



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2021 – Revised Template



Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Africa
Country (ies):	Central African Republic
Project Title:	FLR in Supporting Landscape and Livelihoods Resilience in CAR (FSP)
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP /CAF/002/GFF
GEF ID:	9514
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity: BD-4 Program 9 Land Degradation: LD-2 Program 3 ; LD-3 Program 4 Sustainable Forest Management: SFM-3 Programs 7 & 8; SFM-4 Programs 9 & 10
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD)
Project Duration:	5 years
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	<i>This section should be completed by: -Projects with 1st PIR -Projects could re-submit the coordinates if they have changed, or if the PMU now has more updated coordinates</i> <i>Bayanga ville : 2.901680 N, 16.270281 E</i> <i>Domaine de Boutili : 4.693157 N, 18.240697 E</i> <i>FC Boyama : 4.044198 N, 18.207736 E</i> <i>Boyali village : 4.0791 N, 18.2218 E</i> <i>Bombé village : 4.0923 N, 18.2352 E</i> <i>Pissa 2 village : 4.0435 N, 18.3631 E</i> <i>Bongombé village : 4,0374 N, 18.1110 E</i> <i>3 fichiers</i> <i>FC Boyama2.kmz,</i> <i>Domaine de Boutili.kmz</i> <i>Bayanga ville.kmz</i> <i>importés dans le drive GEF Project Location Files > GCP/CAF/002/GFF</i>

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	August 7, 2018
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	January 1, 2019
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE1:	December 31, 2023

1 As per FPMIS

Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	
Actual Implementation End Date³:	

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	US\$ 5,961,638
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	US\$ 10.4 million
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	US 1,379,114
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	US\$ 9.15 million

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	January 29,2020
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	
Actual Mid-term review date:	
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	Yes
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	No
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes, core indicators GEF 7

² In case of a project extension.

³ Actual date at which project implementation ends - only for projects that have ended.

⁴ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document..

⁵ Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here. *i*

⁶ The MTR should take place about halfpoint between EOD and NTE – this is the expected date

⁷ Please note that the FAO GEF Coordination Unit should be contacted six months prior to the expected MTR date

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

Ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	S
Overall implementation progress rating:	MS
Overall risk rating:	M

Status

Implementation Status <i>(1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):</i>	2nd PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
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2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of Indicator(s)	Baseline level	Mid-term target	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2020	Progress rating
Global Environmental Objective: Biodiversity conservation, protection of climate and other ecosystem services through restoration of critical landscapes in the CAR and complementary SLM						
Program Development Objective: Poverty reduction, strengthened food security, and human well-being and livelihoods enhanced in the CAR through restoration of critical landscapes and complementary SLM.						
Outcome 1.1) Increased national and sub-national commitment to forest and landscape restoration;	1.1) New/additional Bonn Challenge commitments from TRI countries.	1.1) 3.5 million ha of current pledge to Bonn Challenge by the CAR		1.1) 1,2 million ha of deforested and degraded land newly committed to restoration by the CAR, in support of the Bonn Challenge. [CAR aims to improve, through landscape restoration and maintenance actions, 15% of the 8.2 M ha of degraded land, i.e. 1.2 M ha by 2030 (cf. MESD, 2017, CAR's commitment to implement land degradation neutrality by 2030, August 2017, 11p).]	<p>The following commitments had been made prior to the start of the TRI project in January 2019:</p> <p>(i) CAR had subscribed to a 14-country declaration in support of the Bonn Challenge in July 2016;</p> <p>(ii) CAR's commitment had been re-specified in a High-Level Policy Note on Land Degradation Neutrality (LND) measures, accompanied by a Preface signed by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, in August 2017.</p> <p>Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)The CAR government has joined the process of defining voluntary targets for land degradation neutrality</p> <p>An inventory of land degradation has been established, presenting a baseline situation in 2010 and showing a global area of 8.2 million ha of degraded land over the period 2000-2010.</p> <p>The targets and measures defined to reverse the trends are consistent with the national political priorities set out in the strategic documents, starting with the framework of the recovery and peacebuilding strategy (RCPCA), which includes three strategic intervention areas, the third of which is "transforming the economy and ensuring sustainable management of the environment".</p> <p>The national target is to restore 1.2 million ha, i.e. 15% of the overall degraded area and is broken down into specific targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restore 50% of the vegetation cover (i.e. 19,384 ha) by 2030 compared to 2010; - By 2030, reduce by 50% the loss of land productivity and improve by 25% the rate of biomass throughout the national territory compared to 2010; - By 2030, increase by 10% the rate of organic carbon in the soil and reduce by 5% the GHG emissions projected in the CPDN; - Restore 20% of the degraded mining surfaces at the national level by 2030 compared to 2010; 	S

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce by half the destruction of vegetation cover by transhumant livestock by 2030 compared to 2010; - Reduce by at least 50% the conversion of forest galleries into agricultural land compared to 2010. 	
<p>Outcome 1.2) National and sub-national policy and regulatory frameworks are increasingly supportive of restoration, sustainable land management, maintenance and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest and other land uses, and reduced emissions from LULUCF and agriculture.</p>	<p>1.2) Number of new or improved policies and regulatory frameworks adopted that support forest and landscape restoration⁹</p>	<p>1.2) Existing policies and regulatory frameworks with certain gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Knowledge gap for ecosystem valuation (ii) Knowledge gap for restoration opportunities (iii) No Land Planning Scheme at any level (national / regional / prefectural / communal) (iv) Poor knowledge and consideration of wood energy in the energy and forest policies (v) No forest policy as such and on-going elaboration of a forest policy statement 		<p>1.2) Key policies and regulatory frameworks strengthened (scale 1 to 4: 1=Above expectations, 2=On target, 3=Below expectations, 4=Completed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Improved knowledge: (agro)biodiversity, soil fertility, C storage, C/B of ecosystem services (ii) ROAM study (iii) South-Western Land Planning Scheme (iv) Upgraded WISDOM Platform / Strat. for (peri)urban forests in Bangui (v) Fine-tuned forest policy statement developing new concepts, incl. FRL (vi) Upgraded SNPA-DB, including FLR concerns 1.2.2) 2,000 women and men providing input to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prior to the launch of the process of developing a land use plan for the Southwest region, which the TRI Project will support, a literature review of the local development plans (LDP) of the forest communities, which have already been validated (7 out of 21), as well as the national REDD+ investment framework, was conducted. It should be noted that some LDPs mention expressions of interest by village communities to engage in agroforestry and reforestation activities on their land. - The decentralization process has progressed with Law 20/008 of April 7, 2020, on the organization and functioning of territorial communities, which potentially opens up new perspectives in the consideration of FLR concerns. - A Letter of Agreement was signed in March 2021 between the FAO and CIRAD to develop a master document for the management of wood energy resources in the Bangui/Bimbo supply basin. - The Ministry in charge of forests had submitted to the legislator in 2020 a draft law on the orientation of the forestry policy, already finalized in January 2019, at the time of the workshop to launch the TRI project. The National Assembly referred the file to the Government, indicating that, in its view, a sectoral policy statement was not within the scope of the law. However, the improvement of the texts governing the forestry sector remains a topical issue: for example, the concepts of assisted natural regeneration, forest and landscape restoration and agroforestry should be introduced, as well as provisions for the establishment and management of community forests. - As part of the refinement of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and due to the general lack of recent inventory data, the project team in conjunction with the global TRI program and IUCN provided initial support to conduct a Threat Reduction and Species Recovery (STAR) assessment for the TRI CAR project sites, based on available data. A more detailed assessment should be conducted based on existing biological inventory data collected from PDRSO and WWF and shared with IUCN experts. <p>In addition, the team had also established links with WWF and the World Bank to promote synergies and possibly conduct rapid assessments in the national park and the Mbaéré-Bodingué ecological corridor with the DSPA¹⁰.</p>	S

⁹ Indicator 1 as reworded during the Orientation Webinar - Results Framework on April 8, 2021

¹⁰ The Project Document noted a lack of both quantitative and geographical data on biodiversity and agrobiodiversity and, in practice, only a few species lists established at the national level. It was pointed out that the SNPA-DB document covering the previous period 2005-2015 had already recommended that comprehensive fauna and flora inventories should be carried out, which has not yet been undertaken to date.

In the AWPB July 2019-June 2020, it was proposed to have "Rapid Assessment Programs" (RAPs) carried out on sites of a priori interest in terms of biodiversity conservation, namely: Bayanga and

		(vi) Outdated SNPA-DB, not mentioning FLR concerns		policy planning	Finally, it should be noted that the FAO had initially considered partnering with the AFD to provide the Government with support in negotiating the Letter of Intent (LoI) with CAFI. In the end, the FAO preferred to let the AFD lead the process on its own and limit itself to participating in the discussions within the framework of an ad hoc technical committee.	
Outcome 2) Integrated landscape management practices and restoration plans implemented by government, private sector and local community					<p><u>Framing elements</u></p> <p>The principle of "no regrets" has been applied to projects¹¹ and the approach¹² redefined to identify perimeters and implement FLR activities on the ground.</p> <p>The PMU was able to undertake field missions from April 2021 to identify potential restoration perimeters based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A compilation of local development plans from the 7 forestry communes in the southwestern region of CAR that already have them; while these planning documents generally focused on the education and health sectors, some of them also mentioned a strong interest of village communities in FLR activities (reforestation, agroforestry). - An analysis of geospatial data, undertaken with technical support from the FAO 	MS

Berberati, or even Mbaïki. An initial allocation of USD 50,000 was included, although not foreseen in the Document Project.

On the advice of the LTO and CTO, the PMU contacted IUCN colleagues to request additional technical and financial support from them.

IUCN colleagues responded: (i) that they were carrying out the Species Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) assessment for TRI CAR project sites; (ii) that one of their teams would carry out a survey of past and ongoing inventory work in the TRI project area, namely the south-western CAR region.

In the meantime, the PMU had already carried out this inventory with colleagues working on similar projects: WWF, in charge of space management of the Dzanga-Sangha protected areas (DSPA); PDRSO, in charge of management inventories of forest concessions (cf. in section 3 of the PIR, output 1.2.4.). This information was communicated to IUCN colleagues for their appreciation.

In addition, the PMU exchanged with colleagues from the World Bank, in charge of the instruction of an extension of the Natural Resources Governance Project in CAR (NRGP) subject to additional funding from the GEF for the integrated management of natural resources of the Mbaéré-Bodingué National Park (MBNP) and the ecological corridor with the DSPA. They were faced with the same problem of lack of data and programmed the carrying out of biological inventories in their Project Appraisal Document.

Therefore, it is proposed to seek synergies to extend the inventories within the ecological corridor linking the MBNP and the DSPA in complementarity with the activities planned by the World Bank, i.e. transects in the MBNP and its buffer zone, and by pooling methods and efforts.

¹¹ The principle of "no regrets" projects was adopted at the Steering committee meeting of January 29, 2020; it was reaffirmed at the Task Force meeting of February 1, 2021. "No regrets" actions refer to actions to be carried out with quality partners and the virtual certainty of not having to make a mistake about the action, the area and the operator, while keeping the focus on a solid analysis of the FLR perimeters.

