



First Quarter Report 2021

Implementing Agency(Agencies): ORASECOM

Project Title: Support to the Orange-Senqu River Strategic Action Programme Implementation.

Project No(s): 00100063

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| <u>Project Start Date:</u> |
| Original: 5 th March 2019 |
| Actual: 01 May 2019 |

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| <u>Project End Date:</u> |
| Original: 31 August 2024 |
| New: 31 August 2024 |

Fiscal Year: 2021

Reporting Period: January – March 2021

Project Budget (US\$) for the Reporting Period *(Use annual budgets in quarterly reports):*

| | Original Budget (US\$) | Latest Signed Revision (US\$) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Core/Trac Resources (UNDP): | 0.00 | |
| Donor 1 (Name): GEF | 10,815,137.00 | |
| Donor 2 (Name): | | |
| Donor 3 (Name): | | |
| Government:..... | | |
| Total Budget (US\$): | 10,815,137.00 | |

Submission Date: 15th October 2020

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1. Executive Summary

The overall objective of this Project is the strengthening of joint management capacity for implementation of the basin-wide IWRM Plan; and demonstrating environmental and socioeconomic benefits of ecosystem-based approach to water resources management through the implementation of SAP priority actions in the Orange – Senqu River basin. The project is being implemented in the four riparian states of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa. The project is being implemented through four components:

Component 1: Institutional and policy reform and technical capacity building towards enhanced transboundary basin planning and joint management.

Component 2: Reducing stress on Water Resources Quality.

Component 3: Addressing changes to the hydrological regime through the source-to-sea application.

Component 4: Addressing land degradation through community-based ecosystem management.

During this reporting period key activities centred on completion of the Desalination plants in Rappelspan and Struzendam in Botswana. Other key activities focused on preparatory processes to take the 2021 workplan forward. The baseline report on pollution sources along the Mohokare river was validated and is being finalised. The bids for the Joint Basin Survey were evaluated and the contract with the preferred provider is being drawn up. The Inception Reports for (1) analysis of economic opportunities from harvesting Prosopis and (2) design of a sustainable programme for the management and control of the Prosopis in Namibia were approved and the next step is to finalise the sites and begin implementation.

Four Terms of Reference for consultancies on preliminary research work on Public-Private Partnerships in water resource demand management and Payment for Ecosystem services; as well as for the establishment of a water quality monitoring system for the Orange-Senqu river basin and for the rehabilitation of the Orange-Senqu river mouth were advertised. A mechanism to finalise three other sets of TORs with the ORASECOM delegations was instituted.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to adversely affect project activities, particularly those involving travel and procurement of imported equipment. The project therefore continued utilising teleconferencing in place of physical meetings.

3. Background and Purpose of Programme/Project

The overall objective of this Project is the strengthening of joint management capacity for implementation of the basin-wide IWRM Plan; and demonstrating environmental and socioeconomic benefits of ecosystem-based approach to water resources management through the implementation of SAP priority actions in the Orange – Senqu River basin.

The project objective will be achieved through four (4) components:

Component 1 – The objective of Component 1 is to contribute to the enhanced transboundary basin planning and joint management of the basin. Realisation of this objective will especially contribute to the removal of Barrier 1, the limited basin-wide understanding of the available resources but also to removal of the other 4 barriers as a result of improved management. There are several targeted outcomes for Component 1.

- ORASECOM's capacity to develop innovative financing schemes strengthened.
- ORASECOM's joint basin planning capacity strengthened through improved data and information management and basin management support systems.
- SAP and country-specific Action Plans revised and updated for next 5-year cycle.
- Transboundary Environmental and Social Assessment Guidelines endorsed by Basin States.
- ORASECOM's capacity on communication, knowledge management, south-south cooperation enhanced.

