

UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2021

Reporting from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

1. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1. Project details

Identification Table	GEF ID.: 9815	Umoja no.: SB-0016456
Project Title	Systemic, institutional and individual capacity for the implementation of the Rio Conventions in the Republic of South Sudan	
Duration months	<i>Planned</i>	36 Months
	<i>Extension(s)</i>	N/A
Division(s) Implementing the project	Science Division of UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	
Name of co-implementing Agency	None	
Executing Agency(ies)	The South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), <i>supported by and in collaboration with the Africa Office of UN Environment Programme (UNEP).</i>	
Names of Other Project Partners	South Sudan ministries of Agriculture and Food Security; Wildlife Conservation and Tourism; Justice; Finance and Planning The National Bureau of Statistics, The University of Juba etc.	
Project Type	Medium Size Project (MSP)	
Project Scope	National	
Region	Africa	
Countries	South Sudan	
Programme of Work	UNEP PoW 7.1; 2020 – 2021 biennia, Sub Programme 7: <i>Environment Under Review</i> Expected Accomplishment EA (a) <i>Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action</i> Indicators of achievement (ii) The number of countries reporting on the environmental dimension of sustainable development through shared environmental information systems with country-level data made discoverable through UNEP. Unit of measure: Number of countries (iv) The indicators to measure the environmental dimension of sustainable development made through Environment Live that are disaggregated by vulnerable groups, especially by gender, geography and age Unit of measure: (a) Number of environmental indicators disaggregated by sex (b) Number of environmental indicators disaggregated by age (vi) Level of accessibility and ease of use of UNEP environmental information through open platforms measured against internationally recognized standards for open access to information Unit of measure: Percentage improvement in the level of accessibility and usability	

GEF Focal Area(s)	Multi Focal Area: Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) programme
UNSDCF / UNDAF linkages	<p>In South Sudan, the UN Country Team (UNCT) contributes towards national development and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development through the UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF). Through the current 2019-2021 UNCF, the UNCT aims at empowering national partners and communities to be more resilient (<i>Resilience is defined in the UNCF as the capacity to absorb, adapt and transform in the face of economic, social, environmental and political shocks and stressors while taking account of different needs of people based on existing/ structural inequalities and exclusion</i>) and better placed to withstand the many challenging and complex impacts of the ongoing protracted crises. The UNCT also supports strengthening capacities and institutions at the community, state, and national levels, focusing on vulnerable areas with a potential for solid partnerships.</p> <p>UNCT strategic approach: (a) to increase and expand all efforts to build resilience at the community and higher levels of society and across priority areas, and (b) to build capacities (<i>to function under challenging conditions, promote governance reform, improve the delivery of, and demand for, essential services, manage the economy and address climate change issues and land degradation</i>) and strengthen institutions</p> <p>The priority thematic areas identified in the 2019-2021 UNCF include:</p> <p>(i) Building peace and strengthening governance <i>Amongst others, the UNCF is designed to strengthen the ability of South Sudan communities, CSOs, community-based/women/youth organizations, institutions and local governments to address local conflicts, promote peaceful coexistence, <u>withstand shocks, including from natural disaster, and reduce vulnerabilities to mobilization and recruitment. Efforts are made to engage with communities on the wise use of natural resources and adaptation to climate change.</u> The UNCT promotes dialogue, reconciliation, expand community interdependence, access and sustainable management of natural resources, and peaceful management of pastoral migrations)</i></p> <p>(ii) Improving food security and recovering local economies <i>Amongst others, the UNCT will promote resilience to crises and stressors (for example, climate-related hazards and socio-economic shocks) and expand essential services, including affordable and clean energy, to strengthen communities' ability to withstand high and unstable food prices)</i></p> <p>(iii) <i>Strengthening social services</i> (iv) <i>Empowering women and youth</i></p> <p>UNCF linkages The three key outcomes expected from the GEF6 CCCD project in South Sudan are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting; b) enhanced coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the sustained implementation of Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs; and c) National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management. <p>As a result, the GEF6 CCCD project primarily contributes to priority areas (i) and (ii) of the 2019-2021UNCF; through the targeted capacity-building support to be provided to national environmental actors, MEA focal points, and the general public on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving open access to environmental data, information and knowledge for informed decision making and sustainable management of the natural capital;

	- Strengthening the resilience of the South Sudan communities through the enhanced implementation of the Rio Conventions and related SDGs.
Link to relevant SDG target(s) and SDG indicator(s)	<i>Although the project has been designed to create enabling environment and enhance the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Rio Conventions and all SDGs with an environmental dimension, the majority of the project interventions primarily contribute to the following SDGs, targets and indicators:</i> SDG 13 (13.2, 13.3); SDG 16 (16.10); and SDG 17 (17.14; 17.18)
GEF financing amount	USD 1,000,000
Co-financing amount	USD 1,450,000
Date of CEO Endorsement	11 February 2019
Start of Implementation	28 January 2020: ICA signature date However, the project inception workshop was not held until 28 - 30 June 2021. Fundamentally, the long delay was induced by the transfer of lead project executing roles from the former UNEP Office in Juba to the UNEP Africa Office, as well as the COVID19 business disruptions and uncertainties.
Date of first disbursement	3 February 2021
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2021	USD 267,600
Total expenditure as of 30 June 2021	USD 16,585
Expected Mid-Term Review Date	Expected between Q1 to Q2 of 2023
Completion Date	<i>Planned</i> 30 September 2023
	<i>Revised</i> N/A
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date	Q3 to Q4 of 2024
Expected Financial Closure Date	Q4 of 2024

1.2. Project description

Present a brief project description, stating objective, components, executing agency and main government/other partners involved. Summarize each component in one short paragraph:

The Africa Office of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is supporting the South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) to execute a 3-year project titled "*Systemic, institutional and individual capacity for the implementation of the Rio Conventions in the Republic of South Sudan*", funded under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) program. Project document link on the GEF website <https://www.thegef.org/project/systemic-institutional-and-individual-capacity-implementation-rio-conventions-republic-south>.

