

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
 PROGRAMMATIC SOPT CHECK REPORT
 3rd & 4th Quarters

Project (award) ID: 00091841

Project title: Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management in Sudan (SPAS)

Implementing Partner: Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR)

1. General Information:

Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management Project is a national Implemented Project financed by GEF and UNDP and co – financed by Ministry of finance and other contributions, implemented by HECNER in collaboration with WCGA. The implementation activities are carried with diverse partners include Natural Resources Government institutions, NGOs, communities, international partners

2. Project objectives:

To Strengthen the National Protected Area (PA) System and Promote Integrated Ecosystem Management in Adjacent Areas to Reduce Threats to Biodiversity, Mitigate Land Degradation, Sustain Ecosystem Services and Improve Livelihoods.

The purpose of this programmatic spot check is to review the progress being made so far against the 2021 approved workplan. This spot-check covers the last two quarters of 2021.

3. Project components:

Component 1: Enabling environment established at the national level for expanded PA management

Component 2: Improved management effectiveness at selected terrestrial and marine Pas

Component 3: Integrated Natural Resource Management in multi-use landscapes in and around targeted Pas

Component 4: Knowledge Management, Gender Mainstreaming, and M&E

4. Activities and progress

Activities	Progress
Component 1: Enabling environment established at the national level for expanded PA management	
Output 1.1. Systematic training on PA System planning and management provided to WCGA staff, to be able to manage PA systems, to assess and track status of all Protected Areas and ensure	The project contacted several African institutes like (Kenya wildlife service training institute – Meweka wildlife management college and Principal South Africa wildlife

<p>effective implementation of national UNESCO-accredited biosphere reserves.</p>	<p>collage) requesting quotation for training covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected Area Systems. • IUCN and UNESCO categories. • Protected Areas Management Planning. <p>Training proposal was received from Mewaka- Tanzania; the project is finalizing the training agreement with them.</p>
<p>Output 1.2. A PA management structure formalised in HCENR and WCGA in collaboration with other agencies/ministries, ensuring PA system structured and categorised in line with IUCN and UNESCO international and national guidelines.</p>	<p>. Policy and strategy of Protected Areas was started by conducting first consultation meeting as result of that meeting three groups were formulated for preparing the strategy and policy and now operating on regular meetings.</p> <p>. Contacts with UNESCO regional office and Arab World Heritage Sites regarding biosphere reserve guidelines to align protected Areas system in Sudan with IUCN and UNESCO guidelines, Arab World Heritage.</p>
<p>Output 1.3. Protected Area boundaries for <i>Dinder</i>, <i>Jebel Al Dair</i> and <i>Dungonab</i> PAs are finalised and agreed, including buffer zone land use, associated public consultations are completed and respective management plans are completed, considering the outcomes for both.</p>	<p>Visit conducted to <i>Jable Al Dair</i> to enhance the planning of corridors to monitor Kudu movement in addition of transitional zone increasement.</p>
<p>Output 1.4. National PA System Policy, Strategy and PA Expansion Plan developed, adopted and implemented by government and partners.</p>	<p>Development of Policy and strategy of Protected Areas have started by conducting first consultation meeting as result of that meeting three groups were formulated for preparing the strategy and policy</p>
<p>Output 1.5. Implementation of the National PA System Expansion Plan initiated through the legal designation of two new PAs (one being a proposed biosphere) providing increased coverage for critical biodiversity in critical marine and terrestrial habitats.</p>	<p>Planning and finalizing of visit to <i>Talla Talla</i> Island for rapid assessment. Team was formulated to support the suitability of the area, the visit was conducted on 30 March _3 April.</p>
<p>Component 2: Improved management effectiveness at selected terrestrial and marine PAs</p>	