Component 2 – This addresses issue of deteriorated quality of water resources in the basin. Focus is on industrial pollution and groundwater resources, but the importance of water quality monitoring is given emphasis. The component also addresses Barrier 2, the limited potential for additional yields in the system by looking at how groundwater resource can be better used and protected. The outcomes for Component 2 are as follows;

- Basin-wide water resources quality monitoring system established.
- Point source pollution in Mohokare Catchment reduced and improved industry standards implemented.
- Quantity and quality of groundwater resources determined, and low-cost groundwater desalination plants piloted in Botswana.

Component 3 - Component 3 focuses on Addressing Changes to the Hydrological Regime through the application of the “Source-to-Sea concept”. This will contribute in a critical way to the removal of Barrier 4, the adverse effects of a changed hydrological regime. As indicated in Section II, the hydrological regime has been highly altered. Key areas will include agreement on environmental flows and their implementation and the implementation of measures to sustainably rehabilitate the Orange-Senqu River Mouth.

- Basin-wide environmental Flows regime agreed, and implementation supported.
- Critical ecosystem of the Orange-Senqu River Mouth rehabilitated and sustainably managed.

Component 4 - Component 4 concerns improved land productivity and improved living conditions through community-based sustainable land management. The focus area under this project will be on the control of invasive species in pilot areas on the Fish River in Namibia and the lower Orange in both Namibia and South Africa.

- Invasive species controlled through integrated management in pilot areas in the Orange–Fish River basin and livelihood options based on invasive species control developed.

It is expected that the activities to be implemented under the Project will contribute to the UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 1: Advance poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions and specifically contribute to Output 1.4.1: Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value chains and Output indicator 1.4.1 c): Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under cooperative management. Regionally this project contributes to the attainment of goals as set in the ORASECOM basin wide IWRM Plan (ORASECOM, 2014). The project addresses barriers as identified in the IWRM Plan. At national level, the project addresses national priority areas that were identified through the National Action Plans.

4. Reporting Period January to March 2021

| <i>Progress on Implementation of Activities (based on agreed workplan)</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|--|-------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Annual Target | Main Activity | Target | Progress against planned activities and targets | Planned Completion Date | Implementation Status (Completed, Ongoing-On Track, Ongoing-Off Track & Cancelled) | Reason (s) for slippage (if progress and implementation is not on track) and remedial measures taken | Budget & Expenditure Monitoring Framework | | | |
| | | | | | | | Budget (US\$) | Expenditure (US\$) | Budget Remaining | Delivery (%) |
| Output 1.1 ORASECOM's capacity to develop innovative financing schemes strengthened | Advertise the Consultancies and procure the consultants to undertake the following: (1) To design Private Public Partnership set up consultancy (2) To design Payment for Ecosystem Service | | The consultancies were advertised, widely circulated through the ORASECOM website, mailing list and major newspapers in all four countries. | 25 March | | | 124 517 | 20 850 | 103 667 | 17% |
| | Engage CRIDF, GIZ and the ICM on sustainable financing ideas on the South Africa-Lesotho border | | Initial meetings have been held with GWP and the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, Plans are in place for follow up meetings with GIZ | TBA | Ongoing-off track | COVID-19 restrictions on meetings | 96 715 | 4 590 | 92 125 | 5% |

| Progress on Implementation of Activities (based on agreed workplan) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|-------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Annual Target | Main Activity | Target | Progress against planned activities and targets | Planned Completion Date | Implementation Status (Completed, Ongoing-On Track, Ongoing-Off Track & Cancelled) | Reason (s) for slippage (if progress and implementation is not on track) and remedial measures taken | Budget & Expenditure Monitoring Framework | | | |
| | | | | | | | Budget (US\$) | Expenditure (US\$) | Budget Remaining | Delivery (%) |
| Output 1.2 ORASECOM's joint basin planning capacity strengthened through improved data and information management and basin management support systems | To advertise the consultancy and procure the consultants to undertake the following: (1) Water Resources Modelling | | TORs advertisement put on hold, project constituting an advisory technical team to support finalisation of the TORs | | | | | | | |
| Output 1.4 Transboundary Environmental and Social Assessment Guidelines endorsed by Basin States | Safeguards Consultancy | To continue facilitating undertaking of the Safeguards Consultancy | Botswana and Namibia site visits delayed | | On-going- off track | Restrictions on travel due to COVID | 92 853 | | 92 853 | 0% |
| | | To advertise the consultancy and procure the consultants to undertake the following: (1) Development of the Transboundary | TORs advertisement put on hold, project constituted an advisory technical team to support finalisation of the | | | | | | | |

