



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):	Democratic Republic of Congo																
Project Title:	The Restoration Initiative, DRC child project: Improved Management and Restoration of Agro-sylvo-pastoral Resources in the Pilot Province of South-Kivu																
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP /DRC/054/GFF																
GEF ID:	9515																
GEF Focal Area(s):	Multi Focal Area Biodiversity BD-4.9, Climate Change Mitigation CCM-2.4, Land Degradation LD-3.4, Sustainable Forest Management SFM-3																
Project Executing Partners:	Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development (MEDD); World Resources Institute (WRI) for the implementation of the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) in South Kivu; Provincial Governorate of the South Kivu Province, Louvain Development Cooperation (LCD) for the development of microprojects, the Evangelic University in Africa (UEA) for the Independent Observatory on FLR; Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB) for MRV and documenting of Sustainable Land Management in South-Kivu 																
Project Duration:	5 Years																
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	<p>Contact details of Club Dimitra and three state sites (including polygons)</p> <p>Coordinates of state concessions</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #ffcc00;"> <th style="padding: 5px;">Id</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Nom</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Longitude</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Latutide</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">1</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Zone 1 Kabare</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">28° 44' 31,868" E</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2° 25' 23,436" S</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">2</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Kabare Cirunga</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">28° 47' 6,067" E</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2° 30' 52,004" S</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">3</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Cisheke</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">28° 43' 38,183" E</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">2° 36' 51,563" S</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Coordinates</p>	Id	Nom	Longitude	Latutide	1	Zone 1 Kabare	28° 44' 31,868" E	2° 25' 23,436" S	2	Kabare Cirunga	28° 47' 6,067" E	2° 30' 52,004" S	3	Cisheke	28° 43' 38,183" E	2° 36' 51,563" S
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	 BASE DE DONNEES CD KABARE .xlsx	 Base des données CD à Ngweshe VRAI
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Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	06 April 2018
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	10 October 2018
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	09 October 2023
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	N/A
Actual Implementation End Date³:	N/A

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	3,600,000 USD
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	12,376,264USD
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2020 (USD m):	1.355.089 USD
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2020⁵	6 889 118 (GIZ for land use planning at chiefdom level + FAO to support the inception phase with its FLRM + Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (MEDD))

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee:	12/06/2020
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¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

³ Actual date at which project implementation ends/closes operationally -- 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.

Mid-term Review or Evaluation Date planned (if applicable):	Last semester 2021
Mid-term review/evaluation actual:	
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022).	Yes
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021– June 2022).	No
Terminal Evaluation Date Actual:	
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁶	Yes (Core indicators)

Ratings

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

Status

Implementation Status <i>(1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):</i>	3rd PIR
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⁶ 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

Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Affiliation	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Floribert Mbolela	Floribert.Mbolela@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Christophe Besacier	Christophe.Besacier@fao.org
Budget Holder	Aristide Ongone Obame	Aristide.Ongone@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	Maude Veyret-Picot	Maude.VeyretPicot@fao.org

2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcomes (Cumulative)

Project objective and Outcomes	Description of indicator(s) ⁷	Baseline level	Mid-term target ⁸	End-of-project target	Level at 30 Jun 2021	Progress rating ⁹
Objective(s): To increase development opportunities in DRC through the sustainable exploitation of natural resources						
Outcome 1	Number of policies and regulatory frameworks in TRI countries that support forest and landscape restoration while incorporating biodiversity conservation, accelerated low GHG development and emissions reduction, and sustainable livelihood considerations.	Existing text are outdated or not implemented. Several key texts for sustainable resource management are missing.	Existing text are outdated or not implemented. Several key texts for sustainable resource management are missing.	At least one policy in the forest sector (Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy and Action Plan), at least one in the agricultural or environmental sector (Environment provincial policy or provincial programme for sustainable agriculture development) and two Chiefdom Development Plans,	The studies conducted with Rights Empower confirmed the following findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of edicts and orders relating to natural resource management in general, and FLR in particular; • Draft edicts on land tenure security exist but have never been promulgated ; • Existence of land conflicts between concession holders and sharecroppers ; • Increased practice of slash-and-burn agriculture and bushfires resulting in the destruction of 	S

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This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

⁸ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

⁹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Marginally Satisfactory** (MS), **Marginally Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU).