This GEF6 CCCD project targets a set of systemic, institutional and individual capacities to advance South Sudan on a path towards environment-friendly and sustainable development. The project's objective is to strengthen systemic, institutional and individual capacity for the effective implementation of the Rio Conventions in South Sudan. In the longer term, this is expected to enhance capabilities to deliver and sustain global environmental benefits within the framework of sustainable development priorities, and thus enhance biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation and sustainable land and forest management in the Country.

The project objective will be achieved via three components addressing the barriers identified during project design:

- 1) Development of a coordinated environmental knowledge and information management system, leading to enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting.
- 2) Strengthening of coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs, leading to enhanced consultation and coordination for the sustained implementation of the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs.
- 3) Integration of key provisions of the Rio Conventions in national policies and legislation, leading to national policies that include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.

While the first component primarily builds institutional capacity, the second component addresses both institutional and individual capacity, and the third component covers systemic capacity.

The Science Division of UNEP serves as the projects GEF Implementing Agency (IA), responsible for overall project oversight and implementation, including progress/impact monitoring and ensuring the proper use of GEF funds. The UNEP Africa Office serves as the project Executing Agency- EA (*on behalf and in collaboration with the South Sudan Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)*), and thus charged with the management and administration of the day-to-day project activities as per specific requirements, in addition to managing the delivery of project outputs, under the oversight and supervision of the UNEP Science Division. A Project Management Unit (PMU) has already been established within UNEP Africa Office, including a UNEP Project Manager and the Project Coordinator. Recruitment is also underway for a project liaison officer at the MoEF office in Juba, South Sudan.

The total GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF) project financing is USD 1,000,000, supplemented by a USD 1,450,000 co-financing budget pledged by the Government and UNEP. The project objective is to strengthen the systemic, institutional and individual capacity of environmental actors in South Sudan for effective implementation and for meeting reporting obligations of the Rio Conventions and other MEAs.

The essential outputs/ products expected from the project include




- An analysis report of current environmental information systems, data flows, environmental statistics and reporting mechanisms in South Sudan.
- Development of a core set of environmental indicators and a protocol/ MoU on data sharing and management.
- The design and operationalization of a national Environmental Information management System (EIS).
- Establishment of MEA Network and other mechanisms to support enhanced MEA/ SDG coordination.
- A rapid assessment of the Sudd Wetland based on the analysis of high-resolution geospatial maps.
- A communication strategy and practical guidelines on community participation in MEA implementation.
- Fast-tracking the finalization and enactment of at least two environmental bills, laws or strategies; and
- The development of an MEA sustainable financing strategy.

Actual project implementation began in June 2021, following the convening of the project inception workshop.

1.3. History of project revisions

To be completed by Task Managers

Version	Date	Main changes introduced in this revision		
Rev0 (CEO ED)	N/A	N/A		
Rev1 (June 2021 Inception workshop version)	30 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation arrangements updated to reflect transfer of Project Executing Agency roles from the former UNEP Office in Juba, South Sudan (that was phased out in 2020) to the UNEP Africa Office as requested in the revised LoE issued by the GEF OFP on 26 August 2020. - Updated the 2-year-old baseline capacity development scorecard - Revised the GEF budget to primarily re-allocate some of the travel budget (<i>that won't likely be exhausted under current COVID19 measures</i>) to other project activities. Some consultancies were also converted into Transfers & Grants (Implementing Partner - IP budget lines) 		
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Original budget</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Revised inception workshop budget</td> </tr> </table>	Original budget	Revised inception workshop budget
Original budget	Revised inception workshop budget			

		<p>Component 1 = 325,533 Component 2 = 349,994 Component 3 = 234,473 <u>Sub-total = 910,000</u> PMC Budget = 90,000 Total Budget = 1,000,000</p>	<p>Component 1 = 313,300 Component 2 = 365,860 Component 3 = 230,840 <u>Sub-total = 910,000</u> PMC Budget = 90,000 Total Budget = 1,000,000</p>																												
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget Category</th> <th>Original</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Transfers & Grants (IP)</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contractual Services</td> <td>103,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating and other costs</td> <td>166,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel</td> <td>339,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff Personnel</td> <td>390,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Totals</td> <td>1,000,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Budget Category	Original	Transfers & Grants (IP)	-	Contractual Services	103,500	Operating and other costs	166,400	Travel	339,500	Staff Personnel	390,600	Totals	1,000,000	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Budget Category</th> <th>Revised</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Transfers & Grants (IP)</td> <td>150,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contractual Services</td> <td>46,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating and other costs</td> <td>124,940</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Travel</td> <td>320,060</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff Personnel</td> <td>358,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Totals</td> <td>1,000,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Budget Category	Revised	Transfers & Grants (IP)	150,100	Contractual Services	46,400	Operating and other costs	124,940	Travel	320,060	Staff Personnel	358,500	Totals	1,000,000
Budget Category	Original																														
Transfers & Grants (IP)	-																														
Contractual Services	103,500																														
Operating and other costs	166,400																														
Travel	339,500																														
Staff Personnel	390,600																														
Totals	1,000,000																														
Budget Category	Revised																														
Transfers & Grants (IP)	150,100																														
Contractual Services	46,400																														
Operating and other costs	124,940																														
Travel	320,060																														
Staff Personnel	358,500																														
Totals	1,000,000																														
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Years</th> <th>Original GEF Budget</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Year 1</td> <td>277,413</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 2</td> <td>387,522</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 3</td> <td>335,065</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1,000,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Years	Original GEF Budget	Year 1	277,413	Year 2	387,522	Year 3	335,065	Total	1,000,000	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Years</th> <th>Inception Workshop version</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Year 1</td> <td>409,914</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 2</td> <td>302,813</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 3</td> <td>287,273</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1,000,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Years	Inception Workshop version	Year 1	409,914	Year 2	302,813	Year 3	287,273	Total	1,000,000								
Years	Original GEF Budget																														
Year 1	277,413																														
Year 2	387,522																														
Year 3	335,065																														
Total	1,000,000																														
Years	Inception Workshop version																														
Year 1	409,914																														
Year 2	302,813																														
Year 3	287,273																														
Total	1,000,000																														
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised the project work plan and budget to bring forward several activities earlier planned to be undertaken/ executed during the 2 or 3 years. - Introduced a rapid assessment study on the Sudd Wetland in activity 2.2.1 as recommended by the inception workshop, based on the analysis of high-resolution geospatial maps. - Updated Annex I (Key deliverables and benchmark) to sharpen the deliverable descriptions and harmonize the delivery timelines with the updated work plan. - Updated the baseline scenario table on page 15 on other GEF/ GCF projects in development, approved, or completed supporting the Rio Convention implementation in the last 2-3 years. - Reformulated output 2.3 to add a requirement for the consultant to also develop a communication strategy besides the practical guidelines (on community participation and engagement in mainstreaming and implementation of the Rio Conventions developed) requirement, as recommended by the inception workshop. <p>Below are copies of the revised inception workshop GEF Budget, Work plan and updated Project Document</p>																													
		 S.Sudan%20GEF%20CCCD;%20Incpetio	 Workplan+%20Key%20deliverables,%20	 S.S%20Budget%20&%20Work%20plan																											

2. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT STATUS

2.1. UNEP Sub programme(s)

<p>Insert the Sub programme(s) and biennia of the PoW to which the project contributes</p> <p>UNEP Sub Programme 7: Environment Under Review</p> <p>PoW 7.1; 2020 – 2021 biennia</p>	<p>Specify the relevant Expected Accomplishment(s) & Indicator(s) Insert the Sub programme's Expected Accomplishment(s) and Indicator(s) to which the project contributes</p> <p><u>Expected Accomplishment EA (a)</u> <i>Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action</i></p> <p><u>Indicators of achievement</u></p> <p>(ii) The number of countries reporting on the environmental dimension of sustainable development through shared environmental information systems with country-level data made discoverable through UNEP. Unit of measure: Number of countries</p> <p>(iv) The indicators to measure the environmental dimension of sustainable development made through Environment Live that are disaggregated by vulnerable groups, especially by gender, geography and age Unit of measure: (a) Number of environmental indicators disaggregated by sex (b) Number of environmental indicators disaggregated by age</p> <p>(vi) Level of accessibility and ease of use of UNEP environmental information through open platforms measured against internationally recognized standards for unrestricted access to information Unit of measure: Percentage improvement in the level of accessibility and usability</p>
<p><i>Describe any progress made towards delivering the stated PoW Expected Accomplishments and Indicators. State key changes since previous reporting period. (maximum one paragraph)</i></p> <p>To be reported on in the next reporting period, since the project just held its inception workshop on 28 - 30 June 2021, paving the way for actual activity implementation.</p> <p>Although the GEF approved the project for implementation in February 2019, the closure of the UNEPs office in South Sudan that was to execute the project (and thus <i>triggering internal consultations to nominate a new Executing Agency and seek MoEF concurrence</i>) later that year and closely followed by the unfortunate emergence of the COVID19 pandemic in 2020 resulted in about 29 months delay on work plan implementation.</p>	

2.2. GEF Core Indicators (for all GEF 6 and later projects):

<p>GEF Core Indicators</p> <p>GEF6: Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks)</p> <p>GEF7: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</p>	<p>Indicative expected Results <i>[add figure approved at CEO endorsement/ approval]</i></p> <p>NB: This project was designed and approved to contribute to the following targets for the sixth (6) core indicator under GEF6</p> <p><u>Replenishment Targets:</u></p> <p>a) <i>Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in 1 Country (South Sudan)</i></p> <p>b) <i>Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in South Sudan 1 Country (South Sudan)</i></p>
--	---

Discuss GEF core indicators targeted by the project, as well as expected results. (maximum one paragraph)

This project was designed to contribute to the Sixth (6) corporate indicator under GEF6 titled 'Enhance the capacity of countries to implement MEAs and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks. However, since it is now a requirement for all projects approved in GEF6 but under implementation during the current GEF 7 replenishment, to also report contributions towards attainment of one or more of the GEF7 11 Core Indicators, the project best contributes to the following core and sub-indicators

GEF7 core indicator 11. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

Indicator	Expected values at	
	Mid-term	End-of-project
GEF6 Replenishment targets		
c) Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least one (1) country (South Sudan)	-	1 country
d) Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least one (1) country (South Sudan)	-	1 country
Under these two indicators, the overall project objective indicator is: Increased capacity for Rio Convention implementation as shown in the capacity development scorecard.	Mid-term (MTR) (a) Increase of 2 points at a minimum in the total score.	End of project: (b) Increase of 6 points at a minimum in the total score.
GEF7 Core Indicator 11		
<i>Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</i>		
Males : 300	-	-
Females: 200	-	-
Total : 500	-	-

2.3. Implementation status and risk

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
PIR #	1st PIR			
Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	N/A			
Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	S			
Risk rating (section 3.3)	M			

Summary of status. Please structure as follows, highlighting progress, challenges and main achievements, as needed:

Nothing to report during this reporting period as the project officially started last month (*inception workshop held during the last week of June 2021 following the recruitment of the Project Coordinator*). Comprehensive initial update to be provided in the next PIR report.

