Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans
GEF Project Implementation Report
1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

A. BASIC INFORMATION

Country	Algeria
Name of Project Coordinator	Islem Zerarguia
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B. INDICATIVE/EMERGING RESULTS OF THE PROJECT, KEY CHALLENGES, and LESSONS LEARNED

B.1 Top three Key Results of the Project

Guidance: Use the following criteria for selection of key project outcome/output-level results i) results that directly contribute to project indicators; ii) results that contribute to gender equality; iii) results that contribute to capacity development or policy making; iv) result in which significant proportion of the annual budget is spent; and v)) any other result that is important for the project for that year. In selecting key results, think about what your team is most proud of achieving during the year. Disaggregated data (sex, age, social group, etc) must be used to the extent possible when reporting on beneficiaries. Please note that this section is a summary of your key results, details should be indicated in the technical accomplishments section.

Tip: In providing results examples, please consider (i) 'what' was achieved; how' it was achieved; (ii) 'who' it was achieved for and with; and (iii) 'where' it was achieved.

1. **Establishment of the BIOFIN Algeria governance and management structure:** During the reporting period, the project established its governance and implementation mechanisms, including the National Management Unit, appointment of the National Project Director and Project Coordinator, and establishment of the National Steering Committee. The first Steering Committee meeting was successfully held on 8 December 2025, during which the committee's internal regulations, workplan, budget, and implementation arrangements were reviewed and endorsed.
2. **Strengthening technical capacity for BIOFIN implementation through the recruitment and mobilization of national expertise.** The project recruited and onboarded two (02) national consultants, including a Policy and Institutional Review (PIR) Expert and a Biodiversity Finance Specialist responsible for supporting the Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER), Finance Needs Assessment (FNA), and biodiversity finance analyses. This established the technical foundation necessary for implementing the BIOFIN methodology in Algeria.
3. **Initiation of biodiversity finance analytical work and institutional engagement:** Methodological frameworks, workplans, and data collection approaches for the PIR, BER, and FNA were initiated during the reporting period. In parallel, engagement with key national institutions continued, including the Ministry of Finance, whose participation in the BIOFIN process was confirmed, strengthening the basis for cross-sectoral collaboration on biodiversity finance planning.

This project is co-funded by the European Union

4. It should be emphasized that the participation of the National Project Director (NPD) in the workshop held in Nairobi (Kenya) last April provided a clearer understanding of the project's implementation modalities as well as the different stages of its execution. Furthmore, the opportunity of exchanging experiences with other countries offered the opportunity to identify and anticipate potential challenges, particularly those related to meeting implementation deadlines. The lessons learned and good practices shared during the workshop therefore constitute an important lever for optimizing project management, accelerating its implementation, and facilitating the recovery of the delays that have been recorded.

B.2 Results on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Guidance: What specific initiatives has your country implemented to ensure women's participation/engagement in biodiversity finance activities.

Highlight concrete outcome/output results achieved or under-achieved towards gender equality and women's empowerment in the year. Analyze what worked well and/or did not work well and why.

During the reporting period, the project incorporated gender considerations into its governance and stakeholder engagement processes. Women were actively represented in key project structures and consultations, including the National Steering Committee and participating institutions such as the Ministry of Environment and Quality of Life and the Ministry of Finance.

Gender-balanced participation was reflected in the composition of the National Steering Committee, where women represented 50% of the members (5 out of 10 members). Female representatives actively contributed to decision-making processes during the first Steering Committee meeting held in December 2025, which endorsed the project workplan, budget, and implementation arrangements.

As the project remains in its inception and analytical phase, substantive gender-related outcomes are not yet observable. However, gender considerations will continue to be integrated into upcoming stakeholder consultations, analytical assessments, and biodiversity finance planning processes to promote inclusive participation and equitable access to project benefits.

B.3 Key results achieved through Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Guidance: Highlight results that the Project achieved through strategic partnership with government, other UN agencies, private sector, IFIs, Vertical Funds, foundations, etc. You may also Include progress in the inception workshop, steering committee establishment, and launch event.