			<p>drafted and submitted for adoption</p>	<p>ecosystems and landscapes and of the environment in the province.</p> <p>Examples of recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact the new land law to incorporate provisions on the recognition of Pygmy Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) land rights, public participation and the principle of free, prior and informed consent ; • Adopt and promulgate the edict regulating slash and burn agriculture in South Kivu province ; • Develop a provincial FLR policy that provides strategic focus and direction and apply it to the province ; <p>Seven (07) enabling FLR policy documents were produced. After various studies by the WRI partners and Rights Empower, the following documents were validated at provincial and national level. I) Text on the Provincial FLR Strategy and ii) the results of the ROAM study with WRI. iii) The draft edict regulating slash-and-burn agriculture, iv) the draft edict on the implementation of the customary land management system, v) the draft edict establishing the sharecropping contract template, vi) the draft edict on forest and bush fire control, and vii) the draft edict identifying protected forest species, by Rights Empower.</p>	
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	LDPs number updated or elaborated	1 PDL for each chiefdom	Development of PDL integrating the RFP system	<p>A total of four (4) consultation meetings between the PMU and GIZ were held in order to orient the support actions of the TRI/RGEM project and to ensure that the priority actions for FLR are effectively integrated into the LDPs. To this end, the recommendations of the validation workshops (Bukavu and Kinshasa) will be integrated into the final version and the PMU will follow this step with GIZ to ensure the integration of ROAM/FLR data into the latest versions of the LDPs.</p> <p>For the elaboration of the two LDPs, GIZ followed a participatory process, made up of the technical diagnosis, the participatory diagnosis, the institutional diagnosis, the formulation of the LDP and the elaboration of a LDP in each chiefdom. The two LDPs were validated respectively on 26/05/2021 in Kabare and on 14/03/2021 in Ngweshe and integrate the interventions of the FLR strategy submitted by the PMU of the RGEM Project for the scaling up of the FLR in synergy with the Provincial Strategy. 204 people participated in the validation of these two LDPs of which 120 participants in the validation of the Kabare LDP and 84 participants in the validation of the Ngweshe LDP.</p>	S
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Outcome 2:	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	High level of poverty and land degradation in the targeted chiefdoms	6,000 people of 1,000 households	30,000 people or 6,000 households including 50% of women	124 people trained, including 28 exogenous and endogenous facilitators of the Clubs Dimitra of the partners (APES, ASEC, AJCDI and SAMWAKI) were trained in techniques for setting up, monitoring and closely accompanying the Clubs DIMITRA 20 members of the local development committees (CLDs) were trained in monitoring, coaching and community management of natural resources in Nyangezi. 76 Club Dimitra committee members and their dependents, a total of 456 people, were trained on how to run a CD in Kabare and Ngweshe.	s
	Average annual household income from forest and from tree products, and increased agricultural and pastoral productivity	Over 80% of beneficiaries live below the poverty line	Over 80% of beneficiaries live below the poverty line	At least 50% of beneficiaries live below the poverty line	In view of the results of the socio-economic study, which show a worrying socio-economic situation in which the income per person per day varies from US\$0.12 in the Pygmy community compared to an average of US\$0.5 among the Bantu in the project area. Thus, the Club Dimitra (C.D.) approach was adopted for the supervision of these communities. Today, 90 Clubs Dimitra have been created with the help of two partners, ASEC and APES, which will develop micro-projects to improve the income of the beneficiaries in partnership with Louvain Coopération (LCD).	s

