

Implementation Plan of Recommendations

Project Title and Reference No.: Market Policy and legislative development for mainstreaming the sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems in Lebanon (ID 4020) (1321)

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	PLANS			
RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCEPTED (YES/NO/PARTIALLY)	WHAT WILL BE DONE?	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	REPOSIBLE OFFICER/ UNIT/ DIVISION/ AGENCY
Efforts to manage protect coastal-marine marine reserves have offered by the project with significant base-line steps. These actions are vital for the successful execution of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plans and Marine Special Planning (MSP) in all coastal regions. To further strengthen the support for integrated coastal development throughout Lebanon's coast, it is recommended to incorporate these efforts with the most significant national initiatives.	Yes	<p>Given the official mandate over MPAs, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon will ensure the base-line steps and efforts are integrated into national initiatives.</p> <p>IUCN could voluntarily work with the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon and IUCN members to incorporate the recommendations within its programmatic planning and future fund-raising. We expect to develop at least one project to support MPAs by the end of 2025 as a voluntary non-binding action.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon</p> <p>IUCN</p>

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Lebanon's coastal and marine nature reserves offer a promising chance to increase revenue through Friendly ecosystem services. One of the ways to achieve this is by promoting ecotourism.	Yes	<p>Lebanese Government (the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon and the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Lebanon) will work with implementing partners (i.e. national stakeholders, private sector and NGOs) to emphasize the role of ecotourism promotion</p> <p>IUCN could voluntarily work on integrating and promoting eco-tourism in its programmatic planning for Lebanon. IUCN could aim to develop at least one project integrating eco-tourism in marine MPAs for Lebanon as a voluntary non-binding action.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon</p> <p>Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Lebanon</p> <p>IUCN</p>
A nature reserve should have a comprehensive implementation plan with clear terms of reference and a timeline before seeking funding. This execution plan should be the main objective of the project proposal. Funding agencies, such as UNEP/GEP, should verify that this execution plan has not been previously funded to avoid duplication of funding. By doing so, the project will have a greater chance of	Partially	The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon will check and ensure that the execution plan has not been previously funded.	Ongoing	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon

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success and long-term impact.				
It is crucial to conduct a project midterm evaluation, even for short to medium-term projects.	Yes	Usually, all projects are the subjects of midterm evaluation.	Ongoing	GEF BD unit
UNEP's Evaluation and Management methodology required an update to encompass the Review of not only final reports but also the final products such as; guidelines, strategic planning, and monitoring programs.	Partially	UNEP will ensure all project related outputs are reviewed appropriately.	Ongoing	GEF BD unit
Updated laws and regulations related to the conservation of nature reserves and biodiversity in national legislation, such as environmental impact assessment mechanisms should be modernized in upcoming environmental projects that protect critical habitats.	Partly	The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon fully understands the importance of national legislation improvements and will work with an implementing partner to ensure the modernization.	Ongoing	The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon
Knowledge, education and Communication products that were developed by the project should be accessible to support learning and education, aiding in	Yes	IUCN will continue to promote the knowledge outputs and communication material resulting from this project in regional forums and conferences.	Ongoing	IUCN

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conserving coastal and marine ecosystems. Additionally, it can facilitate the development of national coastal zone management plan.		IUCN will continue to promote the knowledge outputs and communication material resulting from this project on its website and IUCN publication library. The resulting actions and recommendations will be integrated in future programming.		
To effectively empower women and leverage their expertise in protecting biodiversity within relevant sectors and policies, it is recommended that future projects should embrace activities targeting women's economic empowerment.	Yes	Strengthening the gender mainstreaming within biodiversity future programming in alignment with the Kunming Montreal GBF and IUCN's Nature 2030 programme. In developing projects, UNEP will guarantee the gender issues and, in particular, women's economic empowerment, are well reflected among the project's targets.	Ongoing	The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon IUCN UNEP
In future projects, prioritizing activities that mitigate vulnerabilities and enhance the quality of life of coastal communities is crucial for improving their overall well-	Yes	Strengthening the integration of socio-economic resilience in future biodiversity programming. In future projects, enhancing the quality of life in vulnerable groups/communities is a	Ongoing	The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lebanon IUCN