During the reporting period, the project strengthened strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement mechanisms necessary for the implementation of the BIOFIN process in Algeria. A key achievement was the establishment of the National Steering Committee, bringing together representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Quality of Life (MEQV), the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and UNDP. The first Steering Committee meeting was successfully held on 8 December 2025, during which the committee's internal regulations, project workplan, budget, and implementation arrangements were reviewed and endorsed.

The project also strengthened collaboration between the MEQV and the Ministry of Finance, recognizing the latter as a key partner in biodiversity finance planning. The participation of Ministry of Finance representatives in project governance structures and coordination processes contributed to strengthening institutional ownership and supporting future analytical work related to biodiversity expenditures, financing needs, and finance solutions. The continued participation of the Ministry of Finance during the reporting period represented an important milestone for the implementation of the BIOFIN methodology in Algeria.

Through the collaboration of MEQV, national partners, and UNDP, the project established its management structure and mobilized the technical expertise required for implementation through the recruitment of the Project Coordinator, the Policy and Institutional Review (PIR) Expert, and the Biodiversity Finance Specialist. These efforts created the institutional and technical foundations necessary for implementation of the BIOFIN methodology in Algeria.

The project also benefited from coordination and knowledge-sharing exchanges with ongoing biodiversity, climate, and environmental initiatives. In this context, an internal BIOFIN–NCE brainstorming and scoping workshop brought together project managers, coordinators, and technical specialists from initiatives including the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), AIM-WELL, waste management initiatives, and other projects. The workshop facilitated the identification of existing data sources, relevant stakeholders, institutional entry points, and opportunities for collaboration. Discussions also explored potential joint stakeholder engagement activities and workshops to maximize resources, avoid duplication of efforts, and strengthen coherence across biodiversity, climate, and environmental finance initiatives in Algeria.

Preparations for the national inception workshop continued during the reporting period, with coordination ongoing among key stakeholders to support its organization and the formal launch of project activities.

B.4 **Indicative/Emerging results of the project and lessons learned.**

Identify and provide a short description of key and initial finance solutions identified based on your current progress.

The BIOFIN process in Algeria has already generated important indicative results by identifying strategic directions for strengthening biodiversity finance and by fostering dialogue among key national stakeholders. While the technical analyses that will underpin the Biodiversity Finance Plan are currently being undertaken, the process has already helped build a common understanding of the need to better integrate biodiversity considerations into public finance, development planning, and investment decision-making.

Emerging finance solutions identified through stakeholder consultations and preliminary analyses include strengthening the tracking and assessment of biodiversity-related expenditures across sectors, improving the integration of biodiversity objectives into national planning and budgeting processes, and enhancing coordination between environmental, financial, and sectoral institutions. The process has also highlighted the importance of mobilizing private sector participation as a complementary source of financing for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Building on previous national initiatives, particularly the Early Action Support (EAS) project for the alignment of Algeria's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), valuable foundations have been established for private sector engagement. The organization of a workshop bringing together Algerian and international companies resulted in the adoption of a Corporate Declaration of Intent, reflecting the willingness of participating companies to voluntarily contribute to the implementation of national biodiversity objectives in accordance with their capacities and fields of activity. This experience demonstrated the potential for developing partnerships that integrate biodiversity into corporate investment strategies and corporate social responsibility policies, while creating opportunities for future resource mobilization.

The BIOFIN process has further identified promising areas for the development of innovative biodiversity finance solutions, including payments for ecosystem services, positive economic incentives, and greater involvement of financial institutions and private economic operators in biodiversity-related investments. In addition, the alignment of biodiversity objectives with existing environmental, climate, and sustainable development financing mechanisms offers significant potential to leverage synergies, maximize efficiency, and mobilize additional resources.

A key lesson learned during the initial phase is that early and continuous engagement of finance-sector institutions and cross-sectoral stakeholders is essential for building ownership and facilitating the development of practical finance solutions. The process has also demonstrated the value of coordinating with ongoing national initiatives and development partner-supported programmes, which strengthens the evidence base, avoids duplication of efforts, and enhances institutional collaboration. These exchanges have helped identify relevant expertise, establish effective coordination mechanisms, and create a solid platform for the subsequent analytical work.