Outcome 3:	Number of investment plans, strategies and action plans that include FLR in their set of interventions	FLR interventions are not prioritized in current investment plans, strategies or actions plans related to natural resources management and sustainable development.	At least one investment plans, strategy or action plan includes FLR in their set of interventions	At least two investment plans, strategies, or action plans (e.g. FONAREDD investment plan, REDD+ strategy, INDC strategy) include FLR in their set of interventions	Thanks to the study on the provincial FLR strategy and the ROAM by WRI, an action plan was developed, integrating the FLR and the results of the ROAM which determines the maps, the soil type and the Restoration options that were used to influence the two LDPs. Discussions have been initiated with the aim of pooling efforts by creating synergies with other projects implemented by FAO in the same area.	Ms
	Number of bankable projects developed & submitted (according to the scorecard matrix)	No bankable projects	One bankable project	Four bankable projects	Identification of a major potential funding opportunity for FLR actions at the national level, FONAREDD, about which discussions are underway on the modalities for submitting project proposals. The Focal Point of the latter showed great interest in replicating this project in other sites in South Kivu and North Kivu during the virtual COPIL meeting in June 2020. In view of the above, the PMU negotiated and obtained a letter from the Governor of South Kivu Province to seek additional funding from CAFI.	s

Outcome 4:	# of TRI knowledge products developed, disseminated and accessed through relevant knowledge platforms	No TRI knowledge Products	At least 1 university curricular chapters and 1 school curricula booklet	At least 2 university curricular chapters, 1 school curricula booklet, 2 short documentaries, 1 pamphlet, 2 radio talks, 1 theatre play and 2 kids games	The supporting partners for the awareness raising of local communities in the two chiefdoms of Ngweshe and Kabare (National NGOs ASEC, APES, SAMWAKI and AJCDI) have produced 1 comic book and 2 videos translated into local languages on FLR. This tool was highly appreciated during the awareness-raising campaigns on the RGEM Project and the importance of FLR in the Project area.	S
	Child project monitoring system established and providing relevant information to managers	No M&E system to monitoring FLR interventions	One project specific M&E system developed and implemented	One project specific M&E system and one provincial M&E system for FLR interventions	Discussions with stakeholders to organise exchange meetings to set up a monitoring and evaluation system for FLR.	s

Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU rating ¹⁰

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 3	Accelerate the development process of bankable projects.	PMU	Immediately

¹⁰ To be completed by Budget Holder and the Lead Technical Officer

3. Progress in Generating Project Outputs

Outputs ¹¹	Expected completion date ¹²	Achievements at each PIR ¹³					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments. Describe any variance ¹⁴ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR		
Output 1.1 Provincial RFP Strategy Document developed	Q4 Y1	- An operational partnership was developed with Provincial Coordination to lead the participatory process to develop a Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy - LoA developed with World Resources Institute (WRI) to enhance capacity of decentralized institutions and key stakeholders to undertake a Restoration Opportunities Assessment exercise for the province of South Kivu (ROAM)	- Two workshops were organized at the provincial level to discuss the development of the Provincial Strategy on Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR). The first one brought 33 participants together which were trained on the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology	From 17 to 24 June 2021 and from 24 to 25 June 2021, the documents on the Provincial Strategy for the Restoration of Forests and Landscapes in South Kivu and the results on the ROAM were presented by the partner World Resources Institute (WRI) respectively in Bukavu and Kinshasa and validated by the participants in these different workshops. A total of 68 people, comprising 18 women and 50 men at the provincial (in Bukavu) and national (in Kinshasa) levels, took part.			95%	

¹¹ 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.