[section will be uploaded into the GEF Portal]

2.4. Co-financing

<p>Planned Co-finance Total: \$ 1,450,000</p> <p>Actual to date: \$ 15,000 [1 %]</p>	<p><i>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges.</i></p> <p>A comprehensive co-financing report will be submitted during the next reporting period since the project had only executed one activity (organization of the inception workshop, 28 - 30 June 2021) by 30 June 2021, paving the way for actual activity implementation. Notwithstanding the fact that the GEF approved the project for implementation in February 2019, the phase-out of UNEPs office in South Sudan that was to execute the project, and closely followed by the unfortunate emergence of the COVID19 pandemic in 2020, has caused a 29 months delay on work plan implementation.</p>
--	---

2.5. Stakeholder engagement

<p>Stakeholder engagement</p>	<p><i>Describe progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO endorsement). For older projects that did not have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan in the CEO Endorsement Document, simply mention any kind of stakeholder engagement activities undertaken during the reporting period.</i></p> <p>Even though only one major project activity had been implemented by the end of the reporting period, the project was able to convene a lean inception workshop during the last week of June 2021 in Naivasha, Kenya, attended by 9 delegates drawn from both UNEP Africa Office (3), MoEF (5) and the South Sudan Ministry of Agriculture and Food security (1). UNEP was represented by the Project Manager, the Project Coordinator and one technical specialist, while the six representatives of the Government of South Sudan included the Undersecretary MoEF, the GEF operational focal point (OFP), the MoEF national GEF CCCD focal point, and the three Rio Convention focal points (the CBD FP, the UNFCCC FP and the UNCCD FP).</p> <p>The key outputs from the 3-days project inception workshop included (i) an agreed overarching project execution strategy between UNEP and MoEF, and (ii) a revised Project document, GEF budget, annual work plan and related annexes incorporating recommended updates as outlined in section 1.3 (History of project revisions) above. A follow-up stakeholder consultation and national project launch event scheduled for August/September 2021 in Juba will bring together most project actors to commemorate the establishment of the project steering committee (PSC) and the two technical working groups.</p>
--------------------------------------	---

2.6. Gender

<p>Gender mainstreaming</p>	<p><i>Describe progress, challenges and outcomes related to the gender-responsive measures documented at CEO Endorsement/ Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent. Older projects that were designed before gender mainstreaming should proactively report any possible gender benefits, as appropriate.</i></p> <p>Nothing to report during this reporting period as the project officially started last month (<i>inception workshop held during the last week of June 2021 following the recruitment of the Project Coordinator</i>).</p> <p>Comprehensive initial update on gender mainstreaming to be provided in the next PIR report.</p>
------------------------------------	--

2.7. Environmental and social safeguards management

<p>Environmental and social safeguards (ESSF) management</p>	<p><i>Describe progress, challenges and outcomes related to the environmental and social safeguard-responsive measures documented at CEO Endorsement/ Approval in social safeguard action plan or equivalent. Older projects that were designed before environmental and social safeguard mainstreaming should proactively report any possible social safeguard benefits, as appropriate</i></p> <p>Nothing to report during this reporting period as the project just started. First comprehensive environmental and social safeguards management report will be provided in July 2022. However, this being a pure capacity building project in which no interventions involving activities that pollute/</p>
---	--

	<p>degrade the environment or physically disrupt existing ecosystems, animals or other life forms, was assessed and approved as Low risk project at GEF CEO Approval and has continued to be so. As a result, there has not been a need to design or trigger any serious environmental risks/safeguard mitigation measures and plans.</p> <p>Nonetheless, as implementation kicks in, the project management unit (PMU) continues to ensure that UNEP ESSF guiding principles (<i>resilience and sustainability; human rights, gender equality and women empowerment, accountability and leave no one behind</i>) are continually applied throughout implementation, and that appropriate grievances mechanisms are instituted, and partners/ community complaints addressed promptly. Special attention will also be given to potentially marginalized and vulnerable populations/ beneficiaries.</p>
--	--

2.8. Knowledge management

Knowledge activities and products	<p><i>Provide a narrative of knowledge activities/ products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement/ Approval</i></p> <p>Nothing to report during this reporting period as the project officially started last month (<i>inception workshop held during the last week of June 2021 following the recruitment of the Project Coordinator</i>). A comprehensive update to be provided in the following PIR report.</p>
--	---

2.9. Stories to be shared

Stories to be shared	<p><i>Optional for mature projects: Provide a brief summary of any especially interesting and impactful project results that are worth sharing with a larger audience, and/or investing communications time in, if any.</i></p> <p>Nothing to report during this reporting period as the project officially started last month (<i>inception workshop held during the last week of June 2021 following the recruitment of the Project Coordinator</i>). Comprehensive update to be provided in the next PIR report.</p>
-----------------------------	---

3. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RISK

Based on inputs by the Project Manager, the **UNEP Task Manager**¹ will make an overall assessment and provide ratings of:

- (i) Progress towards achieving the project Results(s)- see section 3.1
- (ii) Implementation progress – see section 3.2

Section 3.3 on Risk should be first completed by the Project Manager. The UNEP Task Manager will subsequently enter his/her own ratings in the appropriate column.

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2021	Progress rating ²
Objective:						
To strengthen systemic, institutional and individual capacity for effective implementation of the Rio Conventions in South Sudan						
Outcome 1 Enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting.	(a) MEA Network operational and facilitating access, sharing and management of environmental data and information for MEA/SDG reporting, monitoring and decision making. (b) Technical system functional to manage and access environmental data, with defined roles and responsibilities and protocols for data collection and sharing.	CBD national Clearing House Mechanism and MoEF website currently being developed. National biodiversity database being established at MoEF and MWCT	(a) MEA Network operational with at-least 30 stakeholders (of which at least 40% women). (b) n/a	(a) MEA Network operational with at-least 40 stakeholders (of which at least 40% women). (b) A functional, shared environmental information system with defined roles and responsibilities and protocols for data collection and sharing is in place.	Nothing to report during this reporting period as the project officially started last month (<i>inception workshop held during the last week of June 2021 following the recruitment of the Project Coordinator</i>). Comprehensive initial update to be provided in the next PIR report.	N/A

¹ For joint projects and where applicable ratings should also be discussed with the Task Manager of co-implementing agency.

² Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Marginally Satisfactory (MS), Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), and Highly Unsatisfactory (HU).