| Progress on Implementation of Activities (based on agreed workplan) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|-------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Annual Target | Main Activity | Target | Progress against planned activities and targets | Planned Completion Date | Implementation Status (Completed, Ongoing-On Track, Ongoing-Off Track & Cancelled) | Reason (s) for slippage (if progress and implementation is not on track) and remedial measures taken | Budget & Expenditure Monitoring Framework | | | |
| | | | | | | | Budget (US\$) | Expenditure (US\$) | Budget Remaining | Delivery (%) |
| | | Environmental and Social Assessment Guidelines | TORs | | | | | | | |
| Output 1.5 ORASECOM's capacity on communication, knowledge management, south-south cooperation enhanced | Strengthen learning, knowledge and technical exchange among member states | Produce Communication materials Local staff cost Support to ORASECOM internet service | Ccommunication Specialist ORASECOM internet service maintained | March 31 | Ongoing-on track | | 84 147 | 1 872 | 82 275 | 2.2% |
| 2.2 Point Source pollution in Lower Mohokare Catchment reduced and improved industry standards implemented | 2.2.1 Point sources of pollution in the Lower Mohokare Sub-Catchment located and mapped | Conclude Baseline Assessment of the sources of pollution on the Mohokare river catchment in Lesotho and South Africa | The validation of baseline report was held, inputs are being incorporated. | March 31 | On-going – Off track | Due to COVID - 19, the constitution of consultant team being re-assessed, | 383 950 | 83 906 | 300 044 | 22% |

| Progress on Implementation of Activities (based on agreed workplan) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Annual Target | Main Activity | Target | Progress against planned activities and targets | Planned Completion Date | Implementation Status (Completed, Ongoing-On Track, Ongoing-Off Track & Cancelled) | Reason (s) for slippage (if progress and implementation is not on track) and remedial measures taken | Budget & Expenditure Monitoring Framework | | | |
| | | | | | | | Budget (US\$) | Expenditure (US\$) | Budget Remaining | Delivery (%) |
| | | Initiate setting up a Water Quality Monitoring system along the Mohokare River in Lesotho | The consultancy was advertised, widely circulated through the ORASECOM website, mailing list and major newspapers in all four countries | | | | | | | |
| 2.3 Quantity and quality of groundwater resources determined, and low-cost groundwater desalination plants piloted in Botswana | 2.3.2 select pilot demonstration sites | Finalise and handover 2 desalination plants in Botswana | Finalisation of construction of the desalination plants was completed. It was affected by shortages of reticulation pipes, solar batteries and borehole pumps. | March 31 | Ongoing-delayed | COVID – 19 restrictions affecting availability of equipment The consultant contract was extended to end of May. | 658 729 | 5 159 | 658 729 | 0% |

| Progress on Implementation of Activities (based on agreed workplan) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|-------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Annual Target | Main Activity | Target | Progress against planned activities and targets | Planned Completion Date | Implementation Status (Completed, Ongoing-On Track, Ongoing-Off Track & Cancelled) | Reason (s) for slippage (if progress and implementation is not on track) and remedial measures taken | Budget & Expenditure Monitoring Framework | | | |
| | | | | | | | Budget (US\$) | Expenditure (US\$) | Budget Remaining | Delivery (%) |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Undertake baseline Consultancy in the project area in Botswana through MOU with the World Bank Project being developed by Department of Water | Procure a consultant for Groundwater Assessment of the Molopo Sub-basin | Contract has been awarded and consultant has started work. A kick-off meeting was with Dept of Water and Sanitation and the World Bank Saline Water project to define activities and mandates. This is meant to avoid duplication of activities and build | | | | | | | |

