Wadi El Gemal PA.
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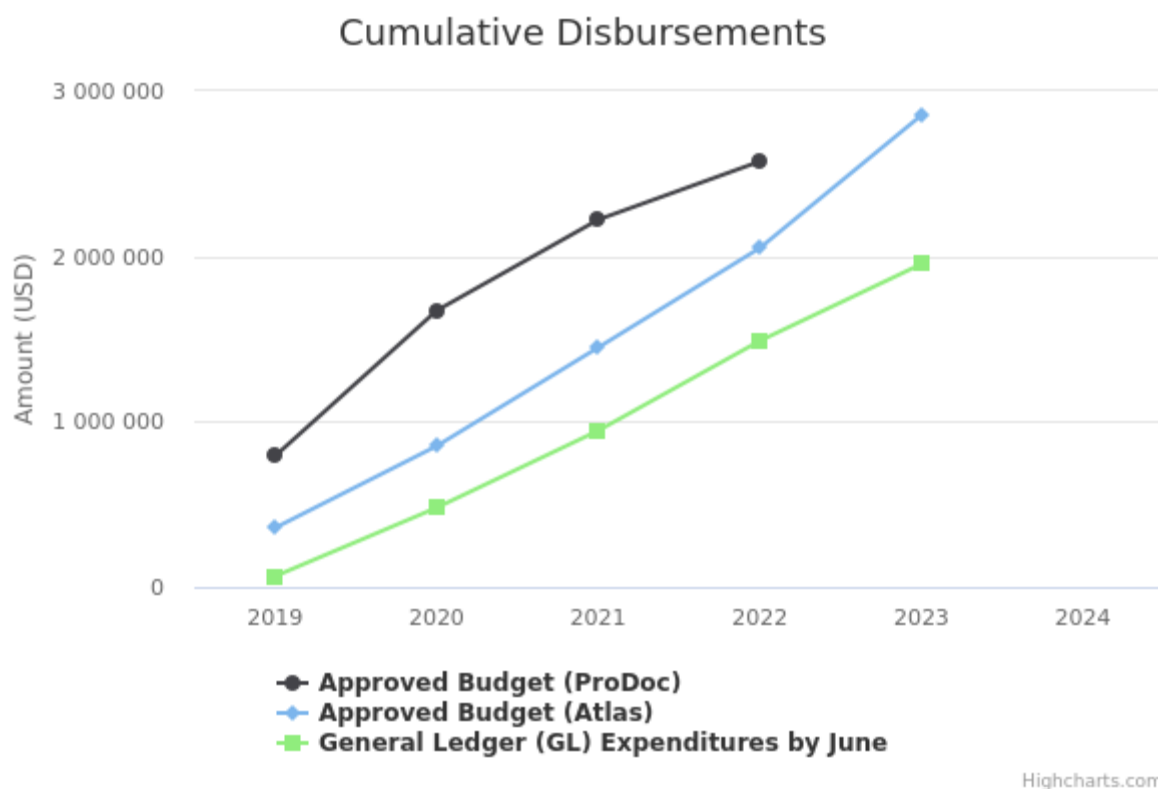
					Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: • Cooperation with EIECPH to enhance the AGA and Hamata Association business and management capacities • The project has developed the Eco South Sinai tourism product in cooperation with 3 local communities (Tarabin, Mazayna, Jabaliya) and in support of local tourism service providers (Al Madawa Lodge, Navig8, Dune Raider and Reef Oasis Dive Club). • The “Traditional Oriental Nights” programme is an example of another successful partnership between local communities and the private sector. The programme included a series of night shows that have taken place in Sharm El Sheikh and Marsa Alam. The objectives of this programme are to highlight the cultural and traditional heritage of local communities in South Sinai and the South Red Sea, promote Egypt’s Protected Areas, and highlight opportunities for NB/BFT tourism products and services. This programme also supports the hospitality sector to implement the Green Star environmental label procedures or any other environmental label that covers the preservation of cultural heritage and
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					community development.
Houbara Bustard: population size and # of captive-bred birds released per year	Population size to be estimated at start of Houbara Centre project. Birds released per year: 0	(not set or not applicable)	Population size: +20% Birds released per year: At least 50	(not set or not applicable)	In accordance with recommendations of the Midterm Review, and after acquiring the approval of the steering committee, this indicator has been removed.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				
Outcome 8					
Output 5.1: Site-specific effective PA financing systems based on integration into Egypt’s PA system and national PA financing strategy and on gate and tourism operator concession fees, ecotourism taxes, and on biodiversity offset and reinvestment schemes involving the tourism industry.					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2022	Cumulative progress since project start
Score in PA Financial Sustainability Scorecard	54% (122 of 225)	(not set or not applicable)	70 %	(not set or not applicable)	Progress in current reporting period: The project worked on updating the PA financial scorecard for 2022, finalized in February 2023, which indicated that the current score is 54%. The project noted that the previous