PIR FY 2021: Systemic, institutional & individual capacity for the implementation of the Rio Conventions in South Sudan

Project objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June 2021	Progress rating ²
<p>Outcome 2: Enhanced coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the sustained implementation of Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs.</p>	<p>Number of mechanisms implemented by the government of South Sudan under the lead of MoEF to support the sustained implementation of the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs (e.g., regular network/working group/consultative meetings)</p>	<p>No specific mechanisms, although some existing ad hoc committees have been established.</p>	<p>At least 1 mechanism.</p>	<p>At least 3 mechanisms</p>	<p>Nothing to report during this reporting period as the project officially started last month (<i>inception workshop held during the last week of June 2021 following the recruitment of the Project Coordinator</i>).</p> <p>Comprehensive updates to be provided in the next PIR report.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Outcome 3 National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.</p>	<p>Number of policies, laws or strategies finalized for enactment during the project duration and submitted for enactment that include provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles.</p>	<p>Some existing laws and policies; many exist only in draft format.</p>	<p>(a) n/a</p>	<p>At least 2.</p>	<p>Nothing to report during this reporting period as the project officially started last month (<i>inception workshop held during the last week of June 2021 following the recruitment of the Project Coordinator</i>).</p> <p>Comprehensive updates to be provided in the next PIR report.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2020 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2021 (%)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
COMPONENT 1: Development of a coordinated environmental knowledge and information management system					
Outcome 1: Enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting.					
Output 1.1: Analysis of the current environmental information systems					
1.1.1 Recruit project staff and consultants: UNEP to recruit Project Coordinator & probably an Assistant based at MoEF	Year 1, Q1	0%	70%	<p>UNEP Africa office has established a project management unit (PMU) and completed recruitment of the Project Coordinator in mid-May 2021, who went on to organize the project inception workshop in June 2021.</p> <p>ToR for the MoEF Liaison Officer has been shared with MoEF for their review and action. Onboarding is expected to be completed in Q3 of 2021 (which is Q1 of Y1, assuming the project officially started in June 2021)</p>	S
1.1.2 Organize a project inception workshop	Year 1, Q1	0%	90%	<p>Because of the prevailing stringent COVID19 travel restrictions for UN staff, UNEP Africa Office collaborated with MoEF to organize a lean project inception workshop on 28-30 June 2021, at Naivasha town in Kenya.</p> <p>This workshop was attended by the UNEP Africa Office Project Manager, the Project Coordinator, a UNEP technical specialist, the Undersecretary MoEF, the 3 South Sudan Rio Convention FPs, and the South Sudan national focal point for the GEF CCCD project.</p> <p>Key outputs from the 3-days workshop include (i) an agreed overarching project execution strategy between UNEP and MoEF, and (ii) a revised Project document, GEF budget, annual work plan and related annexes incorporating recommended updates as outlined in section 1.3 (History of project revisions) above (attached)</p> <p>A follow-up stakeholder consultation and national project launch event scheduled for August/September 2021 in Juba will bring together most project actors to commemorate the establishment of the project steering committee (PSC) and the two technical working groups.</p>	HS
1.1.3 Establish an Environmental Information Working Group involving the PMU and relevant technical staff of key agencies (around 8-X representatives, including the Rio Convention focal points).	Year 1, Q3	0%	0%	To be implemented in Q4 of 2021	N/A

³ Outputs and activities (or deliverables) as described in the project log frame (and work plan) or in any updated project revision.

⁴ The completion dates should be as per latest work plan (latest project revision).

⁵ As much as possible, describe in terms of immediate gains to target groups, e.g. access to project deliverables, participation in receiving services; gains in knowledge, etc.

⁶ To be provided by the UNEP Task Manager

PIR FY 2021: Systemic, institutional & individual capacity for the implementation of the Rio Conventions in South Sudan

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2020 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2021 (%)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
1.1.4 Conduct a detailed analysis of existing environmental information systems	Year 1, Q4	0%	0%	Scheduled for Q4 of 2021	N/A
Output 1.2 :Priority environmental indicators identified and agreed upon					
1.2.1 Develop recommendations on improving data availability and on formulating key environmental indicators	Year 2, Q1	0%	0%	NA	N/A
1.2.2 Organize an MEA Network meeting (see Output 2.1) to discuss and agree on priority environmental indicators	Year 2, Q1	0%	0%	NA	N/A
1.2.3 Develop and agree on standardized definitions for these indicators and protocols for data collection, sharing and management.	Year 2, Q3	0%	0%	NA	N/A
1.2.4 Develop a guidance document, including on the use of data in decision-making, planning and reporting <i>Revised during the inception workshop to read: Develop and approve a protocol/ agreement on the collection, use and sharing of environmental data in decision-making, planning and reporting.</i>	Year 2, Q3	0%	0%	NA	N/A
Output 1.3 Training provided on data collection and management methodologies					
1.3.1 Prepare a training on data collection and management	Year 2, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
1.3.2 Organize training workshop and designate champions	Year 3, Q1	0%	0%	NA	N/A
1.3.3 Organize on-the-job follow-up activities per sector to apply the acquired knowledge and compile data for the priority indicators identified	Year 3, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
Output 1.4 Shared environmental information system developed and implemented					
1.4.1 Analyze the requirements and key functionalities of a shared	Year 2, Q2	0%	0%	NA	N/A
1.4.2 Organize an MEA Network meeting to discuss and agree on the requirements of the system, identify a host agency and establish clear responsibilities information management system	Year 2, Q3	0%	0%	NA	N/A
1.4.3 Develop and implement the system based on the identified requirements	Year 3, Q1	0%	0%	NA	N/A
1.4.4 Provide training for different user groups on the use of the information management system. Make data available on the shared environmental information system	Year 3, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
COMPONENT 2: Strengthening of coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs					
Outcome 2.0: Enhanced coordination mechanisms and stakeholder engagement for the sustained implementation of Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs					
Output 2.1 MEA Network established and other mechanisms implemented to support enhanced coordination					

PIR FY 2021: Systemic, institutional & individual capacity for the implementation of the Rio Conventions in South Sudan