The completion of the Policy and Institutional Review (PIR), Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER), and Finance Needs Assessment (FNA) will further refine these emerging directions and provide the evidence necessary to formulate a comprehensive Biodiversity Finance Plan, identifying innovative and sustainable financing solutions that combine domestic resources, international support, and private investment to achieve Algeria's biodiversity objectives.

B.5 Implementation progress.

5.1 Key Challenges and Enabling conditions in project implementation

Question	Select all the applies	Please provide additional information on key challenges, delays and enabling factors with outputs/activities during the reporting period. If there were no delays, please indicate 'not applicable'.
Has the project experienced any procurement challenges during the reporting period, which may risk the completion of any critical activity within the approved project duration?	☐ Delays in the planned initiation of key procurement processes ☐ Capacity gaps to develop technical requirements (TORs/specifications) ☐ Procurement capacity gaps ☐ None or very limited market response to tenders issued, evaluation delays, rejections/delays on reviews by procurement oversight committees, ☐ Protests/complaints logged by bidders ☐ Incapacity of contractors to deliver on contractual terms ☐ Weak contract management	**The project experienced delays during the startup phase related to the recruitment of the Project Coordinator and national experts**: Several recruitment rounds did not result in successful candidate selection due to the highly specialized and multidisciplinary nature of the expertise required for biodiversity finance analyses. As biodiversity finance is a relatively recent and evolving field internationally, identifying professionals combining expertise in biodiversity, environmental policy, economics, and public finance required additional efforts. Initial Terms of Reference (TORs) were subsequently refined to better reflect available expertise profiles within the national context

Question	Select all the applies	Please provide additional information on key challenges, delays and enabling factors with outputs/activities during the reporting period. If there were no delays, please indicate 'not applicable'.
	☐ Weak operational and/or maintenance plans developed ☐ Intellectual property rights issues ☐ Others, please specify:	while maintaining alignment with BIOFIN methodological requirements. In response, the project team reviewed and adjusted the TORs in consultation with the BIOFIN Technical Advisor and national counterparts and adopted more targeted recruitment approaches. These measures resulted in the successful recruitment of the Project Coordinator, the Policy and Institutional Review (PIR) Expert, and the Biodiversity Finance Specialist, mobilizing the technical expertise required for implementation of the BIOFIN methodology in Algeria. **The project also faced operational constraints related to limited resources for stakeholder engagement and workshop organization**: To address this, a cost-efficient implementation approach was adopted, making use of existing institutional facilities and coordination mechanisms and pursuing synergies with ongoing biodiversity, climate, and environmental initiatives. This helped optimize available resources while supporting ongoing stakeholder engagement, coordination efforts, and implementation progress. The experience highlighted the importance of adapting recruitment strategies to national contexts while maintaining BIOFIN methodological standards and demonstrated the value of leveraging partnerships and inter-project collaboration mechanisms. Following recruitment, methodological and preparatory analytical work was immediately initiated to support implementation of the Policy and Institutional Review (PIR), Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER), and Finance Needs Assessment (FNA) and mitigate the impact of startup delays.