| Progress on Implementation of Activities (based on agreed workplan) | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|-------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Annual Target | Main Activity | Target | Progress against planned activities and targets | Planned Completion Date | Implementation Status (Completed, Ongoing-On Track, Ongoing-Off Track & Cancelled) | Reason (s) for slippage (if progress and implementation is not on track) and remedial measures taken | Budget & Expenditure Monitoring Framework | | | |
| | | | | | | | Budget (US\$) | Expenditure (US\$) | Budget Remaining | Delivery (%) |
| | Affairs | | complementarity between the 2 projects | | | | | | | |
| Output 3.1 Basin-wide environmental Flows regime agreed and implementation supported | Facilitate a discussion on Environmental flows among member states | | TORS will be finalised with support of technical teams from the four countries | TBA | On going-off track | COVID-19 travel restrictions | 44 250 | 0 | 44 250 | 0 |
| Output 3.2 Critical ecosystem of the Orange – Senqu River Mouth rehabilitated and sustainably managed | 3.2.1 Natural flood plain functions restored and marked improvement in estuarine habitat condition achieved | Establishment of a Framework for the Implementation of the Estuary Management Plan for South Africa and River Mouth rehabilitation in South and Namibia | The consultancy to implement activities to rehabilitate the river mouth was advertised, widely circulated through the ORASECOM website, mailing list and major newspapers in all four countries. | TBA | Ongoing | COVID -19 | 631 533 | 142 900 | 488 633 | 23% |

| Progress on Implementation of Activities (based on agreed workplan) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|--|--|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Annual Target | Main Activity | Target | Progress against planned activities and targets | Planned Completion Date | Implementation Status (Completed, Ongoing-On Track, Ongoing-Off Track & Cancelled) | Reason (s) for slippage (if progress and implementation is not on track) and remedial measures taken | Budget & Expenditure Monitoring Framework | | | |
| | | | | | | | Budget (US\$) | Expenditure (US\$) | Budget Remaining | Delivery (%) |
| 4.1 Invasive Species controlled through integrated management in pilot areas in the Orange – Fish River basin and livelihood options based on invasive species control developed | 4.1.1. Distribution and abundance of invasive species in the basin determined and mapped | To conclude the procurement of the Consultant to facilitate the economic analysis to help set up the Sustainable Management and Control of Alien Invasive Species Prosopis in Namibia To procure the Consultant to design of the Control of Prosopis programme | Both consultants were procured and have started work. inception reports were submitted and approved. Site selection by the 2 teams has been undertaken and report is being considered. | March 31 March 31 | Completed Completed | | 631 508 | 33 600 | 597 908 | 5.3% |
| Output 5 PMC coordination, PCU Staff, management and evaluation | Direct Project Costs | Office running telecommunications | | | ongoing | | 93 067 | 1 104 | 91 963 | 0% |
| Total (USD) | | | | | | | 3 835 569 | 294 017 | 3 546 747 | 8% |

5. Progress Towards Project Outcomes

Outcome 1.1: ORASECOM's capacity to develop innovative financing schemes strengthened.

The project finalised the Terms of Reference and advertised to procure consultants to undertake preliminary research to support the following: (1) Design Private Public Partnership in water demand management (2) Design a Payment for Ecosystem Service under the auspices of ORASECOM. The consultancies were advertised and widely circulated through the ORASECOM website, mailing list and major newspapers in all four countries.

The project also held discussions with the Strategic Water Partners' Network (SPWN) and BloemWater, GWPSA and the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority in efforts to rally partners around the development of financing schemes for improved water resources management in the Orange river basin.

Outcome 1.2: ORASECOM's joint basin planning capacity strengthened through improved data and information management and basin management support systems.

Ad-hoc committees have been identified as necessary to facilitate the implementation of specialised elements of the project. The UNDP-GEF project has therefore approached the leaders of Delegations nominate staff to work on water resources modelling; Transboundary Environmental and Social Assessment Guidelines and e-flows agreements.