¹² The approach to identifying scopes and implementing proposed FLR activities in the field thus includes the following main steps:

- Pre-identification of future FLR perimeters, based on: 1.a) compilation of field information from already established stakeholders (LDP analysis is part of this); 1.b) analysis of geospatial data to identify recent areas of forest degradation;
- A full phase of information, consultation and consent gathering of local stakeholders (decentralized administrative authorities, local authorities, local and indigenous communities);
- Carrying out demo-land surveys: 2.a) to specify with the interested communities the nature of the future FLR and IGA activities to be carried out; 2.b) to identify precisely the location as well as the individual or collective customary owners concerned.
- Putting together a complete file (technical, legal, economic and financial, organizational, etc.) of the FLR and IGA project for submission to the TRI Steering Committee.

actors, both men and women					Forestry Department, highlighting the most recent and most active forest degradation fronts in the periphery of the villages concerned. The first expected results, presented below, concern: six villages in the commune of Pissa ¹³ , located on the Bangui-Mbaiki road axis; the outskirts of Bayanga with the WWF, manager of the Dzanga Sangha protected areas.	
	2.1) Area (ha) of land under restoration ¹⁴	2.1) 37 ha/year of reforestation at national level from 2001 to 2015 [134 ha/year from 2001 to 2015, and 27.5% of reforestation in the South-West, according to BONANNEE (2001) and CAS-DF (2015)]		2.1) 3,221 ha under restoration in the landscape, stratified by land management practices and actors such as communities, farmers, private enterprises, etc., and progress on restoration (<i>Index of Restoration Progress</i> , 1-5) 2,665 ha of avoided deforestation, and 22,232 ha under improved land management practices.	<u>Area of land under restoration (in reference to indicator 2 presented during the orientation webinar - results framework of April 8, 2021)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns the territory of six villages originating from the core village of Pissa and located in its peripheral zone along the Bangui-Mbaiki road axis: Boyali 1, Boyama 2 and Bombé in its eastern part, covering approximately 300 ha; Pissa 2, Bongombé 1 and 2 in its western part, also covering several hundred ha. <p>At this stage, field missions have been carried out with the communities of the 6 villages to determine, in close consultation with the communities, under what conditions and on which plots to implement reforestation, agroforestry, and assisted natural regeneration activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2019, the WWF¹⁵ has initiated reforestation activities in the outskirts of Bayanga using local species with the indigenous populations. <p>The PMU has established an initial analysis of available geospatial data covering the Bayanga belt and the sections that connect it to Mona-Sao in the north and Lidjombo in the south, in order to locate the most active recent degradation fronts.</p> <p>On this basis, WWF and the PMU have begun preparing a draft LoA related to WWF's implementation of a FLR perimeter.</p>	MS
	Carbon sequestered (tCO2eq) or emissions avoided in the agriculture, forestry and			In total, 3,185,597 tCO2eq avoided emissions / removals in TRI target landscapes as a direct result of TRI interventions.	At this stage, restoration activities have not physically begun, and the quantities of carbon sequestered are not yet effective, except for a few thousand tCO2eq corresponding to the first hectares of teak and acacia planted under the Centraforest Initiative in 2020 and 2021. However, these cannot be credited to the TRI project, as a contribution has not yet been made (see 3.4 bankable restoration projects). When this is the case, it will be necessary to specify the quantities sequestered corresponding to the storage in plantations and the avoided deforestation.	

¹³ The PMU selected the commune of Pissa, which combines the following advantages: (i) Pissa has a local development plan (LDP) approved by the authorities in February 2019; (ii) several village communities have expressed interest in implementing reforestation and agroforestry activities on their lands; (iii) initial analyses of geospatial data show recent and significant degradation fronts in the periphery near the center of the city's agglomeration, crossed by the Bangui-Mbaiki axis.

¹⁴ Indicator 2 as reworded during the Orientation Webinar - Results Framework on April 8, 2021

¹⁵ WWF has expressed interest in the PMU's approach of predetermining FLR perimeters based on an analysis of geospatial data. WWF is the officially mandated manager of the SDPAs and its field teams have a very good knowledge of the environment and local communities.

	other land use sectors ¹⁶					
	2.2) Area (ha) of landscape under improved practices (excluding protected areas) ¹⁷			2.2) 2,665 ha where deforestation is prevented through direct project activities	<p><u>Area of landscape under improved practices / Area of landscape under improved practices for biodiversity (with reference to indicator 3 presented during the orientation webinar - results framework of April 8, 2021): approximately 6,000 ha</u></p> <p>Concerns the Boyama 2 community forest project, located on the outskirts of the town of Pissa, which could constitute a FLR perimeter if it had a simple management plan developed in consultation with the village communities concerned.</p> <p>During the first field mission in April 2021, the Pissa authorities presented a map drawn by the village communities of the Boyama 2 community forest project, which covers an area of nearly 6,000 ha.</p> <p>The field missions made it possible to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect the consent of the communities of the 3 villages: Boyali 1, Boyama 2 and Bombé, whose territories make up the area they wish to see allocated to their community forest project. - Identify, within this large area of 6,000 h, the parts that could be more specifically allocated to reforestation, agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration operations. <p>At this stage, the communities of the three villages concerned, Boyali 1, Bombé and Boyama 2, have given their consent. The demo-land surveys have been carried out, the boundary surveys have been completed and the cartographic products have been developed, all in a participatory manner.</p> <p>The main task to be accomplished in the field so that the PMU can complete the complete FLR project is to conduct a multi-resource inventory with the communities.</p>	S
	2.3) Number of direct beneficiaries by gender as co-beneficiaries of GEF investment ¹⁸	2.2) Nil		2.3) 6,000 direct beneficiaries of capacity building, trainings, equipment, jobs, revenue and income, products such as sustainably harvested timber, NTFP, etc. to be engaged in restoration activities	<p>The field missions carried out with the communities of the 6 villages Boyali 1, Boyama 2 and Bombé, Pissa 2, Bongombé 1 and 2, allowed to clarify the institutional framework of the community forest in CAR, the objective and the framework of intervention of the TRI project with regard to the FLR and IGA activities.</p> <p>The population of the 6 villages is 2,649 persons.</p>	S

¹⁶ Indicator 4 as reworded during the Orientation Webinar - Results Framework on April 8, 2021

¹⁷ Indicator 3 as reworded during the Orientation Webinar - Results Framework on April 8, 2021

¹⁸ Indicator 5 as reworded during the Orientation Webinar - Results Framework on April 8, 2021

Outcome 3) Strengthened institutional capacities and financing arrangements in place to allow for and facilitate large-scale restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes and diverse ecosystem services in the CAR.	3.1) Number of cross-agency mechanisms and/or frameworks established and maintained to strengthen and facilitate coordinated national and sub-national action on restoration ¹⁹ .	3.1) Little to no coordination of actions on restoration		3.1) National Coordination mechanism on FLR (the overall coordinating framework on FLR)	<p>To our knowledge, there has been no recent coordination meeting at the national or regional level.</p> <p>Over the recent period, the mobilization of partners has been done through the communication of documents for advice and comments (PTAB, PIR of the TRI project, FIP of the FPMA project, etc.).</p> <p>Efforts have been made to encourage MEDD and MEFCP partners to participate in field missions to Pissa.</p>	S
	3.2) Establishment / functioning of field-level support entities (i.e. nurseries, restoration value chain businesses, etc.); number of TRI-supported trainings, workshops, and capacity-building/learning events; demonstrated increase in knowledge and capacity to plan for and manage restoration.	3.2) Little to no field-level capacities in terms of FLR and agro-ecology		3.2) Capacity-building needs assessment carried out and ad hoc capacity-building actions implemented for (i) MESD, MWFHF and MARD (esp. Field officers), (ii) Targeted local populations, (iii) Academic institutions (ICRA and ISDR), in the following areas: FLR, agro-ecology, IGAs, structuration-strengthening of associations-farmers' groups, CEOF and Ex-Act tool, etc.	<p>A capacity building needs assessment, conducted in July-August 2019 and involving key stakeholders in the implementation of FLR actions, had resulted in the production of roadmap drafts by category of actors (administrative services, NGOs and local populations). A survey on the status of tree seed supply systems was conducted by Bioversity with a panel of stakeholder representatives.</p> <p>Given the approach adopted for the identification of plots and the implementation of FLR projects on the ground, based on LDP analyses and geospatial data, the emphasis is also placed: at the level of the communes concerned (starting with Pissa) on the training of project monitoring personnel within the communal management teams; and with the beneficiary village communities, on the technical capacities related to reforestation, agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration activities.</p> <p>Capacity building is to be considered at two levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the management teams of the forest communes, like Pissa, will see the scope of their LDPs expand and will have to become involved in the management and monitoring of FLR and IGA activities - Beneficiary communities need information on the TRI project and the institutional framework of community forests and, on a case-by-case basis, support for the implementation of FLR and IGA activities. <p>The PMU has already undertaken these capacity building actions in the framework of its field missions.</p> <p>The local coordinators designated by their respective ministries to supervise the field agents had initially joined the technical working group to be trained in the use of the Collect Erath Open Foris (CEOOF) tool and to carry out geospatial data analysis work; they are currently participating in the field missions for the determination of the FLR perimeters and will supervise the implementation of the operations as they start.</p>	MS

¹⁹ Indicator 6 as reworded during the Orientation Webinar - Results Framework on April 8, 2021

					Discussions had been initiated with ICRA and ISDR to build their capacity in FPR and agro-ecology with general support from CIRAD. CIRAD recently indicated that it would not provide this capacity building service to the two institutes, given the workload of the experts who could have been assigned. The PMU, in consultation with the CTO and LTO, has initiated contacts with other research and development centers that may be interested.	
	3.3) Value of resources (public, private, development partners) allocated to restoration in CAR ²⁰	3.3) None [South-West Regional Development Project (PDRSO) recently started with marginal funds for micro-projects in terms of restoration; Natural Resources Governance Project (NRGP) and Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) not yet started]		3.3) by the end of the Project, 7 million US\$ of additional funding (in addition to TRI CAR Project) flowing into restoration and complementary SLM initiatives from diverse sources and innovative mechanisms	3 bankable restoration projects (see below) In addition, the FAO is providing support, within the framework of the "Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP)", to the process of preparing the next National Contribution. In particular, this involves carrying out geospatial data analysis and mapping work on a broader range of themes than that of the FLR and on a geographical area extended to the whole of CAR.	HS
	3.4) Number of "bankable" restoration projects developed and submitted (per scorecard matrix) ²¹	3.4) Nil		3.4) Two bankable restoration projects developed (one with external private funding, one with external public funding) as well as a study on domestic channeling and	3 bankable restoration projects: - The Centraforest agroforestry plantation project (1.5 billion FCFA over 25 years) - The adaptation project presented to the LDCF (8.9 M USD from GEF + 30 M USD in co-financing over 5 years) - The multi-purpose, multi-actor plantation project initiated by the IFRC (3-year pilot phase, with budget estimates in progress, objective of planting 5 million trees) <u>The Centraforest Initiative²²</u>	HS

²⁰ Indicator 7 as reworded during the Orientation Webinar - Results Framework on April 8, 2021

²¹ Indicator 8 as reworded during the Orientation Webinar - Results Framework on April 8, 2021

²² Centraforest, a private investor, has entered into a partnership agreement with the Ministry in charge of forests and is committed to the implementation of an agroforestry project that could benefit from IRR support. The project includes 1,200 ha of agroforestry plantations, including 200 ha of village plots for the production of energy wood and food crops; it is located about 50 km northwest of Bangui.