Question	Select all the applies	Please provide additional information on key challenges, delays and enabling factors with outputs/activities during the reporting period. If there were no delays, please indicate 'not applicable'.
Have you experienced any challenges in the implementation of the project's components and activities in compliance with the project's approved implementation/work plan?	☐Lack of support from the Ministry of Environment (MoE) ☐Lack of support from the Ministry of Finance (MoF) ☐Insufficient human resources, high staff turnover, or lack of expertise in biodiversity finance ☐Weak information systems or a lack of disaggregated financial and biodiversity data ☐Fragmented collaboration among government agencies, civil society, and the private sector ☐Limited uptake of recommendations ☐Capacity building ☐Others, please specify	The project experienced several implementation challenges during its startup phase. Biodiversity finance is a highly specialized and multidisciplinary field requiring expertise spanning biodiversity, environmental policy, economics, public finance, and data analysis. As a result, additional efforts were required to mobilize the technical expertise needed for implementation and to adapt recruitment approaches to the national context while maintaining BIOFIN methodological requirements. The project also identified the importance of strengthening access to and compilation of biodiversity-related expenditure and financial information across multiple sectors and institutions. This is a normal component of BIOFIN implementation and will be further addressed through the Policy and Institutional Review (PIR), Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER), and Finance Needs Assessment (FNA). During the startup phase, implementation activities focused on establishing project governance mechanisms in collaboration with national counterparts, recruiting technical expertise, strengthening institutional coordination, and preparing analytical work. Capacity development and knowledge sharing were supported through coordination efforts, stakeholder exchanges, and collaboration among national institutions and ongoing biodiversity, climate, and environmental initiatives. To address implementation challenges, the project established the National Steering Committee, with the active participation of key national institutions, recruited the required national experts, developed governance and coordination mechanisms, and initiated preparatory analytical work while broader stakeholder

Question	Select all the applies	Please provide additional information on key challenges, delays and enabling factors with outputs/activities during the reporting period. If there were no delays, please indicate 'not applicable'.
		engagement processes continued. The project also pursued synergies with related biodiversity, climate, and environmental initiatives to optimize available resources and support efficient implementation.
Are there any enabling factors that helped you achieve your outputs that you want to highlight?	☐Elevated political will and recognition of the national biodiversity agenda ☐Elevated political will and recognition of the global biodiversity agenda ☐Leadership from MoE to work on biodiversity finance ☐Leadership from MoF to work on biodiversity finance ☐Effective technical support received from Global Technical Teams (BIOFIN Technical Advisers) ☐Others, please specify	The project benefited from continuous technical support from the BIOFIN Global Team and Technical Advisors, particularly in addressing startup challenges related to recruitment processes, consultant profiles, implementation planning, and application of the BIOFIN methodology. The project also benefited from the constructive engagement and collaboration of national counterparts, particularly through the establishment of the National Steering Committee and the participation of key institutions in project governance and coordination processes. These arrangements helped create an enabling environment for implementation and strengthened institutional ownership of the BIOFIN process in Algeria. In addition, knowledge sharing and coordination with ongoing biodiversity, climate, and environmental initiatives facilitated stakeholder mapping, identification of relevant technical expertise, institutional orientation, and the exchange of experiences and good practices. These interactions helped strengthen understanding of stakeholder dynamics, institutional processes, and effective engagement approaches across sectors. These enabling factors helped establish the project's governance and implementation structures, mobilize the required national expertise, and initiate technical work despite startup delays and resource constraints.

Question	Select all the applies	Please provide additional information on key challenges, delays and enabling factors with outputs/activities during the reporting period. If there were no delays, please indicate 'not applicable'.
If your country faced challenges in ensuring meaningful participation and engagement of diverse stakeholders (e.g. civil society, private sector, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women's groups, youth) in the project, please select which:	☐Lack of established mechanisms or platforms for stakeholder participation ☐Limited capacity of key stakeholders to effectively engage ☐Inadequate financial resources for stakeholder engagement processes ☐Inadequate human resources for stakeholder engagement processes ☐Difficulty securing high-level political support and cross-sectoral leadership ☐Legal, institutional, or cultural barriers to engagement of certain groups ☐Unable to determine the primary challenge at this stage ☐Physical accessibility constrains in accessing stakeholder groups ☐Language constraints ☐Other - Stakeholder engagement processes were progressively expanded during the startup phase through project governance, coordination, and awareness-raising efforts.	Stakeholder engagement during the startup phase required sustained awareness-raising, outreach, and coordination efforts, particularly given the cross-sectoral nature of biodiversity finance and the diversity of institutions involved. As the project remained in its inception and analytical phase, engagement activities focused on establishing governance mechanisms, strengthening institutional coordination, and building a common understanding of the BIOFIN methodology and its objectives. Limited financial and human resources available for stakeholder engagement activities also influenced the pace and scale of outreach efforts during the reporting period. To address these constraints, the project prioritized engagement with key institutions, established the National Steering Committee, and leveraged existing coordination mechanisms and partnerships with ongoing biodiversity, climate, and environmental initiatives to support stakeholder outreach and collaboration. A workshop aimed at raising awareness and fostering dialogue with representatives of public and private media on the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity (SPANBA 2025–2030), aligned with the global framework, was held in Algiers on May 20, 2025. The event brought together more than 80 journalists and was attended by the Minister of the Environment and Quality of Life as well as the Minister of Communication. The discussions led to recommendations to strengthen cooperation between the environmental and communication sectors,