<p>Output 2.1. Ecological Management, Restoration and Monitoring carried out in three PAs - (<i>Dungonab, Dinder, Jebel El Dair</i>).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning of wetland rehabilitation in Dinder National Park, consultant prepared the work plan, two wetlands were identified (<i>Beit Al wahash</i> and <i>Mayat Musa</i>). - Invasive spp. Control work plan is prepared areas, methods and cost were analysed and waiting for funding. - Fire management plan were prepared for both <i>Dinder</i> and <i>Al Dair</i>, purchasing committee for fire equipment and Drone was formulated (including UNDP, HCENR, Fire and Drone Management expertise and Ministry of Finance representatives). - A preliminary Drone training was conducted to WCGA and WRC staff in preparation of establishment of the base line ecological and key spp. Monitoring and waiting for funding.
<p>Component 3: Integrated Natural Resource Management in multi-use landscapes in and around targeted PAs</p>	
<p>Output 3.1: Output 3.1. Capacity developed on M&E for measuring land degradation and SLM and INRM interventions.</p>	<p>The work plan for, community Range reserve that include site selection, community mobilization, village communities establishment and engagement were prepared.</p> <p>Community forest and conservation Agriculture plan prepared.</p> <p>Mangroves plantation plan prepared by Red Sea University</p>
<p>Output 3.2. Enhanced capacity on INRM and SLM among government extension services and communities.</p>	<p>consultation Meeting with for ten villages in <i>Dinder National Park</i>, and with two villages in <i>Jabal Al Dair (Sidra – Kamla)</i> by SECS done.</p>
<p>Output 3.3. Degraded rangeland in targeted areas restored and biodiversity protected through a combination of government-driven and community-based INRM and SLM interventions.</p>	<p>Activity: consultation meetings were conducted for <i>Al Dair</i> and <i>Dinder NP</i> by SECS.</p>
<p>Output 3.4. Support for diversified livelihoods for communities around PAs developed.</p> <p>Consultation meeting with community leaders at Mohamed Goal- Red Sea by SUDIA</p>	<p>Activity: Business-skills training and setting up a community-managed microfinance facility</p>

<p>Activity: Facilitate a 5-day workshop on community-based microfinance model and the groups were established.</p>	<p>Activity: Establish a microfinance facility which provides revolving loan and link the groups with Bank.</p> <p>Coordinating Meeting between partners WCGA, WRC, FNC, RAPA and ARC was conducting in addition of several Meetings.</p>
<p>Component 4: Knowledge Management, Gender Mainstreaming, and M&E:</p>	
<p>Output 4.1. Gender mainstreaming strategy implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national consultant for Monitoring and Evaluation and Gender Mainstreaming recruited to consider gender empowerment and mainstreaming in all project activities and interventions. - In collaboration with UNESCO Women chair in science and technology – a workshop was held to address Climate Change and Environmental Adaptation and its Impact on Empowering Women in Nature Reserves. - International and National consultant were recruited to develop the social and environment management and safeguards.
<p>Output 4.2. M&E provides sufficient information for adaptive management and learning via active participation of key stakeholders in the project implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The national consultant recruited to develop detail procedure and work plans, (include the exact role of project target groups and other stakeholders in project M&E activities), for implementing the monitoring and evaluation plan of the project results framework, gender mainstreaming action plan, Record and document progress, lessons learned and feedback for consideration and action by the project Board. - National technology consultant recruitment is planned through synergy with project strengthening targeted National Capacities for Improved Decision Making and Mainstreaming of Global Environmental obligations, to work on knowledge management and Protected Areas advertisement through social media and reflecting the project activities.

Others:

- The Board Meeting of the Project was conducted on where progress of 2021 and the AWP for 2022 were presented, discussed and approved.
- The project is developing an MOU with integrated agriculture project funded by IFAD to work with SPAS in Co funding of some Gabs, training, policies and laws and upscaling of some activities.
- The PM and financial officer visited *Dinder NP* to examine the financial work and technical planning for the activities and administrative work in addition to meeting with stockholders.
- More dedicated efforts to advance implementation and boost financial delivery is needed by all parties, mostly by HCENR, Project, UNDP.

Challenges:

- Delay in planning by partners. More efforts with partners need to be exerted to enhance the timely planning and implementation
- Co –financing: The HCENR represented by the GPC need to exert more efforts to mobilize the co-financing considered by all partners
- Delay brought by contracting and legalization long procedures.
- Prolonged delay in the engagement of the CTA for the Project.

Endorsement:

UNDP Sudan

Protected Areas Project(SPAS)

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Signature:



Signature:



Date: 11 April 2022

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