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being. This is considered a critical bottleneck for the sustainability of the impact of the projects.		key point that UNEP together with implementing partner(s) will highlight.		UNEP

The following is a summary of lessons learned from some of the project’s experiences and based upon explicit findings of the review. They briefly describe the context from which the lessons are derived, and the potential for wider application:

Lesson Learned #1:	Restoring nature resources doesn't mean halting economic activity in the restored areas. Basically, what is correct is coexistence and production together. Effective integration of biodiversity development and conservation with sustainable livelihoods requires working systematically with local communities.
Context/comment:	Fully agree.

Lesson Learned #2:	Sustainable livelihoods require working systematically with local communities even if the project has skilled and motivated staff. Effective integration of biodiversity development and conservation with sustainable livelihoods requires working systematically with all sectors of the community and leave no one behind.
Context/comment:	Fully agree. The leave no one behind strategy should be applied.

Lesson Learned #3:	Raising awareness is a crucial first step towards conservation.
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	It is important for the community to understand the principles of biodiversity conservation and management in order to effectively protect it. Neglecting these principles may result in the inability to practice conservation.
Context/comment:	Fully agree. Local communities' awareness raising is a key element of the project implementation success.

Lesson Learned #4:	Engagement of a Responsible National Party for project implementation and delivery. This led to more efficient accomplishments and greater ownership of the country than expected.
Context/comment:	Fully agree. A National Partner should ensure the country's ownership.

Lesson Learned #5:	Make room for both current needs and future aspirations. The economic situation has a major impact on the sustainability of ecosystem conservation. In case of this country, the focus on immediate needs takes precedence over future sustainability.
Context/comment:	Agree.

Lesson Learned #6:	Law enforcement is crucial for effective conservation efforts and economic growth, and their role cannot be replaced by any other means. Environmental progress may not be immediate as it takes time for the necessary efforts to accumulate and create visible and tangible results. Therefore, it is important to prioritize acquiring strong support from the governments.
Context/comment:	Fully agree. Governmental interest and support would be needed to fully implement the project.

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Lesson Learned #7:	For development and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystem, the countries should support the ICZM approach and pay closer attention to the society way of thinking. Shifting in mindset and the misunderstanding of protected areas, especially among fishermen Hence, it's necessary to educate the fundamentals of ICZM in the national education system and ensure that all upcoming projects align and contribute towards the set goals and objectives.
Context/comment:	Fully agree. The ICZM approach appeared to be efficient in changing society's mindset.

Lesson Learned #8:	People usually change and the same can be said for a country's priorities. Thus, flexible project management plan is crucial to ensure that activities remain realistic and achievable, and indigenous communities and municipalities should be consulted in the project's inception phase to grantee smooth management and to ensure the sustainability of project results.
Context/comment:	Fully agree. During the implementation of the project, the national circumstances and specifics should be taken into account.

Lesson Learned #9:	Establish a robust risk management plan right from the outset, to attain the desired outcomes particularly when the project is being executed in a politically unstable county. Nothing is guaranteed in this rapidly changing world, and remains the same, even over a short time. Therefore, a robust risk plan should be a component of the project structure to deal with and accept any changes before approving the project.
Context/comment:	Fully agree. This lesson learned describes the situation in a politically unstable country accurately.

Lesson Learned #10:	This Terminal Evaluation/Review should be conducted immediately after project termination to avoid losing interest and losing important details associated with the project outcomes from stakeholders.
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	<p>This terminal Review was conducted long after the project's termination which led to some difficulties in communicating with some stakeholders due to loss of interest and forgetting important details associated with the project results. To ensure a smooth Review process and effective communication with stakeholders, it is essential to conduct the terminal evaluation/review soon after the project ends and before final official closure. This will help prevent any complications and maintain interest in the Review results.</p>
Context/comment:	<p>Agree. The Terminal Evaluation/Review should be conducted in due time.</p>