Question	Select all the applies	Please provide additional information on key challenges, delays and enabling factors with outputs/activities during the reporting period. If there were no delays, please indicate 'not applicable'.
		particularly through the training of journalists and the implementation of national and local public awareness and education campaigns. These efforts contributed to strengthening institutional ownership, reinforcing coordination among participating institutions, laying the foundations for broader stakeholder participation, and preparing the conditions for expanded engagement during subsequent phases of BIOFIN implementation.

b.5.2. Risk Management. Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation delay and challenges.

The project experienced implementation delays during its startup phase due to extended recruitment processes, the highly specialized nature of biodiversity finance expertise requirements, the progressive engagement of key stakeholders, and the postponement of the national inception workshop. Additional challenges included limited operational resources for stakeholder engagement activities and the small size of the project implementation team.

To mitigate these risks, recruitment strategies and Terms of Reference were reviewed and adjusted in consultation with the BIOFIN Technical Advisor and national counterparts to better reflect expertise profiles within the national context while maintaining BIOFIN methodological requirements. This resulted in the successful recruitment of the Project Coordinator, the Policy and Institutional Review (PIR) Expert, and the Biodiversity Finance Specialist.

The project also established key governance and coordination mechanisms, including the National Steering Committee, which held its first meeting in December 2025. Draft Terms of Reference for the Technical Committee were prepared to support future intersectoral coordination and technical review of BIOFIN analyses.
To accelerate implementation, methodological and preparatory analytical work was initiated immediately following consultant recruitment. A specific catch-up implementation approach ("approche de rattrapage") was incorporated into the first methodological deliverables of both experts, combining an ideal implementation scenario with alternative pathways

adapted to time constraints, stakeholder engagement schedules, and data availability. This approach allows the PIR, Biodiversity Expenditure Review (BER), and Finance Needs Assessment (FNA) to progress in parallel with stakeholder engagement and data collection efforts while maintaining methodological robustness.

The project further strengthened coordination among key national institutions and pursued synergies with ongoing biodiversity, climate, and environmental initiatives to facilitate stakeholder engagement, identify relevant expertise, optimize resources, and avoid duplication of efforts.

Looking forward, the project will focus on organizing the national inception workshop, operationalizing the Technical Committee, advancing data collection and analytical work, and strengthening stakeholder engagement to support the timely completion of BIOFIN outputs and remaining project activities.

C. TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS. Status of Output Indicators.

1. Project Outcome Indicators

Component	Project Output Indicator	Baseline		Targets based on PRODOC			Results	
		Year	Value	2025	2026	2027	Total Result 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026	Cumulative (2024 + 2025 + 2026 + 2027)
Project Outcome	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (including national workshops, webinars and MOOCs)	2023	0	400 people per country; 100 women and 100 men	400 people per country; 200 women and 200 men	400 people per country; 200 women and 200 men	10 (50% women)	22

Output 1: National biodiversity finance policy and institutional reviews

Component	Project Output Indicator	Baseline		Targets based on PRODOC			Results	
		Year	Value	2025	2026	2027	Current Report Status	Short summary of key findings (max 500 words)
Output 1.1: National biodiversity finance policy and institutional reviews	Biodiversity-related policy and institutional framework analyses completed	2023	0	1 draft report	1 completed report		In Progress WITHOUT Draft	*Through the PIR, we were able to identify XX existing finance mechanisms.*
Output 1.2: National biodiversity finance policy and institutional reviews	Report on nature-positive and nature-harmful subsidies completed	2023	0	1 draft report	1 completed report		In Progress WITHOUT Draft	Click or tap here to enter text.
Links to Evidence (Link to completed and draft reports) Upload document in the GEF SharePoint Folder: Policy and Institutional Review Reports **Rename your file to: PIR_COUNTRY NAME**								