					versions of this assessment were not accurate in terms of the reported figures nor the fulfilment of the requirements of the assessment. Therefore, the project relied on actual figures as reported by the NCS and relied on expert consultation to update the assessment (2022 scorecard attached). Supporting private sector investors in the mapping of concessions, partnership agreements, and investment opportunities in Wadi El Gemal PA. Cumulative progress in previous reporting periods: Score for the PA system on the Financial Scorecard cleared under GEF3209 (April 2021) was 113 out of 227 (50%). However, MTR checks found that this calculation was incorrect, and the score was actually 116 out of 226 (51%). Regardless, these figures are both lower than the baseline in the ProDoc of 54% (122 of 225) Efforts have been made to improve self-financing of PAs, including project support to the development of Ministers Decree 204, increasing entrance fees for Red Sea and South Sinai PA, and the PA
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					Strategy and Business Model report which outlines three economic scenarios for PAs. The launch of the ECO Egypt campaign aims to directly contribute to PA revenue generation. The ECO Egypt campaign is committed to promote local natural and cultural heritage, therefore enabling the smooth integration of local communities within the tourism sector. Supporting private sector investors in the mapping of concessions, partnership agreements, and investment opportunities in Nabq Protectorate.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

D. Implementation Progress



Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	75.89%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	75.89%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June:	1,953,664

Key Financing Amounts

PPG Amount	60,000
GEF Grant Amount	2,574,338
Co-financing	49,200,000

Key Project Dates

Project duration	60 months
PIF Approval Date	Apr 12, 2013
CEO Endorsement Date	Apr 9, 2015
Project Document Signature Date (project start	Nov 14, 2018

date):	
Date of Inception Workshop	Jun 18, 2019
First Disbursement Date	Apr 23, 2019
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	May 14, 2021
Actual Date of Mid-term Review	Apr 28, 2021
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Feb 14, 2024
Original Planned Closing Date	Nov 14, 2023
Revised Planned Closing Date	May 14, 2024

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2022 to 1 July 2023)

2023-03-19

Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones outlined in the above 'Key Project Dates' table. Include comments on COVID-19 related challenges, delays and impact. If there are no delays, please indicated 'not applicable'.

The project's terminal evaluation has been scheduled, with the assignment beginning on June 29th 2023 and is expected to end by August 30th 2023. The planned visit to the project location will be in the second half of July 2023.

It should be noted that the project faced accumulated impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 hindered the ability to undertake the required field work to complete project activities. This resulted in delays in CBNRM schemes assessment and operationalization, as well as the establishment of NB/BFT ventures with local communities. Moreover, the changes in institutional frameworks (Eg. changes in the governing authorities over the Western North Coast region) resulted in delays in communicating with new stakeholders and engaging them in the project activities.

CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance

The project faced some delay due to COVID-19. The project requested a 6 months extension to end now in May 2024. We are waiting for approval from UNDP/GEF. This resulted in postponing the Terminal Evaluation to November 2023.

Approvals to implement some activities specially in South Sinai was challenging due to the

bureaucratic procedures required.

Delays were also due to the fact that the project was implementing activities outside the focal areas. This is time consuming and resulted in delays of the actual activities in the right areas. This also included unplanned activities that were injected in the project.

NCE RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.

Implementation has been proceeding as planned with slightly deviations and requested additional 6 months for the project extension. The major reason of the project extension is that some activities are delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions put in place since the beginning of the pandemic.

The project team requested the project extension according to the recommendation of MTR and prepared the specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance plan to help boost the delivery of the project. The plan includes 1) a detailed project schedule with clear milestones and deadlines and regularly monitor the progress against the schedule to identify any delays or deviations and take corrective actions as needed; 2) the project team prepared detailed annual budget plan, monitored actual project expenses against the budgeted costs; and 3) the project team focused on mitigation and contingency plans of risks, regularly review and update risk assessments in PIMS+ and Quantum.

Cumulative GL financial delivery (75.89%) and management of risks is mostly on track (see the Risk Management section), with some delays. Overall, the project is managed well, UNDP is providing active oversight, the governance mechanism is working, and partner commitment is generally positive (as evidenced by multiple MoUs and partner involvement in activities).

The team analysis the project performance on financial matters and prepared AWP for the project extension period and financial clearance by the Regional PA and HQ PMSU team. The project operational closure date is in May 2024. The ToR is announced for the TE consultant and the project is implementing the project activities as planned and the TE process is expected to complete before operational closure.

E. Project Governance

Dates of Project Board Meetings during reporting period (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023). Please also upload all meeting minutes using the FILE LIBRARY button.