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2020 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2021 (%)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
2.1.1 Organize a technical workshop to discuss and agree on the establishment of an MEA Network.	Year 1, Q4	0%	0%	Scheduled for Q4 of 2021	N/A
2.1.2 Prepare the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the network, and formally establish it through notification or ministerial order by MoEF. Organize regular meetings of the network	Year 3, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
2.1.3 Issue a biannual newsletter, publish brief "state of the sector" reports, and/or sponsor the participation in regional meetings/trainings	Year 3, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
2.1.4 Implement other mechanisms to support enhanced consultation and coordination in support of the Rio Conventions.	Year 3, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
Output 2.2 Activities for awareness and capacity building implemented					
2.2.1 Prepare an awareness and capacity development plan to support the implementation of the Rio Conventions (including Ramsar) Reformulated to read: <i>Prepare an awareness and capacity development plan and conduct a rapid assessment on the Sudd wetland, based on analysis of high resolution geospatial maps to support the implementation of the Rio Conventions (including Ramsar)</i>	Year 1, Q4	0%	0%	Scheduled for Q4 of 2021	N/A
2.2.2 Conduct a baseline awareness survey among key stakeholders (at national and state/local level)	Year 2, Q1	0%	0%	NA	N/A
2.2.3 Implement the awareness and capacity development plan	Year 3, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
2.2.4 Conduct an end-of-project awareness survey among key stakeholders (at national and state/local level)	Year 3, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
Output 2.3 Practical guidelines on community participation and engagement developed					
2.3.1 Develop a communication strategy and practical guidelines to facilitate community participation and engagement	Year 2, Q2	0%	0%	NA	N/A
2.3.2 Organize a stakeholder consultation meeting to discuss the proposed guidelines	Year 2, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
2.3.3 Disseminate these guidelines through the awareness and training events organized under Output 2.2	Year 3, Q4	0%	0%	NA	N/A
COMPONENT 3: Integration of key provisions of Rio Conventions in national policies and legislation					
Outcome 3.0: National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management.					
Output 3.1 At least 2 sectoral policies, laws or strategies clearly make provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles					
3.1.1 Establish an Environmental Policy Working Group	Year 1, Q3	0%	0%	Scheduled for Q4 of 2021	N/A
3.1.2 Conduct a detailed analysis of existing sectoral policies, laws and strategies to identify gaps	Year 2, Q2	0%	0%	NA	N/A

PIR FY 2021: Systemic, institutional & individual capacity for the implementation of the Rio Conventions in South Sudan

Outputs/Activities ³	Expected completion date ⁴	Implementation status as of 30 June 2020 (%)	Implementation status as of 30 June 2021 (%)	Progress rating justification ⁵ , description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress rating ⁶
3.1.3 Draft a working paper outlining opportunities to incorporate Rio Convention principles into existing draft policies, laws and strategies	<i>Year 2, Q2</i>	0%	0%	NA	N/A
3.1.4 Organize an MEA Network meeting and public consultations (including at the state level and with civil society organizations) to discuss the outcomes of the analysis and decide on the priority bills and policies to be supported by the project	<i>Year 2, Q2</i>	0%	0%	NA	N/A
3.1.5 Support the finalization of the selected priority bills and policies, including their submission to the Ministry of Justice for final drafting. Work towards the adoption of the draft bills and policies.	<i>Year 3, Q4</i>	0%	0%	NA	N/A
Output 3.2 Sustainable financing strategy developed					
3.2.1 Conduct an analysis of the current funding sources and gaps related to the implementation of the Rio Conventions, the relevant SDGs and national policies and laws	<i>Year 2, Q3</i>	0%		NA	N/A
3.2.2 Draft a sustainable financing strategy	<i>Year 2, Q4</i>	0%		NA	N/A
3.2.3 Organize consultations to discuss the strategy with the sector agencies and other relevant stakeholders. Once finalized, the progress in implementing the strategy will be regularly monitored at the MEA Network meetings.	<i>Year 3, Q3</i>	0%		NA	N/A
3.2.4 Organize a training for staff of relevant government agencies and NGOs on writing project proposals to access funding for environmental projects	<i>Year 3, Q4</i>	0%		NA	N/A
Project Management					

3.3. Risk Rating

Table A. Risk-log

Risk	Risk affecting:	Risk Rating							Variation respect to last rating	
	Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR1 (this PIR)	PIR 2	MTR	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Δ	Justification
Risk 1: Limited institutional capacities to support project implementation and programme continuity.	All outcomes 1-3	L	L						=	<p><i>This explanation should focus on what changed respect to the previous rating.</i></p> <p>There is no change as the UNEP Africa office continues to provide MoEF and other project partners with necessary technical and administrative backstopping requisite to overcome barriers to seamless and expeditious implementation of GEF CCCD projects in an African context.</p>
Risk 2: Lack of horizontal coordination across ministries and agencies.	All, but particularly outcome 3	M	M						=	<p>According to the updated baseline capacity building scorecard reviewed during the inception workshop, the poor state of horizontal coordination and collaboration amongst environmental actors in South Sudan has improved in the last 2-3 years, but not to the degree that could be classified as Low.</p> <p>For instance, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) has not been able to strike good collaborations with the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly to guarantee finalization of the 2009 Forestry and the 2014 Environment Protection Bills whose drafting and enactment processes have stalled during the same period, notwithstanding the ever aggravating pressures of environmental degradation in the Country.</p>
Risk 3 Inadequate government and other stakeholder commitment to the process, including reluctance to share information and data.	Primarily outcome 1 and 2	M	M						=	<p>The inception workshop discussions showed that the status quo remains regarding adopting systematic transformations or radical decisions for environmental good. The Country still lacks an inter-agency agreement/ protocol to facilitate wide sharing of data and other collaborations in environmental statistics.</p> <p>While there is increasing collaborations amongst the Rio Conventions focal points and their ministries, regular and sustained horizontal MEA coordination mechanism are ad-hoc or non-existent between these Ministries and other sector</p>