Output 2: National biodiversity expenditure reviews conducted across all relevant sectors

Component	Project Output Indicator	Baseline		Targets based on PRODOC			Results	
		Year	Value	2025	2026	2027	Current Report Status	Short summary of key findings (max 500 words)
Output 2: National biodiversity expenditure reviews conducted across all relevant sectors	Report on national biodiversity expenditures completed	2023	0	1 draft report	1 completed report		In Progress WITHOUT Draft	Click or tap here to enter text.
Links to Evidence (Link to completed and draft reports) Upload document in the GEF SharePoint Folder: Biodiversity Expenditure Reports **Rename your file to: BER_COUNTRY NAME**								

Output 3: National assessment of financing needs required to achieve Global Biodiversity Framework targets

Component	Project Output Indicator	Baseline		Targets based on PRODOC			Results	
		Year	Value	2025	2026	2027	Current Report Status	Short summary of key findings (max 500 words)
Output 3: National assessment of financing needs required to achieve Global Biodiversity Framework targets	report on national financial needs assessment for biodiversity completed	2023	0	1 draft report	1 draft report	1 completed report	In Progress WITHOUT Draft	Click or tap here to enter text.
Links to Evidence (Link to completed and draft reports) Upload document in the GEF SharePoint Folder: Finance Needs Assessment Reports **Rename your file to: FNA_COUNTRY NAME**								

Output 4: Development of National Biodiversity Finance Plans

Component	Project Output Indicator	Baseline		Targets based on PRODOC			Results	
		Year	Value	2025	2026	2027	Current Report Status	Short summary of key findings (max 500 words)
Output 4: Development of National Biodiversity Finance Plans	National biodiversity finance plans completed	2023	0	0	1 draft report	1 completed report	Not Started	Click or tap here to enter text.
Links to Evidence (Link to completed and draft reports) Upload document in the GEF SharePoint Folder: Biodiversity Finance Plans **Rename your file to: BFP_COUNTRY NAME**								

Output 5: Global Knowledge and Technical Assistance Platform

Component	Project Output Indicator	Baseline		Targets based on PRODOC			Results	
		Year	Value	2025	2026	2027	Total Result 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026	Cumulative (2024 + 2025 + 2026 + 2027)

Output 5: Global Knowledge and Technical Assistance Platform	Number of women accessing/ participating in technical support	2023	0	At least 200 women per country accessing technical support and capacity building activities	At least 200 women per country accessing technical support and capacity building activities	At least 100 women per country accessing technical support and capacity building activities	23	Click or tap here to enter text.
Links to Evidence (Attendance Sheets for consultations, zoom registrations for webinars, etc.) Upload document in the GEF SharePoint Folder: Other Country Evidence **Rename your file to: BFP_COUNTRY NAME_Evidence Number**								

D. **RISK LOG UPDATE (UPLOAD IN QUANTUM: PROJECT TAB > PROJECT RESULTS AND CLOSURE TAB > SELECT PROJECT > CLICK PROJECT RISK)**

After you update the project risk in Quantum, please go to *Projects Risk Dashboard - Power BI* | *C.* ***Project Risk Treatment Tab*** *and download your updated risk matrix and upload here. Rename your file to* ***COUNTRY NAME_Risk Log Update***

E. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

Did the project receive any complaints during the reporting period?	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If your answer to the above question is yes, please download the GRM Log Sheet and upload hre: GRM Log.

F. **INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT** **(Add more rows if applicable)**

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced	**Type**	**Date Published/Produced**	**Target audience**	**Link** Upload IEC materials here *CEPA AND KM*
	Select type.	*Click here to enter date.*		
	Select type.	*Click here to enter date.*		

Was the project cited/quoted/featured in media reports/articles? *If yes, please provide link to article/video below.*	☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Communications and Visibility. List of news articles and other social media posts related to the project. (Add more rows if applicable)

Description	Link