2023-03-19

F. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2023 Development Objective Progress Rating	2023 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Role	2023 Overall Assessment
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	This is the 4th PIR for this full-sized project which was endorsed by the GEF CEO in April 2015. The project, which carries a GEF investment of \$2,574,338 and co-financing commitment of \$50,385,736, has a five-year lifespan with operational closure scheduled for November 2023. However, the project has been requested extension for additional six months and the new project closure date is scheduled for May 2024. The government Executing Agency is the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, Ministry of Environment. DO Progress: Satisfactory The project is largely on track to deliver on its objective in particular for government decrees, legal matters, reports produced by the project which were endorsed by the relevant government authorities. The project faced accumulated impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and hindered the ability to undertake the required field work to complete project activities. This resulted in delays the CBNRM schemes assessment and operationalization, as well as the establishment of Nature Based/Biodiversity Friendly Tourism (NB/BFT) ventures with local communities. The project requested a 6-month extension, and the process is ongoing. If the project extension is approved, the project will terminate in May 2024 and Terminal Evaluation will conduct in November 2023. The team prepared CBNRM manual and played a good coordination role with other UNDP projects. The project completed one SEA study (Red Sea's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) final report https://www.eeaa.gov.eg/Project/131/Details) and is now working on 2 others (Western North Coast and Siwa SEAs to be finalized in November 2023 and those SEAs are currently in the final stage of the scoping phase (reports uploaded in evidence folder), after the success and adoption of the recommendations by the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). In addition, the TDA revised the plans for Sharm El Foqeiry marks an unprecedented move towards integrating biodiversity in tourism planning. Ecolodge guidelines and licensing criteria adopted by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities - MoTA (indicator IRRF 2.5.1.B.1.1, Uploaded Decree No. 90/2023, ecolodge operations guidelines, and criteria) which is significant achievement for both sustainable of the project activities and ecotourism sector in Egypt.

project's Lessons Learned: Sustainability and Upscale strategy. The project also successfully launched a number of campaign and initiatives to engages public audiences Lessons Learned and challenges should be captured for future reference. The cooperation between the TDA to revise the plan for Sharm El Fqeiry with TDA is a great achievement to mainstream Biodiversity into the Tourism Sector. Co-financing was greatly achieved specially from the Private Sector (uploaded in evidence folder). Many MoUs have been signed among the development partners including IUCN and supported Green Fins through assessing interest of dive centers in and around Marsa Alam in the Red Sea in May 2023 and has commenced the Shark spatial distribution study conducted to inform Coastal Zone Management (report uploaded in evidence folder).

The results reported in the DO progress table are well-supported by relevant evidence, including some 76 items: government decrees, photographs, meetings minutes, technical reports and assessments, METT scorecards, field mission reports, memoranda and other documents.

Outcome 1 comprises 12 indicators and the activities are largely on track and the team followed the MTR's and previous PIR's recommendations. Most of the indicators focused on building the capacity of institutions and expand the partnership to ensure coherent and effective implementation of legal, policy, regulatory and institutional framework on tourism infrastructure development avoiding adverse impact on biodiversity and land and sea scape level. Two workshops conducted in early 2023 namely capacity-building program for the TDA on SEAs and applying the Red Sea's SEA recommendations and scenario-planning workshop for ecotourism industry leaders and stakeholders which will pave the way for conducive dialogue between different stakeholders in the ecotourism industry. The team also develop visitor management plans in 4 PAs, including Wadi El Gemal (management plan uploaded in evidence folder). The Western North Coast and Siwa SEAs are in the final stage of the scoping phase, including EIA assessment (report uploaded in the evidence folder) in it is expected to be finalized in November 2023 and will report the progress in next PIR. The team discussed with IUCN team and reached the consensus that an MoU is to be signed between both parties (draft MoU uploaded). The team is now reviewing the guidelines, applications and methodologies of offsetting in order to gather an understanding about how an offsetting policy can better fit the Egyptian context and conditions and it will commence in July 2023. The team also prepared Shark spatial distribution study and consultation workshop was conducted in June 2023. Finally, 3 working groups were formed by the project and a stakeholder consultation meeting was held in July 2023 to discuss project sustainability strategy.

Outcome 2 comprises 6 indicators and the activities are largely on track. The outcome focuses on the reduction of biodiversity impacts caused by inappropriate practices from tourism and tourism establishment. The significant achievement is team prepared the tourism strategy and was adopted by the MoTA (uploaded the document in evidence file). Among the key ministries - MoE and MoTA, Egyptian Training Association – discussed about the marketing strategies of tourism and have been updated to include natural and cultural heritage content developed by ECO EGYPT. The document could access through the ETA's official Egypt

tourism portal (<https://egypt.travel/>). A series of green related activities disseminated through various channels such Marine Conservation Campaign and Green List Video in May 2023, ECO EGYPT participation in local and international expos including COP27, promotion of Egypt's PA on 3 social media platforms and anti-littering campaign in May 2023. In addition, the team prepared the Green Fins Policy Recommendations report (uploaded in evidence folder) and received preliminary approval by the Minister of Environment for discounted PA fees for Green Fins members (41 diving centers). ECO EGYPT launched Green List and eco-shop for green products in Sharm El Shiekh and Greens Star scheme expanded to certify more than 170 hotels. (80 hotels in Sharm El Sheikh, 12 hotels in the Southern Red Sea, 3 hotels in the western north coast). the project developed a best practices manual for ecolodge operations (attached) for further support the licensing of ecolodges.