			<p>disbursement of forest taxes and others</p>	<p>This is an agroforestry project launched within the framework of a public-private partnership between the Ministry of Forestry and the private operator, the project promoter.</p> <p>The project is located about 50 km northwest of Bangui. The planned investment is 1.5 billion CFA francs over the total duration of the project (25 years).</p> <p>In 2020, Centraforest planted 33 ha of <i>Tectona grandis</i> and 33 ha of <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>.</p> <p>An independent international consultant has been hired by the TRI project to analyze and size its possible contribution to the Centraforest initiative. Proposals will be developed and analyzed for feasibility, taking into account FAO's procedural constraints and Centraforest's status as a private operator.</p> <p>In addition, the PMU is examining the possibilities of promoting the establishment of agroforestry plantations in nearby village communities.</p> <p><u>The adaptation project presented to the LDCF</u></p> <p>At the request of the Ministry of Environment, FAO prepared and submitted an Adaptation Project Identification Form (PIF) to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for an amount of US\$10 million.</p> <p>The project is entitled: "Strengthening Community Adaptive Capacity through Scaling Up Integrated Landscape Management and Restoration in the Southwest and Southeast Regions of the Central African Republic".</p> <p>The PIF was included in the work program approved in June 2021 by the GEF Council, along with the corresponding project preparation grant application.</p> <p><u>The IFRC-initiated multi-use, multi-actor plantation project</u></p> <p>A concept note for a "Multi-use, multi-actor tree planting project in CAR / launch of two pilot operations in the prefectures of Lobaye in the forest zone and Kemo in the savannah zone" was prepared by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) with the assistance of the PMU of the TRI project.</p> <p>The IFRC is planning an initial three-year pilot phase, focusing on two prefectures, with the goal of planting five million trees.</p> <p>The IFRC presented the memo to the Minister of Forestry; it has an efficient fund-raising service and has already mobilized funds to finance this project. It plans to develop a project document with the support of FAO.</p>	
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This project will produce positive effects, both in terms of restoration (1,200 ha of agroforestry plantations) and in terms of avoided deforestation (of part of the degraded fallow land held by the households concerned).

This Centraforest project near Bangui has several advantages: (i) the production of renewable wood energy will induce additional avoided deforestation/forest degradation, insofar as it will supply the local market and thus replace a resource that has until now been extracted from natural forest formations; (ii) its ease of access will ensure a high visibility of FLR actions and thus increase the chances of replication elsewhere

Outcome 4.1) Increased effectiveness of Program investments among Program stakeholders	4.1 Participation in TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing events, Biennial Restoration Finance events, and TRI sponsored South-South exchanges that address restoration	4.1) Nil		4.1) Participation in at least 1 event sponsored by TRI annually	In terms of exchanges, the PMU had participated in the second TRI global event held in Rome (October 2019) and had benefited from training sessions on various topics/tools and methods, related to FLR (GIS/CEOF, sustainable financing of FLR, ROAM, EX-ACT, forest genetic resources, etc.). At the level of project monitoring and steering, the five local Technical Committees have been formed, the Steering Committee has been formed and has met twice (July 2019 and January 2020). Since the beginning of the pandemic, the programming and evaluation documents (PIR, PTBA, etc.) have been shared with the members of the Steering and Monitoring Committees for advice and comments: this was also the case for the PIF of the FPMA project before it was recently transmitted and approved by the GEF. During this period, there has been a gradual increase in emphasis on the organization of webinars and online training.	S
	4.2) Program monitoring system successfully developed and supporting implementation of Project	4.2) Nil		4.2) Program monitoring system successfully developed and supporting implementation of the TRI CAR Project	The new elements of the results framework presented during the April 8, 2021 webinar have been taken into consideration. The monitoring-evaluation will really enter its active phase with the effective start of the FLR and IGA activities. Currently, the PMU is carrying out demo-land surveys on village lands after recent and active forest degradation fronts have been identified and community consents have been collected.	S
Outcome 4.2) Improved knowledge of best practices on restoration among key external audiences	4.3) Number of TRI knowledge products developed, disseminated and accessed by relevant knowledge platforms ²³	4.3) Nil		4.3) TRI-related best practices and lessons-learned published on TRI web portal and shared with environmental and development agencies and organizations, in particular (i) Reports/short movies re: technical days (three/year), (ii) Training materials on FRL and IGAs, (iii) Guide on good practices in terms of FLR and IGAs	The collection and analysis of existing information in this area is ongoing. Support from the global child project is regularly received to communicate results at the global level through TRI newsletters, websites (TRI and FLRM websites) and "Year in Review" reports. Two publication projects at the XV World Forestry Congress were proposed and accepted on the theme "Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests", namely: - "The Centraforest Initiative, an agroforestry project promoted by a Central African private operator in partnership with the CAR Ministry of Forestry, innovative in more ways than one." - "Project to create micro-forests in southwestern CAR: family forest gardens, planted with trees with multiple functions (shade, fruit trees, caterpillar hosts, etc.)"	S
	4.4) Development	4.4) Nil		4.4) Increased number of people equipped	Important information and clarification work is provided by the PMU to village communities in the context of its field missions: notably on and in the securing of their	S

²³ Indicator 9 as reworded during the Orientation Webinar - Results Framework on April 8, 2021

	of effective global awareness campaign increasing public awareness and support for FLR.			with new knowledge related to forest and landscape restoration through communications from the TRI CAR Project.	customary rights over their respective lands and on their involvement in the choice of decisions that may be made with regard to future FLR and IGA activities.	
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Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 2) Integrated landscape management practices and restoration plans implemented by government, private sector and local community actors, both men and women.	Extend the work of pre-identification of future FLR perimeters (accomplished on the sites of Pissa, Bayanga, ...) to other sites (attached to communes with local development plans, where the analysis of geospatial data shows recent degradation fronts).	The PMU of the TRI project carries out the analyses with the support of the Forestry Department team at FAO headquarters	Continuous
	Recruit national consultants to carry out the demographic and fiscal studies, taking advantage of the lessons learned from the exercise carried out directly by the PMU on the Pissa site.	The PMU prepares the ToR	3rd quarter 2021
	To carry out the assembly of complete files of projects of FLR and IGAs on the three villages located in the eastern periphery of Pissa and on the two located in its western periphery.	The PMU assembles the project files The PMU establishes the ToR of the feasibility studies of the IGA projects	3rd quarter 2021
	Finalize a LoA with WWF for the implementation of FLR activities in the Bayanga area	PMU is preparing the LoA.	3rd quarter 2021
Result 3) Strengthened institutional capacity and financing mechanisms to enable and facilitate large-scale restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes and diverse ecosystem services in CAR	Continue the search for a new institutional partner to build capacity in forest restoration and agro-ecology to replace CIRAD which has recently given up on the service in question	In consultation with the CTO and the LTO, the PMU has initiated contacts with new partners.	2nd semester 2021

3. Progress in Generating Project Outputs (Implementation Progress, IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as planned in the Annual Work Plan)

Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 1.1.1 Filling of knowledge gap: ecosystem service valuation	Q1 Y4	The research and academic training institutions (ICRA & ISDR) have launched 2 calls for applications and started the selection process as recommended by the Project Steering Committee in January 2020.	The institutions had done so to supervise thesis work on the biophysical and socio-economic evaluation of environmental services provided by agrobiodiversity and soils in savanna and dense forest zones. The selection process of candidates and thesis projects is underway. At this stage, two PhD candidates (one per institute) and four Master 2 candidates (two per institute) have been selected by their respective institutions and the minutes of these selections have been transmitted to the PMU. Only ISDR candidates submitted a research protocol with a theme and budget and proof of pre-registration at a university. The PMU is still waiting for the documents from the ICRA applicants.				10%	
OP 1.1.2 Filling of knowledge gap: assessment of restoration opportunities	Q1 Y2	A technical working group of about 15 participants from various stakeholders (ministries, universities, NGOs, local communities) was identified in January 2020. The participants started their training in the use of the "Collect Earth	The technical working group received training sessions and remote support and monitoring until August 2020. Thereafter, the group was invited to join a larger audience to participate in: - In October and November 2020, in "Virtual Workshops on NFI and the Use of FAO Open Source Geo-spatial Tools for Land Cover Change Analysis;				30%	The assessment of restoration opportunities (ROAM) with the support of the WRI could not be carried out within the timeframe initially planned. In consultation with the CTO and LTO, an alternative option was implemented,

²⁴ Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

²⁵ As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

²⁶ Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

²⁷ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting..

Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
		<p>Open Foris" (CEOF) tool for geospatial data analysis with the support of an FAO expert trainer.</p> <p>Due to the constraints related to the Covid19 crisis, a remote support method was developed and tested on a staff of 5 participants.</p> <p>Under his remote supervision, they then undertook the process of data collection, quality control and analysis and will thus participate in the ROAM evaluation, then in the establishment of the baseline for future perimeters. On this basis, the processing of the 9,000 sampling units covering the two pilot sites of Bangui and Mbaïki, as well as the road linking them, should be completed during the fourth quarter of 2020.</p>	<p>- then, in January 2021, to an online training on LCML, Collect Earth and SEPAL tools for the technical teams of the different partner countries of the project "Estimation of deforestation and forest degradation and current and historical direct factors associated with these processes using SEPAL".</p> <p>Note the dynamics instilled since October-November 2020 with the participation offered to members of the original technical working group and, by extension, to all interested partners in the online training sessions organized in the framework of the regional CAFI project on the study of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Cf. dedicated website: https://sites.google.com/view/cafi-fao-ddd/enregistrements?authuser=0</p> <p>Finally, the same CAFI project has recruited a national GIS/image analysis consultant in each of the six countries concerned, including CAR, to work in close collaboration with the project partners (national administrations, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations).</p> <p>Cf. P.2.2 Reference to the field mission program undertaken in April 2021 with village communities in the Pissa area (between Bangui and Mbaïki) to jointly identify possible FLR areas.</p>					<p>consisting of mobilizing an FAO expert-trainer to form a technical working group and then have it carried out, under his supervision, the collection and analysis of geospatial data.</p> <p>The use of this option quickly reached its limits, as the occurrence of Covid in March 2020 imposed new logistical constraints with (i) the limitation of the group's capacity to be hosted in the same room and (ii) the need for the expert trainer to adapt his training and follow-up sessions at a distance.</p> <p>In a second phase, it was the team from the Forestry Department at headquarters who, as part of the CAFI regional project on SD drivers, took over by organizing webinars and making online training available.</p>
OP 1.2.1 Elaborating a Land Planning Scheme for the South-West area	Q1 Y3	As indicated in the AWPB July 2020-June 2021, the PMU has collected and analyzed existing thematic information related to land use planning in the S-W of CAR, with a view to launching, when the time comes, the consultation provided for in the Project Document, which the PPC had decided to postpone at its July 2019 session.	<p>The PMU took advantage of analyses of LDPs already validated by the authorities and selected cases where the populations had expressed their interest in implementing FLR activities.</p> <p>Geospatial data analysis work was undertaken by the PMU in conjunction with the Forestry Department at headquarters to:</p> <p>(i) as part of the support to the Ministry of ESD via the NDC Partnership, provide cartographic and statistical syntheses on the biophysical environment in relation to</p>				20%	

Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
		<p>With regard to the local development plans of forest communes (LDPs), the analysis has begun on the first five LDPs produced by the "PDRSO" (communes of Mbata, Mongoumba, Nola, Pissa, Yobé); it will be extended to the two new LDPs of the communes of Lessé and Nola Mbaïki recently approved by the prefectural authority. It will then be extended to other communes when the "PDRSO" and NRGF project will have finalized these new LDPs.</p> <p>Regarding the national REDD+ investment framework, the final report was officially launched/released in December 2019.</p>	<p>the themes concerned²⁸ and contribute to the development of the next NDC;</p> <p>This is support at the national level. The themes concerned are mentioned in the footnote.</p> <p>(ii) In the village territories whose populations had expressed interest in FLR, locate areas of recent and significant forest degradation that could potentially be the subject of future FLR perimeters; this approach was undertaken with the local communities of 6 villages located in the outskirts of Pissa, located between Bangui and Mbaïki, and which has a LDP</p>					

²⁸ Themes concerned by the support to MEDD in the framework of the NDC Partnership: "Quantify the capacity of ecosystems to sequester carbon" cf. B019 ; "Study on land reclamation opportunities to have data on plausible sites to be restored" cf. B020 ; Re-reading of documents of political strategies, plans and programs, (SNPA-DB, PAN-LCD, PANA, NAMA, etc.) ... to help feed the NDC during the review" cf. B024 ; "Assessing the vulnerability of sectors to climate change" cf. B026 ; "Mapping of landscape and forest restoration opportunities" cf. C003 ; "Development of a land use plan / Geomorphological mapping of current land use" cf. C004.

Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 1.2.2 Upgrading the Wood Energy Supply Plan (WISDOM) for Bangui/Bambio	Q1 Y3	<p>Discussion are ongoing with CIRAD in order to contribute to the updating of the wood energy supply plan (WISDOM) for Bangui/Bimbo.</p> <p>In January 2019, it published a study on the wood energy sector (WES) within the framework of the "PDRSO" and carried out two complementary missions during 2019: on the characterization of WES production zones and cutting practices; on proposals for improving the sustainability of the resource and supply in Bangui.</p> <p>CIRAD provided the PMU with a methodological proposal for the Bangui Wood Energy supply basin, combining two approaches: the first, developed by the FAO (WISDOM); the second, to develop a master plan for the supply of WE to the city of Bangui (SDABE).</p> <p>The PMU has initiated discussions with CIRAD on the Terms of References of this updating work on the basis of this proposal. These will also have to take into account the results of the two complementary missions, which have not yet been published.</p>	<p>A Letter of Agreement was signed in March 2021 between CIRAD and FAO for the production of a master document for the management of wood energy resources in the Bangui/Bimbo supply basin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on mapping has begun (supply/demand assessment); - A mission is planned in July 2021 to train surveyors and supervisors on how to conduct surveys in the northern part of the basin. 				30%	

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Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 1.2.3 Fine-tuning the Forest Policy Statement and including FLR concerns	Q1 Y3	<p>A draft forest policy orientation law, prepared by the MWFHF, was the subject of a pre-validation workshop in October 2019.</p> <p>The continuation of the validation process by the legislator is no longer specifically supported by the TRI Project.</p>	<p>It should be noted that FAO has been asked to provide logistical support for the duplication of documents.</p>				100%	

<p>OP 1.2.4 Upgrading the SNPA-DB and including FLR concerns</p>	<p>Q1 Y3</p>	<p>The PMU has requested technical and financial support from IUCN to carry out the planned biological inventories.</p> <p>IUCN colleagues responded that they were carrying out the Species Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) assessment for TRI CAR project sites and indicated that a survey of existing data would be carried out by one of their experts.</p> <p>For its part, the PMU contacted WWF RCA, the management partner of ADPS and the "PDRSO" team in charge of monitoring the management plans of forest concessions.</p> <p>A fairly extensive documentation was thus gathered, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2016 inventory data, contained in study reports published by the WWF Regional Office for Africa and the Conservation Biology Unit of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences ; - data from biological inventories carried out from the early 2000s within the framework of the PEAs of the 14 forest concessions of the South-West region. <p>Finally, the PMU is in regular contact with the World Bank, which is appraising the project attached to the NRGF on additional GEF funding for the integrated resource management of the</p>	<p>The collaboration between the TRI project and IUCN is currently on hold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The TRI project had requested support from IUCN to carry out biological inventories, given the lack of recent data in this area; The project has asked IUCN about the interest of using the data from the inventories carried out in the framework of the forest AEPs over the last twenty years throughout the southwestern region, providing a few examples in support. - The IUCN replied that it would examine this documentation, then returned questionnaires by prefecture calling for local knowledge on the natural environment and particularly on threatened areas. <p>As no one has recent information, the need to carry out biological inventories remains.</p> <p>The valorization of the data collected by the forestry companies could, if necessary, bring a part of the answer. IUCN was consulted in this regard to provide expert advice and then to initiate an official request to the forestry administration, which is in charge of the management plans and therefore owns the inventory data.</p>			<p>10%</p>	
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Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
		Mbaéré-Bodingué National Park and the ecological corridor with the ADPS. Within this framework, complementary actions seem possible.						

<p>OP 2.1 Baseline setting in each FLR perimeter, within the five pilot sites</p>	<p>Q2 Y1</p>	<p>The Project Steering Committee meeting on 29 January 2020 agreed to the proposed new approach of seeking to identify "no regrets" actions while keeping the focus on a sound analysis of the FLR perimeters.</p> <p>The PMU has started to review the data available in existing documentation (approved local development plans, reports on the implementation of field activities) and to analyse proposals for new activities received from stakeholders.</p> <p>Of note is the agro-forestry plantation project of Centraforest, a MWFHF partner (cf. section 2 result 2; section 6 P2.2).</p>	<p>To identify scopes and implement projects for FLR activities on the ground, the PMU revised its approach to address the various constraints present (this approach was presented at the task force meeting held in early February 2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify, based on PDL analyses and geospatial data, initial frameworks for actions relevant to FLR or "no regrets" projects: - consult with local populations in pre-identified areas - Identify the customary owners of the plots to be restored and collect their desiderata - Establish files for the implementation of FLR projects: preliminary technical studies, organization of the work site including logistical aspects, study of costs and financing needs, contracting between TRI project and beneficiaries, etc. - launch the implementation of the FLR activity projects <p><u>1st restoration opportunity</u></p> <p>This approach has been initiated in the Pissa area (on the road from Bangui to Mbaïki): field missions have been conducted since April 2021 with village communities and concerned 6 villages: Boyali 1, Boyama 2, Bombé, Pissa 2, Bongombé 1 and 2.</p> <p><u>2nd restoration opportunity</u></p> <p>The PMU approached WWF, manager of the DSPA and interested in supporting the implementation of FLR activities. Initial geospatial data analyses were conducted in this regard in the Bayanga area to locate recent and expanding degradation fronts. A draft memorandum of understanding between WWF and FAO is being prepared on these bases.</p> <p><u>3rd restoration opportunity</u></p> <p>Analysis work has been undertaken on the axis from Bangui to Bouali, on which Boutili, one of the two sites of the Centraforest initiative, is located. The aim is to identify communities in the villages near the agroforestry plantation that are interested in FLR activities, particularly planting <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>.</p>			<p>30%</p>	
<p>OP 2.2 Implementing FLR activities</p>	<p>Q4 Y5</p>	<p>In line with the agreement given by the Project Steering Committee on 29 January</p>	<p>The PMU went on a mission to the Pissa site:</p>			<p>30%</p>	<p>Implementation of FLR activities in the field, postponed as it is conditional</p>

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Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
with local populations		<p>2020 to identify "no regrets" actions, the PMU has continued the search for relevant FLR action frameworks.</p> <p>Within the framework of a Partnership with the MWFHF, the CENTRAFOREST company presented to the FAO a project of agro-forestry plantations located at about 50 km from Bangui, towards Boali. In consultation with the CTO, the PMU prepared terms of reference to study the conformity of this agro-forestry project with the required environmental and social standards as well as the possibilities of technical and financial support by the TRI project.</p>	<p>- in April 2021, to the Mbaïki prefecture and the Pissa town hall, with representatives of the MEDD and MEFCP,</p> <p>- from May 2021, in the villages of Boyali 1, Bombé, Boyama 2, Pissa, Bongombé 1 and 2, to inform local communities, determine with them which FLR activities they were interested in and which parts of their respective lands they agreed to allocate to them.</p> <p>In the coming weeks, the PMU will complete these surveys and prepare complete implementation files for the FLR and IGA projects, which will be presented to the Steering Committee for approval.</p>					on the prior completion of the Restoration Opportunity Assessment (ROAM) and the establishment of the baseline for each future FLRP perimeter (see P1.1.2 and P 2.1).
OP 2.3 Implementing complementary IGAs with local populations	Q4 Y5	see P 2.2 1	<p>Within the framework of exchanges with village communities with a view to setting up FLR and IGA projects in the six villages concerned on the outskirts of the town of Pissa, the PMU has collected initial desiderata (goat, pig and "aulacode" breeding; fish farming; market gardening; domestication of Gnetum africanum; manufacture of cosmetics based on local resources; etc.).</p> <p>Feasibility studies will be carried out from a consolidation of these desiderata and will be part of the files proposed for validation by the Steering Committee.</p>				20%	see P 2.2 1

Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 2.4 Day-to-day supervision and support by field agents and PMU	Q4 Y5	<p>Three local coordinators have been designated by the ministries: they have started to be trained in the use of the CEOF analysis tools within the framework of the technical working group set up in January 2020 to carry out the analysis of geospatial data in order to be able to participate, when the time comes, in the ROAM evaluation of the pilot sites and establish the baselines for future FLR perimeters. In the meantime they are also participating in the analysis of available documents and in the search for information from the field in order to identify first "no-regrets" projects to be proposed to Steering Committee members in late 2020/early 2021.</p> <p>They received the first equipment (pc)</p>	<p>The approach described above for scoping and implementing FLR projects in the field (see P 2.1) was tested at the Pissa site.</p> <p>The first steps were carried out by the PMU and consisted of:</p> <p>(i) informing village communities;</p> <p>(ii) determining which FLR activities to implement and where</p> <p>(iii) identifying precisely the demographic and land tenure reality of the potential future FLR perimeters.</p> <p>The decision to have the PMU carry out this work on its own was an obvious one, given its complexity and the need to gain control over it before subcontracting it to a consultant, or even to an NGO or a consulting firm.</p> <p>In this regard, the support of the local PMU coordinators during field missions proved invaluable.</p>				30%	

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Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 3.1 Capacity needs assessment of key stakeholders	Q2 Y1	<p>A mission took place in July-August 2019 with focus groups in Berbérati, Mbaïki and Bangui/Bimbo. It was attended by representatives of key stakeholders in the implementation of FLR and IGAs actions. Priorities for strengthening were thus established by the participants. An analysis by category of stakeholders (technical services and research institutes, local NGOs, local populations) led to the production of road map drafts,</p> <p>A Bioversity International mission was carried out in December 2019 in Bangui on the theme of forest genetic resources. A questionnaire on the status of tree seed supply systems was sent to 80 recipients. A webinar was organized at the end of May 2020, entitled: "Should we always give priority to the local aspect in the collection of seeds for restoration? Support for decision-making on seed supply".</p>	<p>As the FLR and IGA projects are completed in the communes and attached villages, the staff of the communal teams will have to assume responsibilities for managing and monitoring the activities.</p> <p>They will benefit, through the TRI project, from the necessary adapted training, which will be specified in the framework of the elaboration of the complete files for the implementation of the FLR and IGA projects.</p>				50%	Provision should be made to extend the evaluation exercise to managers and technical staff of local authorities (forest communes).