¹² As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

¹³ **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)**

¹⁴ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

		<p>- strategic and technical consultations with operational partners of the environment sector in the territories of Kabare and Walungu have taken place, and specific discussions have been organized with the Provincial Coordination of Environment, the Official University of Bukavu (UOB) and GIZ</p> <p>- Consultation and discussions with GIZ through their programme on “Biodiversity and Forests” which contributes to the protection of the biodiversity and the sustainable management of tropical forests in order to align the annual work plan 2019-2020 against the strategies and timeline already identified within the Local Development Plans and ensure synergies of the restoration interventions planned by the different baseline projects during this period 2019-2020</p> <p>- These synergies include: (i) restoration of degraded forests and landscapes, (ii) restoration of soil fertility, (iii) support to individual and community reforestation, (iv) contribution to reduction of tenure conflicts and (v)</p>	<p>(ROAM). During the second workshop, 35 participants the preliminary findings of the first scoping mission of WRI was presented and participants discussed on a variety of topics important to FLR: principles on prioritisation of possible restoration options, political, institutional and financial challenges for FLR in South-Kivu, implication of private sector in FLR. Below you can find some of the restoration options discussed and approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Best practices on the protection of watersheds and the fight against erosion on the slopes and agricultural fields; - Sustainable land management practices for subsistence crops and vegetable gardens through agroforestry practices; - Promotion of fodder production for 					
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		<p>support programme to food security.</p>	<p>livestock: put in place pilot zones for intensification and integration of livestock and agriculture to avoid conflicts;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The production of fruit trees to support apiculture in the project areas; - Sustainable and rational management of forested areas in function of site opportunities (terrains >2 ha and between 1 and 2 ha); - The promotion of improved cookstoves to reduce charcoal consumption; - Classification of potential restoration options depending on geographic zone <p>- WRI is finalizing the draft Provincial Strategy with the support of international experts and a local and national validation workshop will be organized.</p>				
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<p>Output 1.2 Diagnosis of RFP texts and laws</p>	<p>Q1 Y2</p>	<p>- An operational partnership was developed with Provincial Coordination to lead the participatory process to develop a Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy</p> <p>- LoA developed with World Resources Institute (WRI) to enhance capacity of decentralized institutions and key stakeholders to undertake a Restoration Opportunities Assessment exercise for the province of South Kivu (ROAM)</p> <p>- strategic and technical consultations with operational partners of the environment sector in the territories of Kabare and Walungu have taken place, and specific discussions have been organized with the Provincial Coordination of Environment, the Official University of Bukavu (UOB) and GIZ</p> <p>- Consultation and discussions with GIZ through their programme on “Biodiversity and Forests” which contributes to the protection of the biodiversity and the sustainable management of tropical forests in order to align the annual work plan 2019-2020 against the strategies and timeline already identified within the Local Development Plans and</p>	<p>The evaluation of the technical and financial offers received by the legal firms is being finalized to ensure that the recommendations made by the participants to the above workshops are taking into consideration while reviewing legal texts on their strengths and weaknesses related to FLR.</p>	<p>The consultations and exploitation of texts relating to the forest and landscape restoration with various stakeholders at national, provincial and local level by the partner Rights Empower led on 24 and 25 June 2021 to the validation of the document on the diagnosis of legal texts aimed at promoting forest and landscape restoration and land tenure in South Kivu. 02 drafts edicts, including the edict regulating slash and burn agriculture and the edict on the implementation of the customary land management system. 03 drafts of decrees, including the Decree establishing the sharecropping contract template, the Decree on the control of forest and bush fires and the Decree identifying the protected forest species.</p> <p>Examples of recommendations include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact the new land law to incorporate provisions on the recognition of IP’s land rights, public participation and the principle of free, prior and informed consent; • Adopt and promulgate the edict regulating slash and burn agriculture in South Kivu province; • Develop a provincial FLR policy that provides strategic focus and direction and apply it to the province; 			<p>90%</p>	
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		<p>ensure synergies of the restoration interventions planned by the different baseline projects during this period 2019-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These synergies include: (i) restoration of degraded forests and landscapes, (ii) restoration of soil fertility, (iii) support to individual and community reforestation, (iv) contribution to reduction of tenure conflicts and (v) support programme to food security. 						
<p>Output 1.3 Number of updated or developed PDLs promoting the RFP approach</p>	Q1 Y2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stocktaking missions carried out by PMU to discuss with key partners, such as Chiefdoms and GIZ to plan support to update existing CDPs - awareness raising with Chief of Kabare and local leaders has taken place to facilitate land access for the vulnerable communities such as women and indigenous peoples - a support mission has been undertaken to strengthen the capacity of 30 local leaders on the evaluation of indicators and expected results to be achieved through the project, especially on: protection of biodiversity, protection and promotion of ecosystem services through the restoration of degraded 	<p>The participatory village diagnostics in the two Chiefdoms have been carried out at the group level. In total 14 groups in Kabare and 16 groups in Ngweshe were consulted to inform the revision and development of the Local Development Plans at the Chiefdom level. Discussions are ongoing with GIZ and the Chiefdoms to ensure the integration of the recommendations of the FLR Strategy discussions.</p>	<p>A workshop was held in Nyangezi from 10 to 15 May 2021, with the aim of building the capacity of members of Local Development Committees (LDCs) in the techniques of monitoring, support and community management of natural resources.</p> <p>Four (4) consultation meetings between the PMU and GIZ were held in order to orient the support actions of the TRI/RGEM project and to ensure that the priority actions for FLR are effectively integrated into the LDPs.</p> <p>To this end, the recommendations of the validation workshops (Bukavu and Kinshasa) will be integrated into the final version and the PMU will follow this step with GIZ to ensure the integration of ROAM/FLR data into the latest versions of the LDPs.</p>			90%	