Outcome 3 has only 1 indicator, and the activities are on track. The result of the indicator is one new PA (min. 30,000 ha) designated, spatially configured and emplaced, and the boundaries of 2 of the existing 5 PAs (at least 15,000 ha added to the total of 50,000 km²) in the three target regions expanded. The team assessed potential spots to be proposed as a new MPA including Red Sea's Fringing Reef. The proposed PA size is 140579 km². A field visit was conducted in January 2023 to three dives sites proposed for the declaration of the MPA. Information was gathered on the status and health of these dive sites along with their biodiversity. Baseline assessments were conducted on the areas of interest. The project is currently awaiting final recommendations from the EEAA on the baseline and the area of interest to start with the declaration and management plan of the MPA (reports uploaded in the evidence folder)

Outcome 4 comprises 4 indicators and the activities are largely on track. The result of the outcome 4 is to reduce the pressure on ecologically sensitive area (2,234 km²) inside the existing and new PAs exposed to tourism development. The team updated the PA Management Effective Tracking Tools (METT) scores during the reporting period and the result is improved in Siwa (baseline 59 and 64 in 2022), Omayed (baseline 47 and 64 in 2022) and Wadi Gemal (baseline 59 and 65 in 2022). The team is currently working on the Management Plans for 4 PAs (Nabq, Siwa, Wadi El Gemal and El Omayed) in addition to the proposed MPA. The Wadi El Gemal Management Plan is being finalized (uploaded in the evidence folder) and the others plan will be accomplished in October 2023.

National CBNRM expert conducted economic feasibility study for Wadi El Gemal and proposed 6 business models and explore the opportunities for development of CBNRM schemes in Western North Coast (El Hammam/El Omayed and Marsa Matourh) and Siwa in June 2023. (the document uploaded in the evidence file).

Furthermore, the project collaborated with the Egyptian Italian Environmental Cooperation Phase III project to create marketing opportunities for handicrafts produced by craftswomen in Wadi El Gemal and prepared a Nature Services Partnership Guidelines in July 2023 (the document uploaded in evidence folder). As a community-based scheme, the project developed the Oriental Nights program in Marsa Alam in cooperation with the Abo Ghosoun association (the

	document uploaded in evidence folder). The project supports the private sector investors in the mapping of concessions, partnership agreements, and investment opportunities in Wadi El Gemal PA. Outcome 5 has only 1 indicator, which is to conduct financing scorecard demonstrates progress to wards meeting the finance needs to achieve the effective management. The baseline of the scorecard is 54% while the team updated the PA financial scorecard for 2022, finalized in February 2023, which indicated that the current score is 54%. Implementation Progress: Satisfactory Implementation has been proceeding as planned with slightly deviations and requested additional 6 months for the project extension. The major reason of the project extension is that some activities are delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated restrictions put in place since the beginning of the pandemic. The project team requested the project extension according to the recommendation of MTR and prepared the specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance plan to help boost the delivery of the project. The plan includes 1) a detailed project schedule with clear milestones and deadlines and regularly monitor the progress against the schedule to identify any delays or deviations and take corrective actions as needed; 2) the project team prepared detailed annual budget plan, monitored actual project expenses against the budgeted costs; and 3) the project team focused on mitigation and contingency plans of risks, regularly review and update risk assessments in PIMS+ and Quantum. Cumulative GL financial delivery (75.89%) and management of risks is mostly on track (see the Risk Management section), with some delays. Overall, the project is managed well, UNDP is providing active oversight, the governance mechanism is working, and partner commitment is generally positive (as evidenced by multiple MoUs and partner involvement in activities). The team analysis the project performance on financial matters and prepared AWP for the project extension period and financial clearance by the Regional PA and HQ PMSU team. The project operational closure date is in May 2024. The ToR is announced for the TE consultant and the project is implementing the project activities as planned and the TE process is expected to complete before operational closure.
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Project activities were on track during the reporting period but not much was really done during the course of the year. Most the activities was mainly ensuring the national decrees, laws, and reports produced by the project were endorsed by the relevant government authorities. . The project focused on Eco-Egypt, a presidential initiative which was not one of the planned activities of the project. The project assisted the GOE in putting a shark studying which came as a requested from the Ministry of Environment after the latest shark attack in