PIR FY 2021: Systemic, institutional & individual capacity for the implementation of the Rio Conventions in South Sudan

										players due to limited shared resources and lack of incentives for captivating such partnerships
Risk 4 Instability and insecurity in certain parts of the Country	All outcomes	M	M						=	This risk remains relatively the same as two years ago, although political tempers seem to be cooling following the revitalized peace accord and a coalition government formed last year.
Risk 5 Inability to mobilize adequate co-financing for the implementation of project activities and outputs	All outcomes	M	L						↓	<p>This is no longer a medium risk at the project was able to mobilize \$ 1,450,000 co-financing, largely pledged by state agencies in South Sudan with strong interests in the project and its activities.</p> <p>The PMU based at the UNEP Africa Office will also support MoEF follow-up, document and account co-financing commitments from each partner that pledged in-kind support to the project.</p>
Risk 6 Inability to maintain the finances required for a sustained continuation of project activities and outputs after the project ends, including to maintain IT infrastructure and internet access.	All outcomes	H	M						↓	<p>Compared to the scenario at project preparation, in the last 2-3 years, South Sudan has had several full-sized GEF6 and GEF7 projects approved, some with 5-9 times more GEF funding than the CCCD project.</p> <p>These projects also have other cross-cutting elements incorporated in their design, which augments the \$ 1 million grant available for the GEF CCCD project. This is expected to have a multiplier effect on environmental management and governance in the Country. Baseline analysis before deployment of any complex intervention (like the planned EIS system) will be structured appropriately to ensure these tools don't overwhelm existing capacities in the responsible Ministries</p>
Risk 7 The COVID19 pandemic	All outcomes	-	M						=	<p>The COVID19 pandemic had not begun when the GEF approved the project. Most project activities continue to be delivered through remote work arrangements and other virtual/ online modalities.</p> <p>A lean inception was exceptionally approved by UNEP involving only 9 participants and held in a facility that observed critical COVID19 Standard Operation Procedures (SoPs)</p>

Table B. Outstanding medium & high risks

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIR _{t-1} , MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	Additional mitigation measures for the next periods		
			What	When	By whom
Risk 2: Lack of horizontal coordination across ministries and agencies.	NA	None as project begun implementation last month	Pursue the development and adoption of the inter-agency protocol on sharing and management of environmental data proposed planed in outcome one and the MEA coordination mechanism designed in outcome 2	Year 1-Year 2	UNEP, PMU and MoEF
Risk 3 Inadequate government and other stakeholder commitment to the process, including reluctance to share information and data	NA	None as project begun implementation last month	Pursue the development and adoption of the inter-agency protocol on sharing and management of environmental data proposed planed in outcome 1, the MEA coordination mechanism designed in outcome 2, and the Environmental Policy and Regulatory Frameworks working Group mechanism envisioned in outcome 3	Year 1-Year 3	UNEP, PMU and MoEF
Risk 4 Instability and insecurity in certain parts of the Country	NA	Most project activities continue to be delivered through remote work and other virtual modalities	Avoid travelling to or planning project activities in South Sudan insecurity hotspots as advised by periodic UNDSS alerts or other intelligence reports. Adopt increased reliance on virtual meetings/platforms and remote work arrangements whenever it's risky or not mandatory to travel to guarantee project output delivery.	Throughout	All project partners, consultants
Risk 6 Inability to maintain the finances required for a sustained continuation of project activities and outputs after the project ends, including to maintain IT infrastructure and internet access.	NA	None as project begun implementation last month	Project to support MoEF develop an MEA financing sustainability strategy and train staff on the development of more project concepts/ proposals as envisioned in outcome 3	Year 2- Year 3	UNEP, PMU and MoEF
Risk 7 The COVID19 pandemic	NA	Most project activities continue to be delivered through remote work and other virtual modalities. A lean inception was exceptionally approved by UNEP involving only 9 participants and	Adopt increased reliance on virtual meetings/platforms and other remote work arrangements whenever it's risky or not mandatory to travel to guarantee project output delivery. The inception workshop recommended that the UNEP Africa Office consider relying on Implementing Partners to deliver a package of related outputs (<i>like the whole</i>	Throughout	All project partners, consultants

PIR FY 2021: Systemic, institutional & individual capacity for the implementation of the Rio Conventions in South Sudan

		<p>held in a facility that observed COVID19 Standard Operation Procedures (SoPs)</p>	<p><i>of the EIS development, deployment, operationalization, and associated training under outcome 1).</i> All key project personnel have also been encouraged to ensure they have been fully vaccinated against the virus, which would essentially minimize the probabilities of cross-infections during physical project events.</p>		
--	--	--	---	--	--

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that **assumptions** may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
Medium Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that **assumptions** may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

Annex 1: Revised inception workshop GEF Budget, Work plan and updated Project Document



S.Sudan%20GEF%20CCCD;%20Incpetioi



Workplan+%20Key%20deliverables,%20t



S.S%20Budget%20&%20Work%20plan

Annex 2: Project inception workshop report



S.Sudan Inception Workshop Report, 1

Annex 1: SDG linkages

Describe progress towards the stated SDG target(s) and SDG indicator(s) to which the project contributes.

SDG 13 (13.2, 13.3); **SDG 16** (16.10); and **SDG 17** (17.14; 17.18)

SDG 13 contributions (13.2; 13.3)

13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy / strategy / plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

This will be achieved through outcome 3 (*National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management*). These outcomes aim at (i) supporting or influencing the finalization and enactment of at-least two sectoral policies, laws or strategies that clearly make provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles, and (ii) facilitating the development of a national Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) sustainable financing strategy for the continued implementation of Rio Conventions and the SDGs.

During the project inception workshop held in Naivasha, Kenya, on 28 - 30 June 2021, project stakeholders recommended for the project to fast-track the finalization of the draft 2014 Environment Protection Bill and the draft 2009 Forestry Bill. If funds allow, project proponents would also explore facilitating the development of a national desertification/ Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) strategy.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning,

1.3.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions

The project will provide training on the integration of environmental management into planning and monitoring processes, and on reporting information for policy action/decision making, based on data made available through the Environmental Information System (EIS) planned under outcome 1. Additionally, the project will support the identification of ways to update sectoral strategies/plans in support of the MEAs and related SDGs, by incorporating knowledge from the EIS to be developed under outcome 1.

