

Management Response: Implementation Plan for Evaluation Recommendations

General Information

Eval ID	723
Evaluation Manager	Janet Wildish
Project Evaluation Title	Terminal Evaluation of UNEP/GEF Project "Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Albania through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems" (GEF 9477)
PIMS #	
GEF ID	9477
UNEP Sub-programme	SP3 – Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
GEF Focal Area	Land Degradation
Project Manager/ Task Manager	Ersin Esen; Marieta Sakalian
Office/Division	Ecosystems Division
Branch & Unit	Biodiversity and Land Branch
Final PDF Report distributed by Evaluation Office (Date)	28-01-23
Total # of Recommendations as per Report	6
Implementation Plan Sent to PM/TM (Date)	20-02-23
Implementation Plan Returned by PM/TM (Date)	00/00/00
Implementation Plan finalized (if different from the date above)	00/00/00

Implementation Plan

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
1	Many key partners are still not aware of what actually happened onsite regarding the rehabilitation activities that took place at the end of the project, the project is dealing with critical limitations to its sustainability that can be relatively easily fixed by getting the right stakeholders around the table to host a discussion and project closing. The project needs to urgently	Hold a strategic project closure meeting to present on rehabilitation activities and embed project results sustainability	Critical	Project	UNEP Regional Office for Europe/EA PMU	Meeting was held 4 November 2022.			20.02.23 JW: The Evaluation Office requests minutes from the meeting to see if other recommendations were also addressed in this gathering.

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
	<p>have a proper closing meeting and this meeting can be used as a platform for discussing the sustainability of key project results: the organisation should be facilitated through the NPC of the project and the meeting should be hosted/led by the NFA under the guidance and leadership of the MoTE. Here the key partners, including NFA, MTE, Kolonja Municipality and the key experts hired by URI (Professor Arsen Proko from Tirana Agricultural University, Mr Dhimiter Pina, Mr Ali Laho) that were involved in the site rehabilitation planning/activities. The agenda for this meeting should include (a) a discussion and agreement on how the key project results of Component 1 will be achieved (most notably the sub-legal acts and the SLM handbook, usefulness of the economic incentives report), and (b) the final site rehabilitation activities should be presented by the Kolonja Municipality to the key partners NFA, MTE and the key experts as well as the monitoring results of the sites and a practical discussion should be held on how to implement the rehabilitation site plan (what is needed, what is missing and what is practically feasible).</p>								
2	LDN and SLM are undervalued in general in the	Hold a strategic meeting with the GEF focal point and key	Important	Project	UNEP Regional	Before end of year (2022).			

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
	<p>country, and its importance needs to be raised and integrated into future projects.</p> <p>There is a lot of potential in aligning the LDN global agenda in the country with existing priorities within the nexus of biodiversity conservation (already here are some opportunities within the upcoming UNEP/GEF Albanian Alps project). Lessons from this project and other discussion points are of value:</p> <p>(a) Aligning SLM-demos and rehabilitation efforts to the goal of nature-based tourism and agro-eco-tourism, and here, particularly, looking at how gender empowerment can be made through increasing women's access into markets and grants,</p> <p>(b) Conducting economic valuation studies of forest ecosystems to demonstrate the value of SFM (particularly in tourism, resilience, forest products, sustainable harvesting of medicinal plants, etc),</p> <p>(c) Linking LDN with existing climate change and biodiversity/protected areas conservation when understanding and setting LDN targets and understanding the importance and value of forest ecosystems.</p>	partners on how to nest LD into the country through future projects			Office for Europe with MoTE				
3	Taking the learnings from the women's workshop and using the conclusions for future work.	Integrating gender recommendations into future GEF projects for Albania	Important	Project	UNEP Regional Office for	Before end of year (2022)			20.02.23 JW: Note that the project team may provide an example of a project

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
	The next GEF/UNEP projects in Albania, particularly the Albanian Alps (GEF ID 10839) which will be working with communities (under Component 2) and should take what is feasible from what was learned at the women's workshop in this project (i.e. separate training and discussion platforms for women, increasing women's access into markets, defined targets for women accessing any possible pilot interventions, and targeted communication to women).				Europe with MoTE				that was designed more recently by their team and that includes a substantial approach to gender equality, as evidence that this recommendation is being addressed.
4	There is merit in supporting farmers and the extension provided by Mr Ali Laho in creating championship around demo plots for SLM, this could also be done in connection with the rehabilitation site plan. This is a point that could be discussed at the closing meeting and what is feasible to achieve here to enhance community participation and championship for the rehabilitation plan for Kolonja.	Municipality of Kolonja to support and empower those champion farmers applying SLM in their farms through the extension services provided by the expert training, as well as create (gender-equal) inclusion and incentives for support to protection of rehabilitated sites by engaging communities	Important	Project	Municipality of Kolonja (and support, if possible, from Mr Ali Laho)	To start discussing at the closing meeting, with longer-term implementation implications			20.02.23 JW: May have been addressed in Nov 2022 meeting
5	The NSDI is an opportune place, while the country is setting strategy around external support to country priorities, to present the SLM Handbook on SLM mainstreaming. At the closing meeting, it would be beneficial for the MoTE to present on the feasibility of championing this document at this level to enhance LDN and SLM in the legal and	MoTE to champion SLM Handbook through presenting it to the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) at the Prime Minister's Office	Important	Partners	MoTE	At discretion of MoTE			20.02.23 JW: May have been addressed in Nov 2022 meeting

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
	strategic framework of the country.								
6	The TOT training opportunities providing an inter-face between NFA and Kolonja Municipality is a good practice example of dealing with the decentralisation process of knowledge transfer to the municipal forest bodies, something that has been a struggle for a long time in the country. This model could easily be replicated by NFA starting with the key municipalities with important forest ecosystems.	NFA to be supported by MoTE in delivering key decentralisation training (modelled on the TOTs done by the project) across all the Municipalities	Important	Partners	NFA (and supported by MoTE)	On-going and at discretion of the MoTE and NFA, although discussions could start at the project closure meeting.			20.02.23 JW: The Evaluation Office requests confirmation of how this recommendation was shared with the Partners (Compliance for Partner recommendation is limited to the effective sharing by UNEP project staff of the recommendation to the relevant Partner representative)