	Hurghada. The project was successful in starting the CBNRM manual and played a good coordination role with other UNDP projects. The project completed one SEA study and is now working on 2 others after the success and adoption of the recommendations by the TDA. A strong sustainability plan for the project is certainly required. Lessons Learned and challenges should be captured for future reference. The cooperation between the TDA to revise the plan for Sharm El Fqeiry with TDA is a great achievement to mainstream Biodiversity into the Tourism Sector. Co-financing was greatly achieved specially from the Private Sector. The project has done a lot of work but impact is not showing.
Project Manager/Coordinator	The project's achievements within this reporting period focused on building on previous project outputs and ensuring their adoption in relevant entities. The project is now undertaking two SEAs after the success of the Red Sea SEAs, and the adoption of the recommendations by the TDA. The cooperation between the project and the TDA to revise the plans for Sharm El Foqeiry marks an unprecedented move towards integrating biodiversity in tourism planning. Furthermore, the official adoption of the ecolodge operations guidelines and criteria system by the MoTA is another milestone for both sustainable and ecotourism in Egypt. Engagement and participation of stakeholders in project outputs has proved to be immensely important, both for applicability and sustainability. The project is devoting considerable time and effort to ensure the sustainability of the work done over the past four years. This is summarized in the project's Lessons Learned: Sustainability and Upscale strategy. The project also successfully launched a number of campaign and initiatives to engages public audiences towards raising awareness about Egypt's natural and cultural heritage and ecotourism opportunities. Nonetheless, the project is still recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in delays in field work, mostly impacting activities involving local communities such as the development of CBNRM schemes and NB/BFT ventures.
GEF Operational Focal point	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Implementing Partner	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Other Partners	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

G. Minor Amendments

A) Results Framework
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to the 'Results framework'
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
B) Components and cost
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Components and cost'
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
C) Institutional and implementation arrangements
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Institutional and implementation arrangements'
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
D) Financial management
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Financial Management'
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
E) Implementation schedule
Yes
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Implementation schedule'
A six month extension has been requested to ensure all activities are completed. If the request is approved, the project end date will be 30 May 2024.
F) Executing Entity
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity'
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
G) Executing Entity Category
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Executing Entity Category'

<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
H) Minor project objective change
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'minor project objective change'
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
I) Safeguards
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Safeguards'
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
J) Risk Analysis
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Risk Analysis'
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
K) Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
No
Provide a description of the change to GEF project financing up to 5%
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
L) Co-financing
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to 'Co-financing'
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
M) Location of project activity
No
Provide a description of the change(s) to project location activity
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Other
No
Please provide a description of other types of minor amendments that do not fall under any of the above categories. For example, minor changes to the project's Gender Action Plan and/or gender activities can be captured here.

(not set or not applicable)

Upload any supporting documentation related to responses in this section.

(not set or not applicable)

H. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

1) Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Quantum Gender Marker Rating
GEN1: some contribution to gender equality
2) Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):
Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes
Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes
Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes
Not applicable: No
3) Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.
Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.
The project approaches gender equality from an intersectional perspective. The integration of women in all project activities on all levels is achieved through the following: • Main objective: Engagement on an institutional, legal and policy level through working groups. • Outcome 1: WG members involved in assessing, planning and monitoring tourism development include women representatives of main stakeholders. • Outcome 2: Project trainings, workshops and activities towards promoting voluntary mechanisms, and national certification schemes include women in WG. • Outcome 4 (Output 4.3 and 4.4): Ensuring equal access and sustainable management of natural resources through engagement with women in local communities to assess potential income generating opportunities, taking into consideration local cultures and traditions. Women's involvement in working groups supports inclusive and participatory decision making, as well as capacity building to ensure knowledge equity. The project is aware of the importance of creating

open communication platforms between stakeholders to remove barriers and promote better governance and sustainability of project outputs.

It should be noted that the project assesses local contexts through a nuanced gender lens, with the consideration of norms and dynamics being a priority in developing CBNRM partnerships and NB/BFT ventures. The project's scope in three different geographical areas with different local communities requires tailoring approaches to conform to local natural and cultural considerations. The project involves women in developing income-generating schemes as well as the decisions related to the management of natural resources used in the schemes. The project has also focused on developing ways to support women's crafts in the different project areas, whether through trainings, awareness raising, in-kind support to expand operations, or facilitating partnerships with local and national organizations.

4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.

Closing gender gaps and empowering women is a key component of the project's strategy, to ensure sustainability of project outputs. The project follows a whole-of-society approach to achieving the required outputs, while respecting and understanding local cultures and contexts. The project supports the socio-economic integration of women within the larger framework of sustainable natural resource use and management as well as equitable access. This is done through awareness raising, training and capacity building, technical assistance and in-kind support.