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Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 3.2 Capacity-building of field officers and local project coordinators	Q4 Y5	The three local coordinators, designated at the start of the TRI RCA project by their line ministries, are part of a technical working group and have thus begun their training in the use of CEOF analysis tools and the collection and processing of geospatial data (cf. P1.1.2; P2.1).	Strong involvement of local coordinators in field missions, in support of the mission leader for the determination of potential FLR perimeters: facilitation of presentations and discussions with communities, observation of sites and taking GPS readings during field visits.				50%	As far as field officers are concerned, their assignment will be made and capacity building conducted, when future FLR perimeters are identified/determined (see P2.2).
OP 3.3 Capacity-building of targeted local populations	Q4 Y5	This activity had to be postponed.	The village communities of Boyali 1, Bombé and Boyama 2, located on the southeastern outskirts of Pissa, have agreed to bring their three terroirs together in a framework for the management of a future community forest. These three communities, as well as those of Pissa 2, Bongombé 1 and 2, have all been informed of the objectives of the TRI project and have expressed their interest in engaging in FLR activities in their respective territories. Appropriate technical training will be organized to complement their knowledge and know-how.				25%	
OP 3.4 Capacity-building of academic institutions (ICRA and ISDR)	Q4 Y5	CIRAD, a partner of the global TRI, was identified in the preparation phase of the project to carry out the capacity building of the two institutes and the implementation of two R&D programmes on FLR and agro-ecology. The PMU initiated discussions with CIRAD in this regard and asked it to plan a first exploratory mission, which was to be carried out last April, but had to be postponed due to COVID 19.	CIRAD has recently indicated that it will not provide this capacity building service to the two institutes, given the workload of the experts who could have been assigned. The PMU, in consultation with the CTO and LTO, has initiated contacts with other research and development centers that may be interested.				5%	

<p>OP 3.5 Mobilizing domestic and external funding for FLR</p>	<p>Q1 Y3</p>	<p>FAO has been requested by MESD (GEF focal point) to prepare a LDCF project proposal. A brainstorming workshop was organized on 30 January 2020 in Bangui, bringing together all relevant stakeholders (administrations, civil society, private sector, etc.). A mission by two UNFF experts was carried out in March 2020, under an agreement with the global TRI, to assist the Central African side in preparing the identification sheet for this future LDCF project. It was agreed that a draft PIF would be produced at the end of June for validation and submission to the November GEF Council.</p> <p>FAO was also approached by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Focal Point with a view to preparing a SAP-REDD+ project, with reference to the simplified approval process of the GCF.</p> <p>Finally, FAO responded to a call from the NDC Partnership, requested by the Government of CAR to provide support in the preparation of the next National Contribution under the "Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP)". FAO's proposal was accepted and will receive additional funding of USD 250 000. The support to be provided will mainly concern geospatial data analysis and mapping work on a broader thematic field</p>	<p>At the request of the Ministry of Environment, FAO has prepared and submitted an Adaptation Project Identification Form (PIF) to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for an amount of US\$10 million.</p> <p>The project is entitled: "Strengthening Community Adaptive Capacity through Scaling Up Integrated Landscape Management and Restoration in the Southwest and Southeast Regions of the Central African Republic".</p> <p>The PIF was included in the work program approved in June 2021 by the GEF Council, along with the corresponding project preparation grant application.</p> <p>As part of the support to the Ministry of ESD through the NDC Partnership, the PMU is called upon to provide cartographic and statistical syntheses on the biophysical environment related to the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quantifying the capacity of ecosystems to sequester carbon - Study of land recovery opportunities to provide data on plausible sites for restoration - Review of policy documents, plans and programs, (SNPA-DB, PAN-LCD, PANA, NAMA, etc.) to contribute to the NDC review. - Assessing the vulnerability of sectors to climate change - Mapping landscape and forest restoration opportunities - Development of a land use plan / Geomorphic mapping of current land use <p>and contribute to the development of the next NDC.</p>				<p>50%</p>	
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Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
		than that of the FLR and on a geographical area extended to the whole of CAR and not only to the South-West region.						
OP 3.6 Support to the National Coordination on FLR	Q4 Y5	<p>On the occasion of the July 2019 session of the Steering Committee support activities to foster stakeholder participation in the National FLR Coordination at the national level had been deferred for review and are represented here.</p> <p>Following a recommendation taken at the PSC of January 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and MESD was prepared by the PMU and the global TRI in consultation with the MESD TRI Focal Point.</p>	<p>The technical content having been revised and updated to take into account the postponement of most international events, an LoA between FAO and MEDD was signed in November 2020 for the provision of support services for the coordination and monitoring of TRI project interventions.</p> <p>However, its implementation has not yet been effective, due to a procedural compliance issue related to the beneficiary bank account name.</p>				15%	

Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 4.1.1 South-South exchange for a mixed audience (civil servants, asso/groups, ICRA/ISDF.ARF) : FLR actions / FRM	Q4 Y5	<p>M&E actions have been initiated and will continue throughout the duration of the project GCP/CAF/002/GFF.</p> <p>Activities related to field observations will be initiated as the boundaries of FLR and IGAs are determined (see P2.2).</p> <p>A capacity building session on FGR was organized with Bioversity in October 2019 in Rome.</p>	<p>Numerous webinars, online training sessions and conferences have been organized and offered.</p> <p>Let's recall here some of the themes particularly followed by our colleagues and partners, already mentioned in the present report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the use of geo-spatial data analysis tools CEOF/SEPAL, through organized sessions and training materials produced by the FAO Forestry Department team in charge of the implementation of the regional CAFI project on the study of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (DDD); - PBFLR planning based on a diagnostic analysis of disturbances to forest ecosystems, training provided by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies as part of its Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative (Yale-ELTI); - In the area of monitoring and evaluation, the presentation of the revised theory of change and the 9 key indicators of the TRI program, organized by IUCN. <p>Please note the FAO eLearning Academy and the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism websites for more information:</p> <p>https://elearning.fao.org/course/</p> <p>http://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/resources/</p>				20%	

Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 4.1.2 Participation in the annual knowledge meetings and the bi-annual finance events	Q4 Y5	<p>The PMU participated in the second TRI global event held in Rome in October 2019.</p> <p>Its members benefited from sessions on : Collect Earth Open Foris (CEOF); Local finances - Incentives - Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) and Policy Influencing Plans (PIP); Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) & FLR, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Gender & FLR; Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) and Ex Ante Appraisal Carbon-Balance Tool (EX-ACT).</p> <p>The PMU has identified a six-person panel, including representatives from MESD, MWFHF and civil society, to participate in Yale University's online course: Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI) organized with the key support of the global TRI.</p>	<p>A panel of six people, including representatives from MEDD, MEFCP, civil society, were invited to participate over the period of September 21 to November 8, 2020 in Yale University's online course: Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI), organized with key support from the global TRI.</p> <p>A business project coaching exercise was organized by FAO and UNEP as part of the Restoration Factory with facilitation by Bridge for Billions (B4B).</p> <p>https://www.bridgetforbillions.org/fr/incubateur-start-up/</p> <p>A business project presented by a national entrepreneur is being incubated with the support of a team of mentors.</p>				20%	

Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 4.1.3 Monitoring & Evaluation of the Project	Q4 Y5	<p>The second annual AWPB has been prepared and submitted by the PMU. It covers the period from July 2020 to June 2021.</p> <p>The PMU has prepared an M&E plan submitted to the Steering Committee members for validation building on guidelines provided by the global TRI.</p> <p>The PMU has produced two successive semi-annual progress reports covering the year 2019 (July 2019 and January 2020).</p> <p>The PMU provided content for the preparation of the first Year in Review report prepared at global level and launched in July 2020</p> <p>The Project Implementation Review (PIR) report is being prepared and will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat during summer 2020.</p>	<p>Meetings were held and support from the global TRI team (FAO/IUCN/UNEP) was provided this year to finalize the M&E framework for the GCP/CAF/002/GFF project.</p> <p>The national M&E expert used the TRI guidelines sent to all TRI countries and the advice and information provided during the April 2021 webinar to finalize the M&E framework.</p> <p>Note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The development of Section 2 of this document is structured using the sequence of the 9 indicators presented at the April 8, 2021 Results Framework Orientation Webinar. - The M&E system will be deployed as the RFP perimeters are determined and the RFP and accompanying IGA activities are identified, in consultation with the beneficiary populations, during field missions. 				20%	

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Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
OP 4.1.4 Project Steering Committee (PSC)	Q4 Y5	<p>A mission organized by the PMU in September 2019 noted the establishment of the fifth and last Local Technical Committee in Mambélé.</p> <p>Two previous missions carried out in April 2019 to the Berbérati and Bayanga zones and then in May 2019 to the M'Baïki and Bangui/Bimbo zones, had noted the establishment of the first four Technical Committees.</p> <p>The objective of these missions was to present the Project to the stakeholders involved at the regional level.</p> <p>Two Steering Committees were held in July 2019 and January 2020. A memorandum from FAO dated 16 October 2019 specified the terms of reference and working conditions of the Steering Committee. The rate assigned to PSC members was increased from CFAF 3,000 to CFAF 20,000 per working day.</p>	<p>Two Steering Committees were held in July 2019 and January 2020, in face-to-face mode.</p> <p>It had been envisaged to organize a Steering Committee in virtual mode to present and validate the PIR elaborated for the period July 2019 - June 2020, as well as the PTBA covering the period July 2020 - June 2021.</p> <p>The two documents were sent electronically to the members of the Steering Committee who were able to communicate their opinions and comments in return, the holding of a Committee, ideally in July 2020, proving difficult to organize, even in virtual mode.</p>				20%	
OP 4.2.1 Facilitation of technical days, gathering practitioners and policymakers	Q4 Y5	<p>Three local coordinators have been appointed and are part of the CEOF technical working group. They will be deployed in the field, as well as the recruited</p>	<p>No technical days could be held between July 2020 and June 2021, due to the global pandemic that emerged in March 2020, and then the socio-political crisis that arose in the context of the late 2020 elections.</p>				10%	Throughout this period, meetings were held virtually and those scheduled in person were cancelled or postponed.

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Outputs ²⁴	Expected completion date ²⁵	Achievements at each PIR ²⁶					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ²⁷ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd	4 th	5 th		
		field officers they will have to supervise, as and when the FLR perimeters are designated (see P2.4).						If the context allows, these days and events will be organized and supported in the next PTBA.
OP 4.2.2 Creation and diffusion of technical materials and awareness-raising, to promote FLR and IGAs	Q4 Y5	Ongoing collection and analysis of existing material	Preparation of the submission of two publications to the XV World Forestry Congress scheduled for 2021 in Seoul on the theme "Building a green, healthy and resilient future with forests" Creation of a database on edible caterpillars (about 30) and their host plants (about 70) present in CAR, in collaboration with Philippe Annoyer, entomologist at the Museum of Natural History of Toulouse.				10%	
OP 4.2.3 Elaboration of a Guide of Good Practices in terms of FLR & IGAs	Q4 Y1	Ongoing collection and analysis of existing information	A compendium of methods and approaches, developed in the process of implementing FLR activities, is being prepared; these include: - Participatory village mapping; - Demographic and land-use studies; - The use of cartographic products of geospatial data analysis as a decision support tool available to communities; - Taking into account the communities' wishes in decision-making (for example, on the choice of reforestation species); - The involvement of women, youth and indigenous peoples in land delimitation operations; - etc. The PMU will have this compendium translated into Sango and Aka languages.				10%	

4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):

The approach proposed in the current context for scoping and implementing FLR projects on the ground is beginning to show results.

As a reminder, it includes the following steps

- Pre-identification of future FLR perimeters, based on a compilation of field information from existing stakeholders (including LDP analysis) and analysis of geospatial data to identify recent and active forest degradation fronts;
- A full phase of information, consultation and consent gathering of local stakeholders (deconcentrated administrative authorities, local authorities, local and indigenous communities);
- The realization of demo-land surveys, intended to specify with the interested communities the nature of the future FLR and IGA activities to be carried out; to identify precisely the location as well as the individual or collective customary owners concerned;
- the preparation of a complete FLR and IGA project file to be submitted to the TRI Steering Committee concerning all technical, legal, economic and financial, organizational, etc. aspects.