		<p>landscapes and sustainable land management practices in the project sites.</p>		<p>For the elaboration of the two LDPs, GIZ followed a participatory process, made up of the technical diagnosis, the participatory diagnosis, the institutional diagnosis, the formulation of the LDP and the elaboration of a LDP in each chiefdom. The two LDPs were validated respectively on 26/05/2021 in Kabare and on 14/03/2021 in Ngweshe and integrate the interventions of the FLR strategy submitted by the PMU of the RGEM Project for the scaling up of the FLR in synergy with the Provincial Strategy. 204 people participated in the validation of these two LDPs of which 120 participants in the validation of the Kabare LDP and 84 participants in the validation of the Ngweshe LDP.</p> <p>Different themes were tackled, including : Capacity building of local development committee members on conflict resolution issues; Capacity building of local development committee members on community-based natural resource management issues; Capacity building of local development committee members on rural profitable project development (Rural invest); Capacity building of local development committee members on prioritisation of development actions.</p> <p>This five-day training course was attended by 20 participants, members of Local Development Committees (10 per chiefdom) and representatives of the customary chiefs (Bami) of the Kabare and Ngweshe chiefdoms.</p>				
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<p>Output 2.1 Site-specific restoration plans developed in the targeted Chiefdoms including the identification of priority zones, species, restoration practices and land-tenure systems</p>	Q1 Y2	An operational partnership was developed with World Resources Institute (WRI) to enhance capacity of decentralized institutions and key stakeholders to undertake a Restoration Opportunities Assessment for the province of South Kivu	<p>Following a competitive process, the project team has identified two university institutions (Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB), and Evangelic University of Africa (UBA)) to support the project with hosting the Observatory and carrying out MRV interventions on SLM.</p> <p>The process for the identification of 4 partner organizations to carry out FLR awareness campaigns in the project sites and support the establishment of Cub Dimitra is being finalized.</p>	<p>The two contracted academic institutions, including the 'Université Evangélique en Afrique' (UEA), which hosts the Independent Observatory, and the 'Université Catholique de Bukavu' (UCB), which is conducting MRV and Sustainable Land Management studies to determine the state of carbon sequestration prior to the implementation of the project activities, have already signed their Letters of agreement with FAO. The Independent Observatory is functional and a mapping of land uses in the Kabare and Ngweshe chiefdom obtained with the Multinomial Logistic Regression model for a good classification of land use has been done by the UEA.</p> <p>In December 2020, a workshop was held to present and validate the socio-economic study carried out by the project through an expert economist recruited by the RGEM Project who carried out this study in the two chiefdoms in order to produce information related to the human, social, economic and developmental aspects on which the communities will base their decisions to choose the best options for forest and landscape restoration.</p> <p>Another study on ecosystem services was conducted by a team of experts from 10 to 30 May 2021 to update the status of ecosystem and biophysical services in the project area.</p>			30%	
<p>Output 2.2 Number ha of restored forests and landscapes</p>	Q3 Y3	Foreseen as from Q1 Y2 -ToR developed for consultants to initiate Farmer Field Schools and Community	Following a joint mission between FAO, DIAF and the Provincial Coordination of the	A total of 7392 ha are available for the different types of restoration. These hectares are distributed as follows: The government side ensures the availability of 960 Ha of which 160 Ha in its			15%	