I. Risk Management

A) Review of Risks outlined in Risk Register and PIMS+ risk tab

CO Programme Officer: Has the Atlas/Quantum Risk Register been updated during this reporting period?
Yes
NCE RTA:
Please provide an assessment of project risk management (including risks reported in Risk Register and risks included in the project's risk tab in PIMS+) undertaken in the reporting period and summarize the key risk management measures to be taken in the coming year. This text will be pulled into the risk management action plan in this project's risk tab in PIMS+.
The PIMS+ Risk Log indicates "No Risks" at this time. However, the project maintains its focus on addressing previously recognized risks. This is achieved through active engagement within various project working groups, collaboration with high-ranking government officials, and the organization of monthly coordination meetings involving the Ministries of Environment, Tourism, and UNDP.

B) Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Risks

For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review (GEF-6 projects only).
If the project has updated its SESP during implementation, then please upload that file below. Note that any change to the project's SESP categorization should be confirmed by the Project Board and by the NCEW PTA (and NCEW safeguards team).
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

J. Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.

The MBDT project has adopted and developed different knowledge management approaches to ensure accessibility of knowledge outputs and sustainability of project deliverables. Below is an overview of the different approaches adopted and developed by the project.

1. ECO EGYPT

Realizing that awareness raising is an indispensable component of biodiversity conservation efforts, the project launched the ECO EGYPT campaign in 2020 with the aim of bridging the gap between sustainable tourism and ecotourism practices and opportunities, and travelers in Egypt. The campaign has achieved remarkable success in promoting sustainable choices, practices and lifestyles, raising awareness about Egypt's protected area network, highlighting the rich natural and cultural heritage of Egypt, as well as supporting ecotourism activities in PAs. The campaign's social media platforms have been paramount to engaging with the general public. One of the first knowledge outputs developed by the project for ECO EGYPT was the ECO EGYPT brochure, that focuses on four pillars (See, Do, Meet and Stay) in the 13 protected areas promoted by the campaign. This brochure is available online on the ECO EGYPT website, and has been disseminated in numerous events, initiatives, campaigns, conferences and to all project stakeholders.

The campaign has developed numerous sub-campaigns and initiatives along the past three years, such as the Green List that promotes NB/BFT operators, project surveyed ecolodges, and plastic alternative and reusable products. The Marine Conservation Campaign was also launched to raise awareness about sustainable and harmful practices in relation to the marine environment. Another major project activity was the Tribal Talks campaign, raising awareness about the different local cultures and communities living in and around protected areas in Egypt, and highlighting how nature played a central role in shaping their cultures and traditions. More information about the various activities undertaken by ECO EGYPT can be found in the attached Knowledge Communications Center PIR.

2. Egyptian Sustainable Tourism Portal (ESTP)

The project launched the ESTP to support the implementation of sustainability measures, cost-effective approaches and better resource management and efficiency in the hospitality sector. The portal was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), the Egyptian Hotel Association (EHA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project worked on developing recommendations and solutions based on in-depth analysis of the Egyptian hospitality sector to confirm applicability and maintain sectoral sustainability. All the outputs are made available through the portal. The project aims to further expand the scope of the portal in the upcoming months to include Green Fins knowledge products to

support sustainable diving practices.

3. Project Lessons Learned and Sustainability Strategy

Following the recommendations of the MTR, the project developed a sustainability strategy to ensure that project outputs and activities will continue on beyond the project's lifetime. The main approach undertaken by the strategy is to build on the developed partnerships between project stakeholders to promote the adoption and continuation of project activities. The project identified several key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and the Sustainable Tourism Organization. These stakeholders can presume to role of the project in relevant activities in order to build on the achieved results. The attached Lessons Learned: Sustainability and Upscale strategy details the approach that will be taken for each project output. The project will consult stakeholders in the upcoming month on the proposed strategy.

4. Ministry of Environment/ EEAA website

By the end of the MBDT project, all relevant project reports will be added to the EEAA's website under the MBDT project's webpage to ensure accessibility. The project has already added the Red Sea SEA final report: <https://www.eeaa.gov.eg/Project/131/Details>

5. Project Outputs Peer Review

As per the MTR recommendations, the project has approached IUCN to request the peer review of project outputs and cooperate to share knowledge and expertise with regards to ongoing project activities. A meeting was held in January 2023 to discuss the scope of the cooperation and it was agreed that an MoU is to be signed between both parties, with the project being represented by the MoE, in order to formalize the agreement. The IUCN shared a draft MoU, which is now being revised to proceed with signing and implementing the terms of the agreement. Once peer reviewed, the IUCN can upload the outputs on the IUCN website to be accessible to the public.

2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)

Project website: www.mbdtegypt.org (Under Development)

Eco Egypt website: <https://ecoegypt.org/>

ESTP: <https://estportal.org/>

3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.