To date, the PMU has identified:

- under "areas of landscapes subject to improved practices / area of landscapes subject to improved practices for the benefit of biodiversity": a potential of about 6,000 ha, which are the subject of the "Boyama 2 community forest project", located on the outskirts of the town of Pissa, presented by the village communities, which forest could constitute a perimeter of FLR by being endowed with a simple village management plan;

At this stage, the communities of the three villages concerned, Boyali 1, Bombé and Boyama 2, have given their consent; the demo-land surveys have been carried out, the boundary surveys carried out and the cartographic products elaborated, all in a participatory manner; the main task remaining to be accomplished in the field so that the PMU can finish instructing the complete FLR project file is to carry out a multi-resource inventory with the communities;

- Under the heading of "land under restoration," potentially several hundred hectares located in the Boyali 1 and Bombé areas and in the part of Boyama 2 bordering the Bangui-Mbaiki road; the PMU is working to determine under which conditions and on which parcels to implement reforestation, agroforestry, and assisted natural regeneration activities; the PMU is working to determine under which conditions and on which plots of land reforestation, agroforestry, and assisted natural regeneration activities should be implemented;

A similar exercise has been undertaken by the PMU in the villages of Pissa 2, Bongombé 1 and 2, also located on the outskirts of the town of Pissa and belonging to the same village-souche;

In total, six villages in the Commune of Pissa, with a total population of 2,650 people, represent a restoration potential of approximately 500 hectares through reforestation, agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration activities;

- Under the heading of "areas of land under restoration / area of forest or forest land restored", potentially several tens, even hundreds of hectares, located in the Bayanga belt and along the sections that connect it to Mona-Sao in the north and Lidjombo in the south; The PMU is in discussion with WWF, the government-mandated manager of the DSPA, to establish a memorandum of understanding to implement FLR activities in the Bayanga area, in this case plantations of local species with the active participation of indigenous populations, The TRI project will provide co-financing for field operations, as well as expertise in the analysis of geospatial data to precisely

locate recent and active fronts of forest degradation, while WWF, with its knowledge of the field and local actors, will implement the FLR and IGA activities.

Regarding the improvement of policy frameworks and the initiation of the land use planning process, an LoA was concluded with CIRAD for the updating of the Bangui wood-energy supply plan by CIRAD and the upgrading of the national strategy and action plan for biodiversity with the support of IUCN.

Capacity building of stakeholders, necessary for the project's ramp-up, has been initiated with a needs assessment, which has led to the production of roadmaps. This assessment will be extended to the technical staff managing and monitoring the FLR projects of the communal teams as the FLR and IGA perimeters and projects are determined.

A technical working group had begun training on the CEOF tool and started practical work on geospatial data analysis with the support of a fellow expert trainer. By the end of 2020, the PMU and the entire group were invited to take part in online training and webinars organized by the Forestry Department at headquarters as part of the CAFI regional project on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

At the request of the Government, a project identification form (PIF) was prepared to obtain LDCF funding for a climate change adaptation project. The PIF for the project entitled: "Strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities through the scaling up of integrated landscape management and restoration in the southwest and southeast regions of the Central African Republic" was thus prepared and submitted for approval by the LDCF Council, with success: it was included in the work program approved in June 2021, along with the corresponding project preparation grant application.

What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?

The period began with the resignation of the Deputy Project Manager in July 2020, with the Project Manager absent from Bangui on telecommuting from March to November 2020. This was followed by an absence of local coordination from July to November 2020, when the project manager returned and the new deputy project manager took office.

The proposed approach to start initial field activities without waiting for the results of the opportunity assessment, which could not be completed earlier and with WRI support as planned, was adopted by the Steering Committee in January 2020; it was accompanied by the following recommendation: "Stay the course on a solid analysis of FLR perimeters while conducting initial "no regrets" field actions in parallel."

This new approach, which included inviting stakeholders already active in the sector and located in the project's pilot sites to provide relevant information from the field, was again thwarted in its application by the occurrence of Covid 19 a few weeks later.

The alternative solution for geospatial data analysis, initiated in January 2020, with the mobilization of a FAO expert trainer in CEOF and the constitution of a first technical working group, was also confronted with a permanent logistical constraint: the poor internet connection. From October, the relay was taken with the team of the Forestry Department at headquarters, which has developed specific online training modules and organized webinars, which have benefited many interested parties live or offline.

The PMU's field trips were still absolutely necessary to raise awareness of the TRI project and to interact with stakeholders involved in possible future FLR projects, including the wishes of the beneficiary communities.

Delays in the project's implementation were exacerbated by restrictions on field travel from December 2020 to mid-March 2021 due to insecure transportation on roads beyond the limits of the Bangui metropolitan area: only one half-day trip was authorized in December 2020 to the Centraforest site, located about 50 kilometers from Bangui. Since mid-March 2021, the PMU has taken advantage of the reopening of the roads to traffic to organize a trip to the services of the Mbaïki prefecture and the commune of Pissa, accompanied by representatives of the supervisory ministries (MEDD and MEFCP), followed by a series of field missions to six villages located in the immediate periphery of the Pissa agglomeration (Boyama 2, Boyali 1, Bombé Pissa 2, Bongombé 1 and 2).

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR.

For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2021 Development Objective rating ²⁹	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating ³⁰	Comments/reasons ³¹ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Coordinator	S	MS	<p>The start-up of FLR activities on the ground was delayed and thwarted until recently by multiple obstacles, the main ones being related to the global pandemic that suspended international travel for several months, and then to the Central African Republic's socio-political crisis that reignited with the election period and prevented travel outside Bangui until March 2021,</p> <p>The improvement of the general climate has allowed us to develop an approach adapted to the difficulties of the context: (i) pre-identification of future FLR perimeters; (ii) information, consultation and consent of stakeholders; (iii) carrying out of demo-land surveys... the next step (iv) will consist of completing the preparation of complete FLR and IGA project files to be submitted to the TRI project steering committee for approval.</p> <p>At this stage, the first interesting and encouraging achievements can already be noted: they concern six villages with a total population of 2,650 people, located on the outskirts of the town of Pissa, and represent a significant overall potential for FLR, namely (i) a community forest project covering 6,000 ha that can be considered for "areas of landscapes subject to improved practices for biodiversity"; (ii) about 500 ha (a 300 ha block located in the eastern periphery of Pissa, a second 200 ha block in its western periphery) that communities wish to allocate to FLR activities (reforestation, agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration).</p> <p>Other initiatives are being prepared for potential FLR areas outside of this zone, particularly in the Dzanga Sangha Protected Area belt. This potentially involves several hundred hectares located on very recent pioneer fronts of forest degradation, near the town of Bayanga. Discussions are underway with WWF, a manager mandated by the Central African government, to carry out FLR activities there, in the framework of a partnership, which would consist in particular of planting local species with the active participation of indigenous populations.</p>

²⁹ **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

³⁰ **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

³¹ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

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Budget Holder	S	MS	<p>Project implementation was delayed primarily due to COVID-19 travel related restrictions that delayed the deployment of both in-country and international missions. The PMU successfully conducted some capacity development activities working virtually with experts that were not able to travel physically to CAR. The easing of travel restrictions in recent months has led to progress in project implementation, notably in community engagement leading to the confirmation of specific intervention sites and desired tree species, and partner identification.</p> <p>The PMU has initiated and is according priority to enhancing the progress of field activities for re-forestation, and community engagement to allow the launching of the components related to smallholder income generation from non-timber forest activities/enterprises, as well as continued capacity development and private sector and other partner engagement. It is expected that the ongoing national vaccination campaign will facilitate the continuation and acceleration of project implementation during the next reporting period.</p> <p>Finally, the change of the National Project Coordinator has contributed positively to information flow and project implementation. This is expected to continue.</p>
GEF Operational Focal Point			<i>Optional Ratings/comments</i>

<p>Lead Technical Officer</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>The PMU has been able to implement only partially its second Annual Work Plan and Budget for the period July 2020 to June 2021 including: (i) the pre-identification of the first FLR investments to be implemented with local stakeholders (NGOs) in the four prefectures, (ii) the identification of the targeted supports to be provided in the context of the new public-private partnership identified in early 2020 with an agroforestry plantation of 1,000 hectares (<i>CentraForest</i>), (iii) the provision of technical assistance to the preparation of a new bankable restoration project (<i>PIF LDCF project approved and PPG phase planned during second semester of 2021</i>) and (iv) the finalization of the M&E framework harmonized with the TRI global M&E framework. Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 constraints, several actions have been postponed to the second semester of the year 2021. A new national project coordinator joined the PMU during last quarter of the year 2020. The PMU is now much more operational and should be able to implement its third Annual Work Plan and Budget for the period July 2021 - June 2022.</p> <p>The implementation of the FLR investments on the ground should be considered as a top priority during this upcoming period (July 2021-June 2022). The Mid-Term Review, scheduled for the first semester of the year 2022, will be an excellent opportunity to better analyse the COVID-19 impact on this project GCP/CAF/002/GFF, to revise/adjust eventually the project targets (<i>including proposing, if needed, a one year no-cost extension</i>) and to provide recommendations to the Project Management Unit (PMU).</p>
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<p>FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>The sections above illustrate how the PMU with its partners has been able to adapt planned activities and project intervention approaches to the changing local context. The adaptations made seem to be paying off, and appear to be well received by local communities/beneficiaries and partners such as WWF. Nevertheless, it also seems that the team should be creating more space to fully integrate gender and indigenous peoples' voices and concerns. The approach proposed for FLR activities is bottom-up, but more explicit mention of how women, youth, IPs are considered fully would be helpful. This is equally true for the choice of livelihood creation investments (micro-credits), which will be starting in the coming reporting period. The project invests in some very interesting interest stories such as the PPP with CentraForest and the experience with the 'Restoration Factory' initiative.</p> <p>The current reporting period has seen a number of important challenges, with changes in the PMU and further restrictions on mobility due to Covid-19, basically freezing field missions from July 2020 to November 2020. Also some pre-established partnerships have not come to fruition, such as the one with IUCN and CIRAD. The project team has been able to identify alternative partnerships and explore other options in terms of tools and approaches as a consequence. Progress is slow, also in comparison with other TRI sister projects, but it appears that the foundations put in place locally and nationally contribute to the achievement of the GEBs and project objectives. The MTR planned for early 2022 will shed more light on this question.</p>
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5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. Note that only projects with moderate or high Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to low risk projects. Please add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
ESS 7: Decent Work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ³² . If not, what is the new classification and explain.

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>

³² **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

6. Risks

Risk ratings

RISK TABLE

*The following table summarizes risks identified in the **Project Document** and reflects also **any new risks** identified in the course of project implementation. Please make sure that the table also includes the Environmental and Social Management Risks captured by the Environmental and social Management Risk Mitigations plans. The Notes column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, **as relevant**.*

	Risk	Risk rating ³³	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ³⁴	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	The National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan (RCPCA) is not successfully implemented, not bringing back peace and socioeconomic growth	ML	Out of reach of the project, as it depends on the overall political situation in the CAR		
2	Poor improvement of the business climate, unable to attract more private and public resources into FLR activities	ML	Idem: Out of reach of the project, as it depends on the overall political		
3	Topic no more of high relevance to national policy-makers and international stakeholders	ML	MESD, MWFHF, MARD and PMU to raise awareness and maintain the political momentum regarding FLR	Representatives of the different institutions involved and other stakeholders are invited to the project steering committees and to the different workshops related to the activities implemented (capacity building workshops, FPMA project preparation, etc.). Since the outbreak of the pandemic, face-to-face meetings have been replaced by remote meetings via Zoom, Teams, Skype, etc. The different documents and reports continue to be sent by email for feedback and comments, validation	

³³ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

³⁴ If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period".