Environmental awareness raising activities planned under outcome 2 will generate and disseminate knowledge products to raise awareness on the environmental information system, the concept of sustainable development and the MEAs/related SDGs. Amongst others, the project will undertake a rapid assessment on the Sudd wetland based on analysis of high-resolution geospatial maps. Different public awareness creation platforms (including TV, radio, websites/ blogs) will be

employed to disseminate results from the study to a wider audience besides incorporating other environmental conservation topics that catalyze positive natural resources management communal ideals and support the implementation of the Rio Conventions (including Ramsar).

This plan will directly support the needs and priorities identified in existing national plans under the Rio Conventions, notably the NCSA action plan, the NBSAP (for the CBD) and the INC (for UNFCCC), as well as the UNCCD. Each agency will lead the activities relevant to their sector, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and by exploring synergies among the sectors and conventions. Participants will be selected based on predefined criteria such as area of work or expertise, and the project will ensure adequate participation of women. These activities will likely include:

Awareness:

- Compiling and disseminating simple fact sheets on the importance of biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management for sustainable development and the well-being of people in South Sudan. These fact sheets (i) will explain the linkages with the Rio Conventions, the SDGs as well as relevant national policies and plans; (ii) will include best practices of environmental management from the region; (iii) will highlight the importance of gender mainstreaming (and the important role played by women with regard to natural resources management) and indigenous knowledge and practices.
- Radio and television bulletins and/or articles in newspapers, magazines, journals, SMS etc.
- Public lectures for university students.
- Organizing roundtables for parliamentarians, policy- and decision-makers to sensitize them to the impacts of biodiversity loss, climate change, and land degradation and strategies to address these impacts. This will also include the Ministry of Finance and Planning. For example, following the release of the Sudd wetland rapid assessment report, public awareness will be raised on the importance of preserving the Sudd and other wetlands in South Sudan.
- Organizing awareness raising events such as World Environment Day, World Wetlands Day, World Water Day and the International Day of Forests; and organizing awareness raising sessions at the state level.

Capacity building:

- Training of Trainers (TOT) for national and state level stakeholders on the Rio Conventions (what do these conventions involve, how are they implemented in South Sudan, and how can South Sudan benefit from them) has been planned. In particular, this will involve agencies that are less familiar with the Rio Conventions, such as the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance and Planning, as well as civil society.
- Training for Rio Convention focal points and other relevant technical staff on negotiation skills for the COPs and other technical aspects of the Rio Conventions. The project will seek synergies with the European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI) junior climate negotiator training. Additional two participants could be sent to attend the ECBI training based on predefined selection criteria. The participants will then support the provision of in-country training to a larger group of participants.
- Training of Trainers (TOT) for representatives of academia/research institutions on the Rio Conventions and the role played by these institutions in their implementation.
- Training on Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) – a programme that enables academic, research and government institutions in developing countries to gain access to a large body of research in the environment and related fields. Access to the OARE system will be set up (South Sudan is a "free access" country). Wherever possible, training should be conducted in Country in order to reach a larger group of people.

SDG 16 contributions (16.10.2)

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

The whole of outcome 1 (*Enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting*) is focused on supporting South Sudan develop and operationalize a national Environmental Information management System (EIS) for use in decision-making, planning and reporting.

To begin with, the project will facilitate the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) to spearhead a detailed analysis of existing environmental information systems, data sources and flows, indicators and reporting mechanisms related to the Rio Conventions and other MEAs in South Sudan. This analysis will be conducted by consulting with relevant ministries and agencies, and by using the Environmental Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT) as a guideline.

Moreover, the project will develop recommendations on improving data availability and on formulating key environmental indicators. An MEA Network meeting (output 2.1) will be organized to discuss and agree on priority environmental indicators. The project will then develop standardized definitions for these core set of environmental indicators, as well as protocols for data collection, sharing and management, and seek formal endorsement/ agreement of the definitions and protocols from the key agencies.

The EIS system is to be developed following the open-source data sharing principles promoted through Shared Environmental Information Systems (SEIS), and that outline that environmental information should preferably be:

- (i) *managed as close as possible to its source;*
- (ii) *collected once and shared with others for many purposes;*
- (iii) *easily and readily available to all users for easily fulfilling reporting obligations;*
- (iv) *accessible to enable comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale and the participation of citizen;*
- (v) *fully available to the general public and at national level in the relevant national language(s); and*
- (vi) *supported through common, free, open software standards;*

Under output 1.3, training will be provided to national and state level data custodian agencies (including Rio Convention focal points) on data collection and management methodologies. This training is expected to prepare the sector agencies and institutions for the compilation of data for the priority indicators agreed upon under Output 1.2. Champions will be designated in each agency to take these activities forward.

SDG 17 contributions (17.14.1; 17.18.1)

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development

Under outcome 3 (*National policies include provisions for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable land and forest management*) at-least 2 sectoral policies, laws or strategies are planned to be developed or fast-tracked, clearly making provisions for mainstreaming Rio Convention principles and the environmental dimension of SDGs. The project will identify ways to update sectoral strategies/plans in support of the MEAs and related SDGs, by incorporating knowledge from the environmental information system.

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding

The planned design of the proposed Environment data, knowledge and Information System (EIS) will help to utilize and present data for environmental monitoring, analysis, decision making, and information sharing in a user-friendly manner and for creating awareness among the citizens of South Sudan, on issues related to their environment and global environmental issues.

Communications and reporting on existing global platforms of the MEAs, UNEP Live (*especially its World Environment Situation Room -WESR and the Indicator Reporting Information System -IRIS*), the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, WHO Global databases, Work Bank Indicators Portal, UN Statistics Division, and the convention portals will be enhanced and automated as appropriate, thus achieving efficiency and reducing duplication.

The project might explore linkages with these and other platforms for the EIS system design, including MapX, a geospatial platform developed by UN Environment's Post-Conflict Branch that provides a comprehensive suite of information management, visualization and analytical tools. The project funds will not be used to develop these tools/platforms; rather, the project will seek to create synergies and optimize the communication with them.

The environment information system will provide a joint database of key environmental indicators for monitoring and reporting to the MEAs and related SDGs, with a GIS database, graphic representation of the data and gender-disaggregated data where relevant. The information system will also include information on the conventions and links to relevant CBD clearing house mechanisms (CHMs).