PIR Knowledge Communications Center 26.06.2023 M.E.pdf

Project Lesson Learned Sustainability and Upscale_22.03.2023.pdf

K. Stakeholder Engagement

(A) Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval.

(B) Upload all available documentation of the project's stakeholder engagement, including surveys, FPIC reports and others using the FILE LIBRARY button in the upper right corner of the PIR.

(C) If the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been updated during the reporting period, please upload that file using the FILE LIBRARY button above.

The project established three working groups in order to ensure their engagement in relevant project activities. Stakeholders at all levels are represented within the working groups and are invited to contribute to developing project outputs.

Civil society:

- Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA)

HEPCA has played an immense role in coastal conservation as well as ensuring the sustainability of the diving sector in the Red Sea region. HEPCA was an essential partner in promoting the marine conservation campaign launched as part of ECO Egypt. In addition, HEPCA plays an influential role in the realisation of the proposed policy recommendations for the Egyptian diving industry.

Cooperation with HEPCA, Red Sea Governorate and MoE to create the first artificial dive site in the Southern Red Sea. HEPCA is also engaged in the Sharks Spatial Distribution study currently undertaken by the project, and was invited to partake in the preliminary meeting in June 2023.

- Abu Ghosoun Community Development Association (AG-CDA)

The operationalisation of SEA in the Red Sea region has involved the active participation of local communities and the AG-CDA. The inclusive nature of the SEA process has meant that local community organisations are contributing massively to the review of governmental plans, policies, and programmes. Furthermore, the AG-CDA is among the key players in developing CBNRM schemes and NB/BFT ventures in the Wadi El Gemal PA.

- Hemaya Association for Community Development

The project has conducted the ecotourism research and analysis in Southern Sinai with help from Hemaya. Hemaya plays a vital role in strengthening sustainable community and tourism development and in Southern Sinai.

- Nature Conservation Egypt (NCE)

The NCE has been influential in supporting and promoting the marine conservation campaign launched as part of ECO Egypt. The project is also working on establishing two bird observatories in El Galala on the Red Sea coast providing technical support, and coordinate efforts between the NCE and MoE respectively. The project also supports events organized by the NCE such as the annual Bird Photography Competition.

- Siwa Community Development and Environmental Conservation Association (SCDEC) and the Native Siwan Association (Siwa)

The project has worked closely with civil society in Siwa to inform the socioeconomic baseline for the SEA as well as inviting representatives to partake in the SEA workshops. These associations are among the key players in developing CBNRM schemes and NB/BFT ventures, and were both consulted in the assessment of viable schemes.

- Rames Association (Matrouh)

The project consulted with Rames Association in Matrouh on the socioeconomic baseline for the North Coast SEA. The association was also consulted in developing CBNRM schemes and NB/BFT ventures.

Local Communities:

Local communities are amongst the primary beneficiaries, but they will also take considerable responsibilities for the management of biodiversity resources. Listed below are the various local communities which are working closely with the project over the past year:

- El Ababda Tribe – Wadi El Gemal

The operationalization of SEA in the Red Sea has allowed members of the Ababda tribe to actively participate in the review of governmental plans, policies and programmes that impact tourism development in the region. The consultant conducting the SEA study visited the region specifically to meet with local community leaders to get a better understand of how locals envision tourism development and the sustainable management of natural resources. Furthermore, the project consulted with Ababda Tribe leaders and used their expertise in navigating the terrains of Wadi El Gemal and developing the PA management plan. The Ababda Tribe is also the primary community that the project engages in developing CBNRM schemes and NB/BFT ventures in the Southern Red Sea.

- El Amazigh Tribe – Siwa

The project has organized several field visits to discuss the local culture, economy, crafts, and natural resources in Siwa, speaking to community members and tribal leaders towards developing the baseline for the SEA, management plan, and developing ecotourism products, CBNRM schemes, and NB/BFT ventures.

- Matrouh Tribes

The project visited El Omayed, El Hammam and Marsa Matrouh tribes and communities within the scope of the SEA and developing CBNRM schemes, and NB/BFT ventures. The project discussed the potential for several agriculture-based schemes that fit well with the local context and cultural considerations.

Private Sector:

The Egyptian Tourism Federation (ETF), along with other affiliated organisations, represents the private sector, which is a key stakeholder in the project, and the main driver for tourism investment and operations. Moreover, it can play a very important role in encouraging sustainable tourism practices amongst its members and by operationalising the existing regulatory policies to achieve this objective. Listed below are the various organisations representing the private sector, and are currently working with the project on the following:

- Sustainable Tourism Organization (STO)

While developing the ecolodge guidelines and certification system, the project identified a major gap related to the lack of representation of the ecotourism sector. Therefore, the project supported the establishment of a the “Sustainable Tourism Organization (STO)” NGO, which is expected to promote action and activity in relation to the adoption and maintenance of ecotourism standards and strategies and advocating for ecotourism policies capable to address issues that are specific to this sector. The STO was formally established in October 2022 with its board members consisting of notable ecotourism leaders. The STO is among the key stakeholders that the project has included in its sustainability strategy, to assume the role of the project in some areas after its conclusion.