4	Poor appropriation of the Project objectives by the local communities and poor interest in implementing field activities	ML	MESD, MWFHF, MARD and PMU to raise awareness among communities and to develop ad-hoc FLR activities and IGAs, based on local needs	Representatives of local communities and indigenous peoples are also invited to participate in meetings, workshops and training sessions. The PMU's meetings with village communities during the first missions in April and May 2021 were very positive; they also allowed for clarification of the project's objectives and the conditions for the implementation of FLR and IGA activities, particularly on land issues	
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Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
M	M	

7. Adjustments to Project Strategy – Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

The project has not yet been the subject of an MTR, which is scheduled for late 2021 or early 2022. It should be noted, however, that a Task Force meeting was held in early February 2021 to review the progress of the Project and discuss the measures to be taken to move forward, despite the constraints encountered, in the implementation of field activities for the benefit of the populations.

Recommendation from the February 1, 2021 Task Force meeting	Measures implemented
As a matter of priority, implement FLR and IGA activities with local populations	<p>Implementation of the approach presented at the Task Force meeting of February 1, 2021, including the following steps: (i) pre-identification of future FLR perimeters; (ii) a full phase of information, consultation and collection of consent from local stakeholders (deconcentrated administrative authorities, local authorities, local and indigenous communities; (iii) carrying out demo-land surveys; (iv) putting together complete dossiers.</p> <p>The pre-identification was based on the analysis of the 7 local development plans of the forestry communes approved by the competent authorities, and on the analysis of geospatial data to identify recent and active fronts of forest degradation: the commune of Pissa and its surrounding villages were selected on this basis.</p> <p>Field missions were launched as soon as the roads were reopened in mid-March 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - April 2 and 3 in Mbaïki and Pissa - May 3-9 and 19-25 in Pissa and the villages of Boyali 1, Bombé and Boyama 2 - weeks of June 28 and July 5, in Pissa and the villages of Boyali 1, Bombé and Boyama 2, as well as Pissa 2, Bongombé 1 and 2 <p>The PMU targeted both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perimeters that can fall into the category of "area of land under restoration", i.e., corresponding to restoration work; the PMU is examining in this regard, with the communities, the possibilities of implementing reforestation, agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration activities that it has pre-identified on their respective terroirs. - A perimeter offering "an area of landscapes subject to improved practices, corresponding to the promotion of a community forest project through the development of a simple management plan favorable to biodiversity; the PMU is examining the community forest project presented to it by the communal authorities of Pissa and is

	<p>closely involving the communities of the three villages concerned: Boyali, Boyama 2 and Bombé.</p> <p>Interactive remote management with the field has made it possible to facilitate exchanges between the PMU and the communities through the production of cartographic elements and environmental analysis, and to resolve certain misunderstandings between the communities regarding the limits of their respective territories.</p> <p>It is important to emphasize the great importance of dealing with the land tenure component, which the PMU had already emphasized when proposing the demo-land surveys, and which was confirmed through the various exchanges held with the communities during each mission.</p> <p>The fact that the demo-land surveys deal with a subject that is sometimes very sensitive for the beneficiary communities, on the one hand,</p> <p>The complexity of putting together a complete file for the implementation of an FLR project, which requires the capacity to reflect on technical, legal, economic, financial and organizational aspects, etc,</p> <p>Confirm a posteriori the choice made by the PMU to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to carry out, initially, these various stages itself and in control, in order to control the various aspects and - to be able, in a second phase, to intervene as a supervisor, entrusting the realization of land demographic surveys to national consultants and the assembly of complete FLR and IGA project files to development NGOs and confirmed local consultancies.
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Adjustments to the project strategy.

Please note that changes to outputs, baselines, indicators or targets cannot be made without official approval from PSC and PTF members, including the FLO. These changes will follow the recommendations of the MTR or the supervision mission.

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outputs		
Project Indicators/Targets		

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in

consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Analysis and proposal

The project is scheduled to be completed over a 5-year period, with an expected completion date of December 2023, two and a half years from now.

The TRI project coordination team has only been in full operation for a little over six months, specifically since November 2020.

Indeed, the deputy project manager recruited at the start of the project resigned in July 2020, while the project manager was out of the CAR due to the pandemic and has been operating since March on a telecommuting basis.

This left the project without local coordination until November 2020, when the newly hired deputy project manager took up his post and the project manager was able to return to Bangui.

The full meeting of the coordination team made it possible to refine the new "no regrets" project approach that had been presented and adopted at the January 2020 Steering Committee meeting, but whose implementation had run into difficulties after a few weeks due to the various restrictions related to the pandemic.

This approach, in its reworked version, which takes into account and provides solutions adapted to the constraints that until then did not allow the start of the implementation on the ground of FLR activities with the populations, was the subject of a presentation during the Task Force meeting, in early February 2021.

The end of 2020 and even more so the beginning of 2021 was a rather disrupted period in CAR, with a virtual halt to field trips due to insufficient security.

In summary, the current coordination team was able to begin implementing the new approach to implementing FLR activities with the populations in the field starting in mid-March. At the end of June, after three months, the team was able to identify several potential FLR perimeters in the area of Pissa and its outlying villages, and is also in discussion with WWF, the official manager of the DSPA, and is preparing a memorandum of understanding to conduct FLR activities on the forest degradation fronts in the Bayanga area, on the edge of the DSPA.

At the Task Force meeting last February, it was agreed that the mid-term evaluation of the TRI project would take place towards the end of this year 2021, and possibly early 2022. The assessment of the activities started in the new context will then cover almost nine months

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	Original NTE: Revised NTE: Justification:

8. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))

If your project had a stakeholder engagement plan, specify whether any new stakeholders have been identified/engaged:

If a stakeholder engagement plan was not requested for your project at CEO endorsement stage, please

- list all stakeholders engaged in the project
- please indicate if the project works with Civil Society Organizations and/or NGOs
- briefly describe stakeholders' engagement events, specifying time, date stakeholders engaged, purpose (information, consultation, participation in decision making, etc.) and outcomes.

Please also indicate if the private sector has been involved in your project and provide the nature of the private sector actors, their role in the project and the way they were involved

As part of the preparation of the CAR TRI Project, a workshop to launch the consultation process had been held in December 2016 in Bangui and had brought together policy makers, academic institutions, local and international NGOs, as well as FAO representatives. During two field missions in January and March 2017, consultations were conducted with local communities in the urban centers and outlying areas of Bangui, Mbaïki, Berberati, Bayanga, and Mambélé, as well as with the decentralized services present on site. A final workshop had closed the exercise in June 2017 by bringing together all relevant stakeholders.

On January 16 and 17, 2019, the national workshop for the official launch of the GCP/CAF/002/GFF Project (TRI CAR Project) was organized in Bangui by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and the FAO. It brought together about sixty participants from the public administration, civil society organizations, the private sector and technical and financial partners.

Within the framework of the implementation of the CAR TRI Project, stakeholders were involved and participated in the following events

- Capacity building needs assessment mission with the holding, in August 2019, of focus groups in Berberati, Mbaïki and then Bangui-Bimbo, involving the different categories of actors, namely technical services and research institutes, NGOs and local populations. Stakeholders from Bayanga and Mambélé were invited to meet in Berberati. A final feedback workshop was held in Bangui for all parties. It is planned that this evaluation will be extended to the management and technical monitoring staff of forest communities that have a validated local development plan and whose village communities have expressed interest in implementing FLR and IGA activities that could be financed by the TRI project.

- Organization of local technical committees in Berberati and Bayanga in April 2019, in Mbaïki and Bangui-Bimbo in May 2019 and in Mambélé in September 2019.
- Holding two meetings of the TRI RCA Project Steering Committee in Bangui, in July 2019 and again in January 2020.
- Organization, in January 2020 in Bangui of a national workshop to prepare a project to adapt the populations of southwestern CAR to climate change, to be presented for funding from the LDC Fund.
- Establishment of a technical working group of about 15 people including representatives from the administration, the University, NGOs and civil society, which received training in the CEOF tool for geospatial data analysis; this was then taken over by the team from the Forestry Department at headquarters, which organized a training program as part of the implementation of the CAFI regional project on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, supported by webinars and the preparation of online materials
<https://sites.google.com/view/cafifao-ddd/enregistrements?authuser=0>
- Participation in a survey on the theme of forest genetic resources in CAR conducted by Bioversity and focused on the state of tree seed supply systems.
- Invitation to participate in webinars organized on different themes related to FLR: forest genetic resources and FLR; valuation of ecosystem services to support the financing and implementation of FLR; etc.
- Stakeholder access to the online platform:
<https://dgroups.org/fao/restoration-initiative?ReturnUrl=%2ffao%2frestoration-initiative%2flibrary%2fczjkk182%3fo%3dlc>
- Participation in Yale University's online course: Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI), including representatives from MEDD, MEFCP and civil society.
- Solicited stakeholders to provide feedback from their knowledge of the field to facilitate the identification of relevant frameworks for FLR actions that could then be the subject of "no-regrets" field actions.
- Conducting the CAR TRI project with the integration of local coordinators designated by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Forestry into the project management team; appraising/preparing funding applications in close consultation with sectoral focal points and coordinators: GEF Focal Point, CVF Focal Point, TRI Focal Point, National Coordinator for the fight against land degradation and desertification.
- Organization of a visit to the services of the Mbaïki prefecture and the commune of Pissa, accompanied by representatives of the supervisory ministries (MEDD and MEFCP); followed by field missions to six villages located in the immediate vicinity of Pissa (Boyama 2, Boyali 1, Bombé Pissa 2, Bongombé 1 and 2), to which regional and local representatives of the MEDD and MEFCP administrations were also invited to participate.
- Deepening of contacts with potential private investors by the consultant JG Cornet in the context of his June 2019 mission on the feasibility of future public-private partnerships for the implementation of restoration actions. One of these potential investors, Centraforest, concluded a partnership agreement with the MEFCP at the end of December 2019 and presented, in this framework, an agroforestry plantation project near Bangui. The PMU visited the Boutili

site in December 2020, where the agroforestry plantation is located. An independent consultant was recruited to examine the possibilities of supporting this initiative with the TRI project. The consultant was asked to gather the views of the investor Centraforest as well as the various stakeholders involved.

- Accompaniment of a business project organized by FAO and UNEP as part of the "Restoration Factory" with the facilitation of Bridge for Billions (B4B).

<https://www.bridgeforbillions.org/fr/incubateur-start-up/>

A business project was presented by a national entrepreneur and is being incubated with the support of a team of mentors.

9. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)

Was a gender analysis undertaken or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages? Please briefly indicate the gender differences here.

Gender analysis has been taken into consideration since the preparation phase of the Project.

Indeed, in the Project Document, emphasis is placed on the links between: (i) taking into account the gender-specific needs of local communities and their better adoption of good FLR practices; (ii) the promotion of FLR activities, integrated natural resource management and the coexistence of different resource users, including women, youth and generally the most vulnerable groups.

Attention to gender, youth and vulnerable groups is an ongoing concern, both constant at the different stages of project implementation and present in many areas: needs analysis, communication and information, prior consultation and participation in decision-making, reduction of gender inequalities in the labor market, etc.

During the field missions conducted in April and May 2021 in the Pissa area, the PMU took care to gather the opinions of all groups and to ensure their effective participation in the various information meetings and discussions held with the village communities. Women-only focus groups were even organized in each of the villages Boyali 1, Boyama 2 and Bombé. The PMU noted that the women welcomed this initiative and came in large numbers to participate in these meetings.

This concern for equality between men and women is already taken into account on a daily basis, with an effective and growing presence at the various meetings, workshops and training sessions.

Does the M&E system have gender-disaggregated data? How is the project tracking gender results and impacts?