		<p>Listeners Clubs in the pilot communities -Roadmap developed with the support of UEFA on indigenous peoples' considerations integration into all project interventions and M&E related activities through capacity development event organized with key stakeholders in Bukavu with the support of experts from FAO Rome</p>	<p>Environment, resilient tree species were identified with local stakeholders to be used to at least restore 1,000 ha in 2020 in the state forest concessions (800 ha in Tshiseke and 200 ha in Kabare). Contacts were made with the NGOs working in the domain of restoration (Food for Hungry, Mercy Corps, World Vision, ...) to enable the identification of partners and best ways to ensure availability of sufficient seedlings in tree nurseries for the reforestation efforts.</p> <p>Partner activities 1°) GIZ : i) Choice of Groups and villages: 4 Groups in Ngweshe (Kaniola, Karhongo, Kamisimbi, Izege) and 4 groups in Kabare (Mudaka, Mumosho, Bushumba, Bushwira).</p>	<p>Businga concession and 800 Ha in its Cisheke concession. The two chiefs have 400 ha available, 200 ha each. In order to formalise these needs, requests were sent by the PMU to the Provincial Coordination of the Environment and to the two Chiefs in order to have official notifications of the availability of land for the project activities</p> <p>The local community, whose awareness has been raised by the 2 local NGOs contracted for FLR sensitization, makes 5992 Ha available, including 3167 Ha in Kabare with AJCDI and 2825 Ha in Ngweshe with SAMWAKI. The options for restoration include natural regeneration, soil conservation, land protection, etc.</p>				
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			<p>ii) Seedlings produced and ha reforested :</p> <p><u>Period 2018-2019 :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No of nurseries : 40 nurseries ; - No de seedlings : 3 058 647 trees ; - Surface planted : 1 747 Ha ; <p><u>Period 2019-2020 :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No of nurseries : 24 nurseries ; - No de seedlings : 802 155 trees ; - Surface planted : 639 Ha ; <p><u>Surface reforested : 2 286 Ha</u></p> <p><u>2°) Louvain</u></p> <p><u>Coopération (LC) :</u></p> <p>Sensibilisation of 3000 beneficiary households on the limitations on productivity through their toolkit on Environmental Integration (OIE).</p> <p>Tree planting campaign</p> <p>On the 30th of June 2020, around 41500 seedlings (agroforestry, fruit</p>				
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			<p>trees) were distributed to 1350 households (31 seedlings per family) to reforest a total of 400 ha.</p> <p><u>Surface reforested:</u> <u>400 Ha</u></p>					
<p>Output 2.3 (i) Number of micro-projects developed, (ii) Number of direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex) and associations formed</p>	Q3 Y5	Discussions launched with partner LCD (Louvain Cooperation Development) to develop a Letter of Agreement to train local associations in terms of structure, management and preparation of micro-project proposals	<p>The ToR for the Letter of Agreement with Louvain Development Cooperation (LCD) to support the development of a first cohort of 40 micro-projects (benefiting 800 households) were discussed and submitted for approval. This agreement will normally start the 1st of August 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . A contract was signed with LCD to support the development of micro-projects promoting forest and landscape restoration in the project area. . A participatory workshop on the methodology and principles of implementation of community microprojects took place in Bukavu on 05/11/2020, with 34 participants including 8 women. . LCD took out awareness-raising activities for 150 Associations or Cooperatives. . 90 Clubs DIMITRA have been created in the RGEM project area, of which 50 Clubs DIMITRA in the Ngweshe Chiefdom by the partner APES and 40 Clubs DIMITRA in Kabare by the partner ASEC. 			30%	
<p>Output 3.1 (i) Number of beneficiaries trained, (ii) Roadmap implemented</p>	Q3 Y3	Foreseen as from Q1 Y2	<p>A capacity development plan and associated roadmap was developed with the support of an international expert and 45 people were trained on participatory capacity needs assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . From 10 to 15 May 2021, 20 participants, members of Local Development Committees (LDCs) from two chiefdoms, comprising 8 women and 12 men, were trained in monitoring, support and community management techniques for natural resources. . With the partner LCD, a participatory workshop on "Methodology and Principles of Implementation of Community Microprojects" took place on 5/11/2020 in 			40%	