- Egyptian Tourism Federation (ETF)

The ETF has been supporting and collaborating with the project on various levels. The project has been actively working together with the Sustainable Tourism Council to identify barriers to achieving sustainability in the tourism sector as well as providing solutions to help address those barriers. Additionally, alongside the ETF, the project developed a National Sustainable Tourism Strategy that was adopted by MoTA. The project is also supporting the operationalization of the Environment and Sustainable Tourism Committee under the ETF, through meeting with the ETF board and convincing them about the importance of the committee, putting them in contact with STO members, and suggesting the committee members. The committee is among the key stakeholders that the project has included in its sustainability strategy, to assume the role of the project in some areas after its conclusion.

- Egyptian Hotel Association (EHA)

Over the past year, the project has worked on several key issues with EHA to strengthen sustainable tourism operations and practices. The EHA has provided logistic and institutional support for the TAHO project since its inception. Furthermore, the project has cooperated with the EHA to update existing Green Star Hotel criteria and promote the Red Sea's first marine conservation campaign. The project further supported the Green Star Program in organizing training and capacity building workshops for hospitality sector workers and Green Star Program assessors. This has led to the growth of the certification program, with over 170 hotels now certified around Egypt. The project recently conducted a field visit to the North Coast and Siwa to assess the potential of introducing the label to both locations.

- Egyptian Travel Agents Association (ETTA)

The project has prioritized introduction of voluntary mechanisms to incentivize the private sector to adopt sustainable practices and operations. Currently, the project worked with the ETTA to propose the introduction of the Travelife sustainability certification for tour operators in Egypt.

- Chamber of Diving and Water Sports (CDWS)

The project has worked with CDWS on the implementation of the Green Fins voluntary certification program for the diving sector. In cooperation with CDWS, the project has developed policy recommendations and an action plan to enhance sustainable operations in the diving sector. Furthermore, the project supporting Green Fins trainings to increase the number of assessors and assessor trainers. The program is now fully independent, with 41 diving centers certified in Egypt. This is the highest number of certified centers in a single country worldwide. The project is about to sign an MoU with CDWS to further collaborate with on developing of a marine monitoring mobile application. CDWS has also been an important partner in developing and launching the marine conservation campaign, providing vital technical and communications support.

Government:

Nature Conservation Sector (NCS)

The NCS under the EEAA is among the primary stakeholders for the project. The NCS is responsible for Egyptian protected areas and their management. The project works closely with relevant PA manager and NCS departments in developing project outputs. Relevant outputs include the development of management plans and visitor management plans for 4 PAs, the SEAs, the development of CBNRM and NB/BFT schemes, promoting ecotourism in PAs, and the Shark Spatial Distribution study. Relevant NCS departments are regularly invited to project workshops.

Tourism Development Authority (TDA)

The TDA is the authority responsible for tourism planning in the Southern Red Sea, and was thus an

important stakeholder to consult and engage in the development of the Red Sea SEA. The project organized a specific training workshop for the TDA on applying the Red Sea SEA recommendations. Furthermore, the project revised the TDA resort guidelines, and is now developing the ecolodge establishment guidelines in consultation with the TDA. The project is also working on applying sustainable tourism criteria in Sharm El Foqeiry in the Southern Red Sea, in cooperation with the TDA, aiming to revise the plans for the area to promote sustainable tourism development.

Egyptian Tourism Authority (ETA)

The ETA is the entity under the MoTA responsible for marketing Egypt as a tourism destination, and is thus very relevant to the project. The project engaged with the ETA to promote ecotourism in Egypt, and the ETA now features ecotourism and nature-based tourism content on their website. The ecotourism webpage redirects visitors to the ECO EGYPT website.

New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA)

The NUCA is a new stakeholder that the project approached following the decision to reallocate the North Coast region under NUCA instead of TDA. The project added representatives of NUCA as well as the it's planning arm in the North Coast, the Western North Coast Development Authority, to WG1 in order to ensure their involvement in the SEA.

General Authority for Physical Planning (GOPP)

The GOPP is another new stakeholder that the project approached, as they are responsible for developing many strategies not relevant on the Matrouh Governorate level, but also on the national level. A representative of the GOPP was added to the working group and invited to workshops to inform the SEA. The GOPP has cooperated in providing all relevant documents for the SEA.

Shore Protection Agency (SPA)

The project has worked with the SPA within the scope of undertaking the Red Sea SEA and then again in the North Coast SEA. SPA is part of WG1 and thus a representative is invited to SEA workshops to give feedback and recommendations.

L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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