At this time, the TRI RCA monitoring and evaluation system does not yet have accurate gender-specific data on the populations in the project area. This data will be collected as the FLR perimeters are determined.

More generally, according to the PNIASA (MDRA, 2013), women represented 50.2% of the total population and 53.7% of the labor force. They provided over 74% of the labor force directly associated with agricultural production, including production, processing, and marketing

The illiteracy rate is higher among women (68%) than among men (46%). The proportion of women without access to education is particularly high in rural areas (80% of women aged 15-49)

Does the project staff have gender expertise?

The PMU participated in a capacity building week, organized in Rome in October 2019 by the Global TRI. The program included a session on "Gender and FLRs" moderated by Dr. Sc. Jackie Siles of the Global Governance and Rights Program. The following questions were addressed: Why gender and forest landscape restoration? How to ensure a gender-sensitive restoration opportunity assessment methodology (ROAM)?

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources.
- improving women's participation and decision making; and or
- generating socio-economic benefits or services for women

With regard to the contribution to gender equality, it can be emphasized that FLR activities will allow (i) increasing crop productivity, as well as the diversity of food crops and non timber forest products (NTFPs), through agroecological practices, which will thus reduce the very high labor input to agriculture, which is currently overwhelmingly provided by women; (ii) the supply of fuelwood, through the planting of fast-growing tree species, which will also reduce the effort and time required by women to collect fuelwood.

In the context of the mission to examine the possibilities of providing support from the TRI project to the Centraforest Initiative promoted by a private investor, the PMU took care to specify the importance to be given to the gender dimension in the terms of reference of the consultation.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval

- Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.
- Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.
- Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected global environmental benefits. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.
- Please provide links to publications, leaflets, video materials, related website, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.
- Does the project have a communication and/or knowledge management focal point? If yes, please provide their names and email addresses

Technical and awareness-raising information for the promotion of FLR, including that which could contribute to the development of a future guide to good practice in FLR and IGAs in CAR, is already available through the Global Child project network.

Thus, as already mentioned in section 8 - Stakeholder Engagement, webinars are regularly organized on the different themes related to FLR, including: sustainable wood energy and FLR; forest genetic resources and FLR; valuation of ecosystem services; and support to FLR financing and implementation.

In addition, access is provided to the online platform:

<https://dgroups.org/fao/restoration-initiative?ReturnUrl=%2ffao%2frestoration-initiative%2flibrary%2fczjkk182%3fo%3dlc>

To complete and enrich this information, the PMU undertook to collect, on site, the elements available in the documentation emanating from past or current projects and initiatives, carried out by the different partners and institutions concerned (PDRSO, PGRN, CIRAD, etc.) as well as the elements observable on the ground.

A field visit was made by the PMU to the Centraforest agroforestry plantation site in Boutili

(see photographs).

The field missions that were organized in April and May 2021 in Pissa and in the villages of its periphery allowed the PMU to have interesting first exchanges with the village communities

(see photographs).

The FAO Bangui office has a communication department that already has a set of bibliographic and photographic materials, focused on the traditional sectors of FAO activities in CAR, namely food security, agricultural production and livestock. The field of the environment, and in particular the restoration of forests and landscapes, is a more recent development in CAR.

The FAO in CAR has a website: <http://www.fao.org/republique-centrafricaine/fao-en-republique-centrafricaine/fr/>

There is no communication specialist on the CAR TRI Project management team. However, there is a communication team attached to the FAO Representation in Bangui, whose manager is Jean-Nestor BOBONGO, <Jean.Bobongo@fao.org>

The PMU has produced some articles and posters presenting the CAR TRI Project in conjunction with the communication team of the FAO Representation in CAR.

Public-private partnership: investing in the agricultural and forestry sectors in the Central African Republic

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/resources/detail/fr/c/1259029/>

TRI Project in Central African Republic

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/resources/detail/en/c/1273463/>

The PMU is currently preparing two draft publications for the XV World Forestry Congress on the theme "Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests:

"The Centraforest Initiative, an agroforestry project promoted by a Central African private operator in partnership with the CAR Ministry of Forestry, innovative in more ways than one."

"Project to create micro-forests in southwestern CAR: family forest gardens, planted with trees with multiple functions (shade, fruit trees, caterpillar hosts, etc.)."

The forthcoming construction of premises dedicated to the PMU will certainly be an asset for communication on the activities to be carried out and for the dissemination of information on FLR to the Project stakeholders.

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.

If applies, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities

Do indigenous peoples have an active participation in the project activities? How?

Indigenous communities were consulted as part of the project preparation. These are: Bay'Aka pygmies concentrated in southwestern CAR, particularly in the prefectures of Lobaye and Sangha-Mbaéré, whose number varies, according to estimates in the Project Document, between 5,000 and 12,000. Consultations were organized in the context of the project's preparation with 200 families located in the Berberati and Bayanga zones and allowed for initial exchanges of information on the expectations of the populations and the responses that the Project could provide. Support for land tenure security of the lands to be restored was recognized by all as a priority.

Today, these communities are represented on the project's steering committee.

Within the framework of the actions undertaken, the PMU ensures that their representatives are invited to the various meetings and workshops in the same way as all the stakeholders in the implementation of the project. Some of their representatives are very dynamic and have enrolled in training sessions (e.g. Elti by Yale University) and are also part of the CEOF technical working group, formed in January 2020.

During field missions in April and May 2021 to Pissa and its outlying villages, the PMU met with representatives of indigenous communities as part of the briefings held with village communities.

The partnership project that the PMU is developing with WWF to support the implementation of FLR and IGA activities in the Bayanga and DSPAS areas will focus on indigenous peoples.

It had been agreed in January-February 2020 with the Project CTO and colleagues from the Indigenous Peoples Team at HQ in Rome to organize two stakeholder training missions to CAR on FPIC, including field visits. The first one, originally scheduled for June, had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative³⁵ approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.

The TRI RCA project is a framework for launching innovative approaches. At this early stage in the life of the project, some are already promising:

The Centraforest initiative involves the creation of agroforestry plantations (1000 ha in private plantations and 200 ha in village plantations) that will produce energy wood and food crops about 50 km northwest of Bangui. This is a first in CAR, both in terms of the size of the area (1,200 ha) and its institutional set-up, a partnership between the Ministry in charge of forests and a private operator, and the establishment of a partnership contract with farmers for agroforestry production.

A second initiative is the introduction of a forest-environment component in the local development plans of forest communities, made possible by the recent law of April 2020 on the organization and functioning of local communities.

A third is the prospect of promoting a community forest project through the financing of a FLR perimeter: this is what the PMU is working on in the context of its field missions in the Pissa zone. Indeed, the Boyama 2 community forest project, although already prepared and transmitted by the village communities to their administrative authorities several years ago without obtaining any follow-up, could be the first in CAR to obtain the official status of community forest, thanks in part to the support of the TRI project, which will be able to take charge of the file by updating and completing it, and then by providing support for the development of the management plan, which is considered a prerequisite for the forestry regulations.

³⁵ Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptative measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

- Are the outcomes/outputs still achievable within the project period.
- Will the timing of the project MTR or TE be affected/delayed?
- What is the impact of COVID-19 on project beneficiaries, personnel, etc.
- Are there good practices and lessons learned to be shared?

The implications of the pandemic on the project's activities and progress in CAR are similar to those noted in the other national projects of the TRI program, as indicated in the report "The Restoration Initiative: 2020 Year in Review," based on a survey of all project management teams.

In CAR, these implications were combined with the handicaps of the country's general situation (its geographic isolation, the weakness of its equipment and networks) and the socio-political context of the moment, marked by the presidential and legislative elections.

Thus, the reduction in operational travel and the reduction in the number of people gathering has been effective, contributing to the delay in project activities, as observed in all the countries concerned. In CAR, these effects were combined with a certain demobilization of government officials, particularly those who were busy campaigning for elections because they were themselves candidates for parliament in their respective chiefdoms.

In addition, the electoral process took a long time, due to incidents that marred the first round of voting in December 2020, preventing voters from casting their ballots in some constituencies. Authorities had to re-convene voters to re-run the first round and then, if necessary, to hold a second round. In the end, the announcement of the new government was not made until June 2021, nearly six months after the first round of voting.

That said, the resumption of activities in the TRI project's partner administrations should quickly return to normal, with the confirmation of the project's correspondents in their previous responsibilities or their replacement by other colleagues.

In addition, after the presidential elections, there was a strong climate of insecurity that resulted in road blockages, including at the gates of Bangui. The project team was only allowed back into the field in mid-March 2021.

Another implication noted in the survey of most national project management teams is the shift from meetings to online forums. In this regard, the efforts of the Restoration Facility and Forestry Department teams at headquarters to

support the implementation of the TRI project in CAR through the organization of online training and the provision of training materials are to be commended.

However, the use of telecommuting is hampered locally in Bangui by the very poor coverage of the internet and electricity networks, as well as the general lack of properly equipped premises to accommodate colleagues and partners who are unable to find individual solutions to these communication difficulties.

Despite these constraints, and thanks to the fact that the project coordination team was able to be reconstituted in mid-November 2020 and that it was able to access the project perimeters when the roads reopened in March 2021, the TRI CAR project is currently in a good state of flux. The reception of the field missions by the communities is very encouraging.

In the Pissa area, for example, in barely four months, the TRI project management team has been able to establish a good climate of trust with the communities of six villages interested in restoration, which has enabled it to make rapid progress in determining the perimeters and activities of FLR and accompanying IGAs, as well as in the appraisal of a community forest project involving three of the communities concerned.

This area could be the first officially allocated community forest in CAR. The communities wish to see their forest space dedicated to biodiversity conservation by practicing a reasoned hunt in its buffer zone and also intend to protect it from the industrial logging that was practiced there by the concessionaire of the area until a few years ago, then by the artisanal logging conducted in an anarchic manner that has subsequently taken over.

The communities are very hopeful that the TRI project will be able to bring this initiative to fruition, especially since they told us that the first official approach they made to the administration in this regard dates back to 2004 and that, despite several reminders, it had not been successful.

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ³⁶	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
French Agency for Development (AFD) + French Global Environmental Facility (FFEM)	South West Regional Development Project (PDRSO) CCF 1130	Grants	US\$ 4.0 million included in : AFD (€ 5.0 million) + FFEM (€ 1.5 million).	US\$ 4.0 million included in : a total disbursement of € 5.08 million		US\$ 4.0 million
World Bank / International Development Association (IDA)	Natural Resources Governance Project in CAR P 161973	Grant	US\$ 4.8 million included in IDA (US\$ 10 million)	US\$ 3.55 million		US\$ 4.8 million
MEDD / CAFI	Elaboration of a National Investment Framework	Grant to the Government of CAR	US\$ 1.0 million	US\$ 1.0 million		US\$ 1.0 million
FAO	Various projects TCP/CAF/3602 GCP/CAF/014 OSRO/CAF/705 OSRO/CAF/605/UK	Grants	US\$ 0.6 million included in US\$ 10.6 millions	US\$ 0.6 million		US\$ 0.6 million
		TOTAL (without GEF project associated with the NRGF)	US\$ 10.4 million	US\$ 9.15 million		US\$ 10.4 million

³⁶ Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

World Bank / GEF	Project associated ³⁷ with the NRG “Additional financing for the natural resources governance project” P 171713	Grant	US\$ 7.61 million			US\$ 7.61 million
		TOTAL (within GEF project associated with the NRG)	US\$ 18.01 million	US\$ 9.15 million		US\$ 18.01 million

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement

³⁷ Approval at the May 21, 2021 Board Meeting

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

Implementation Progress Rating – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action. **Moderately Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action. **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.