			<p>methodology. The ToR of the actual trainings have been developed and the identification of local experts is ongoing with the support of local partners.</p>	<p>Bukavu. 34 participants (including 8 women) took part. 02 trainings were organised by the provincial coordination on "bush and forest fire", one in Nyangezi/Ngweshe and the other in Bagira/Kabare.</p> <p>In addition, actions have been carried out for the development of the operational manual aimed at facilitating activities related to small grants in the framework of support to micro-projects sensitive to FLR restoration.</p>				
<p>Output 3.2 An observatory for the civil society to support FLR in South-Kivu</p>	<p>Q3 Y2</p>	<p>First contacts were made with civil society and a draft plan of action has been developed to establish the independent observatory for the civil society to monitor progress of FLR interventions. An exchange visit is also planned in another province of DRC (2019) in order to see an example of a similar observatory supported in the context of another GEF project led by FAO</p>	<p>UCB (Catholic University of Bukavu) was identified to host the Independent Observatory for FLR in South-Kivu. The ToR with associated needs of equipment have been discussed for this partnership and the agreement has been submitted for approval. The ToR of the exchange visit with the project of Miombo in the Province of High Katanga were developed, but the actual mission was</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . An Independent Observatory for Forests and Landscapes in South Kivu has been set up and is operational under the responsibility of the Université Evangélique en Afrique (UEA/Bukavu). . A mapping of land use in the Kabare and Ngweshe chiefdoms using the Multinomial Logistic Regression model for a good classification of land use was done by the partner UEA, as one of the actions of the FLR/South Kivu Independent Observatory. . A mission was organised from 02 to 07 April 2021 in Katanga/Lubumbashi with the aim of analysing the operating bases of the Miombo Clear Forest Observatory upstream in order to support the effective establishment of an Independent Observatory of Forests and Mountainous Landscapes in South Kivu. A report was produced for this purpose and shared. 			<p>35%</p>	

			postponed due to movement restrictions because of COVID-19.	. In addition, as part of the same product, the Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB) was contracted and an agreement was signed for the implementation of a technical device for the Measurement, Notification and Verification (M.N.V.) of carbon emissions due to project activities, the diagnosis of the agricultural system in the RGEM project area and the Sustainable Land Management (SLM)				
Output 3.3 Four bankable, largescale restoration projects submitted to appropriate funding sources	Q4 Y3	Collaboration with UNFF established to develop capacity of national staff on FLR/GCF proposal development. A first training workshop took place July 2018 to establish a core group of national experts on GCF.	Discussions are ongoing with the National REDD+ Fund (FONAREDD+) to explore opportunities for financing FLR related interventions. The focal point has indicated his strong interest during the last PSC meeting in June 2020 to duplicate efforts of the project elsewhere in South-Kivu, North-Kivu or other sites in DRC. Contacts were made with the Regional Postgraduate School on Integrated Forest and Tropical Landscapes Management (ERAIFT) with the perspective to organize future trainings on the	. Discussions continue to be intensified with ERAIFT and FONAREDD respectively in the context of training for the development of bankable projects and funding modalities for other FLR intervention opportunities including bankable projects. Discussions were also held with the General Secretariat for the Environment on funding opportunities with the BMZ, the Climate Adaptation Fund. Two young entrepreneurs from the project area and Bukavu have been identified and are currently undergoing virtual incubator training as part of the Restoration Factory . A letter signed by the Governor of South Kivu Province was sent to PIREDD/FONARED and NC for CAFI to request additional funding for the South Kivu Forest and Landscape Restoration project.			5%	