Plans to facilitate a knowledge sharing seminar on water resources modelling and discussions on updating and using WIS information were still affected by the COVID-19 restrictions, as they are best conducted in physical meetings. They will be carried over into the coming months.

Outcome 1.4: Transboundary Environmental and Social Assessment Guidelines endorsed by Basin States.

The Environmental Safeguards assessment will be conducted in Botswana and Namibia in the next quarter- covid restrictions allowing. Meanwhile preparatory work is being done virtually. It is a requirement for all UNDP projects to undertake this assessment at all sites where the project intervention will affect the local communities. This is meant to identify the possible social and environmental impacts and design mitigation measures.

Outcome 1.5: ORASECOM's capacity on communication, knowledge management, south south cooperation enhanced.

The new ORASECOM website will be made live after work on upgrading ORASECOM server capacities is completed. Many initiatives to promote south to south cooperation remain suspended due to COVID-19.

Outcome 2.1: Basin-wide water resources quality monitoring system established:

The evaluation of the Joint Basin Survey 3 tenders was completed, and the consultant identified. Negotiations are in process to finalise the contract and budget. Thereafter, procurement of equipment and tools to support the JBS 3 will begin.

Outcome 2.2: Point source pollution in Lower Mohokare Catchment reduced and improved industry standards implemented.

The baseline study was completed and the validation meeting conducted. The inputs from the meeting are being incorporated to finalise the report. The consultancy to move ahead with preparing guidelines for strengthening pollution control along the Mohokare River were advertised and the bids will be evaluated in the next quarter.

Outcome 2.3: Quantity and quality of groundwater resources determined, and low-cost groundwater desalination plants piloted in Botswana.

The contract to conduct a groundwater assessment of the Molopo sub-basin which stretches from Tsabong to Bokspits in Kgalagadi South, has been awarded and consultant has started work. A kick-off meeting was with Department of Water and Sanitation and the World Bank Saline Water project to define activities and mandates. This is meant to avoid duplication of activities and build complementarity between the two projects.

The desalination plants were installed and are operational. The work was however, affected by COVID-19 related shortages of reticulation pipes, solar batteries, and borehole pumps. The objective of this outcome is to pilot low-cost desalination plant(s) and demonstrate its feasibility and sustainability as a measure to promote more groundwater utilization by communities in the Kgalagadi District to improve their livelihoods in the face of climate change.

Outcome 3.1: Basin wide environmental flows regime agreed and implementation supported

Work on the e-flows is one of the specialised elements of the project work that will be directed through ad-hoc committees once the staff have been identified through the Leaders of Delegations of the four countries.

Outcome 3.2: Critical ecosystem of the Orange-Senqu River Mouth rehabilitated and sustainably managed.

As follow-up to the baseline study a consultancy on implementation of activities to rehabilitate the Orange-Senqu river mouth was advertised and will close early in the next quarter. The objective of this outcome is to rehabilitate the South African section of the Orange–Senqu River mouth (Ramsar site) which was placed on the Montreux Record in 1995 following the severe degradation of the salt marsh habitat, a particularly important area for migratory birds. The Namibian side of the river mouth is still in a pristine condition and has the Ramsar classification. However, it is also threatened by upstream activities such as agricultures (nutrients), alien invasive species and the opening up of the site to the general public as it is no longer under the mining restricted area.

Outcome 4.1: Improved land productivity and improved living conditions through community-based sustainable land management

Two consultants to facilitate (1) an analysis of economic opportunities from harvesting Prosopis and (2) design of a sustainable programme for the management and control of the Prosopis in Namibia

were procured and have started work. Inception reports were submitted, reviewed and validated. A combined site selection visit by the two teams has been undertaken and report is being finalised.

The Namibia demonstration project focuses on the integrated management of the Alien Invasive Species *Prosopis* and is largely based on the lessons learnt from the success of the South African Working for Water Programme. The demonstration project involves the clearing of 50 000 hectares of *Prosopis* and the follow up treatment of “cleared” areas which will then be revegetated using indigenous plants. In order to ensure that the project is sustainable, the project is being coupled with a range of livelihood enhancement activities.

6. Challenges

The main challenge of this quarter remains the COVID – 19 pandemic related restrictions on travel and gatherings, as well as shortages of essential equipment. The mitigation measures that have been identified are beginning to have an impact but will depend on the sustained relaxation of the restrictions. There is hope that it will be possible within COVID 19 restrictions to travel in the Second Quarter of 2021

PICTURES FROM THE FIELD



Picture 1: The desalination plant



Picture 2: The UNDP/GEF project team inspecting the desalination plant en-route to Botswana.

Picture 3: The desalination plant is off loaded in Struzendam





Picture 4: The evaporation pond that serves the desalination plant



Picture 5: The meeting at **Bloemwater** boardroom on Private Public Partnerships in March 2021



Picture 6: The Lesotho baseline report validation meeting in Bloemfontein, March 2021

UNDP GEF ORASECOM SAP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT SECOND QUARTER WORKPLAN 2021

| COMPONENT | OUTCOME | NAME OF ACTIVITY |
|---|--|---|
| Component 1: To contribute to the enhanced transboundary basin planning and joint management of the basin. | Outcome 1.1: ORASECOM's capacity to develop innovative financing schemes strengthened. | 1.To Select the Consultants facilitating Private Public Partnerships as well as Paying for Ecosystem Services. 2. Initiate the PES and PPP activities |
| | Outcome 1.2: ORASECOM's joint basin planning capacity strengthened through improved data and information management and basin management support systems. | 1. Conclude the Terms of Reference on Water resources modelling |
| | Outcome 1.4: Transboundary Environmental and Social Assessment Guidelines endorsed by Basin States. | 1.To Select the Consultants facilitating discussion Transboundary Environmental and Social Assessment Guidelines endorsed by Basin States. 2. Initiate Transboundary Environmental and Social Assessment Guidelines endorsed by Basin States activities. |
| | Outcome 1.5: ORASECOM's capacity on communication, knowledge management, south-south cooperation enhanced. | 1. Produce communication materials for cooperation with Benguela Current Commission 2. Work on the ORASECOM Website |
| Component 2: Addressing the deteriorated quality of water | Outcome 2.1 Basin-wide water resources quality | 1.To Select the Consultants facilitating the Joint Basin Surveys. |

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| resources | monitoring system established | 2. Initiate preparatory work for the Joint Basin Survey |
| | Outcome 2.2: Point source pollution in Lower Mohokare Catchment reduced and improved industry standards implemented. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete the Baseline Consultancy on the Lower Mohokare 2. Initiate discussions on the way forward with design of the Mohokare catchment management work |
| | Outcome 2.3: Quantity and quality of groundwater resources determined, and low-cost groundwater desalination plants piloted in Botswana. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.To Select the Consultants overseeing/managing the Groundwater desalination plants 2. Officially launch the deslination plants 3. Initiate social economic activities at the desalination sites |
| Component 3: Addressing Changes to the Hydrological Regime through the application of the “Source-to-Sea concept”. | Outcome 3.1: Outcome 3.1: Basin wide environmental Flows regime agreed and implementation supported. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.To Select the Consultants facilitate environmental flow discussions 2. Initiate the environmental flow discussions among ORASECOM state parties |
| | Outcome 3.2: Critical ecosystem of the Orange-Senqu River Mouth rehabilitated and sustainably managed. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.To Select the Consultants to undertake rehabilitation works at the River Mouth 2. Initiate the rehabilitation works at the River mouth 3.Support discussions on cooperation in managing the River mouth between South Africa and Namibia |

| | | |
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| <p>Component4: Improved land productivity and improved living conditions through community-based sustainable land management.</p> | <p>OUTCOME 4.1: Invasive species controlled through integrated management in pilot areas in the Orange–Fish River basin and livelihood options based on invasive species control developed.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the Consultancy on economical valuations of Prosopis control 2. Support the Consultancy on design of Prosopis control |
|--|--|---|