			development of bankable proposals.					
Output 4.1 Awareness-raising events and education on the value of natural resources particularly forests implemented for pupils, students and adults in South-Kivu	Q2 Y5	PMU actively participate to all webinars and meetings organized by Global TRI project.	The process of the identification of the partner organizations to carry out the awareness raising activities is being finalized and these awareness campaigns on FLR will target the teaching institutions (secondary, technical, and professional) as well as the universities.	. Two academic institutions including the Université Evangélique en Afrique (UEA) and the Université Catholique de Bukavu (UCB) have understood the need to restore the forests and landscapes of South Kivu and have signed Letters of Agreement to contribute to the objectives of the FLR project. . With the UEA, brochures for teaching FLR at universities have been designed and those for primary and secondary schools have been in progress even before our project. As a stakeholder in the FLR/South Kivu project, the best thing for RGEM is to capitalise on this action by having it inserted into the national education programme.			30%	
Output 4.2 A long-term Monitoring and Evaluation strategy implemented for FLR interventions beyond the TRI child project implementation in South-Kivu	Q4 Y5	- LoA with Provincial coordination developed and with WRI to initiate Strategy development. M&E expert has been recruited and project M&E plan developed - Capacity assessment in M&E was carried out and planning of capacity M&E is established in local level - A draft M&E strategy has been developed and it will be updated as soon as possible according to the constraints of project implementation and others	The ToR of the trainings on M&E were developed and discussions with partners is ongoing to organize a series of trainings in the framework of the implementation of the Provincial Strategy on FLR. Partners have agreed to organize these trainings in two steps depending on the target group of participants: i) First training of implementing	Concerning the tool on Monitoring and Evaluation of FLR Interventions, the unexpected resignation of the M&E Officer caused a delay in development. The recruitment of a new M&E unit will revitalise this product. the 04 members of the Project Management Unit followed a remote training on Monitoring and Evaluation/Theory of Change.			30%	

			partner organizations (Bukavu) ; Second training of the beneficiaries (Chiefdoms of Kabare and Ngweshe).				
Output 4.3 Knowledge sharing events on FLR implemented at the national and regional scales to promote the replication of the project interventions in other territories and provinces within DRC	Q3Y1	Participation of the PMU to the Global TRI inception workshop in Naivasha, Kenya.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PMU managed to only participate to one of the two global TRI events, because of logistical challenges in DRC. - ToR have been developed and validated to organize an exchange visit with the Miombo project, but this was postponed due to COVID-19. With the support of TRI Global Programme, contacts were made with the Tree Growers Association of Nyandarua to potentially organize an exchange visit to learn from their experience to value the natural resource base on the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . A mission was organised from 02 to 07 April 2021 in Katanga/Lubumbashi with the aim of analysing the operating bases of the Miombo Clear Forest Observatory upstream in order to support the effective establishment of an independent observatory for forests and mountainous landscapes in South Kivu. . The PMU organised several webinars (15) to share knowledge with the outside world on different topics. Examples of themes for these webinars include: 01. Towards investment topics for nature, 02. Defining the role the private sector can play in a Landscape, 03. Introduction to investment solutions for nature, 04. Natural rubber production in concessions, 05. Fundamentals of Landscape finance, 06. Developing a bankable business, 07. WePlan: A decision support platform for spatial planning of ecosystem restoration, 08. The Monitoring and Evaluation System: Theory of Change. 09. COVID-19 and the Forest Sector: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies for Improved Resilience in Africa. 10. Foundations of systematic management and optimization of spatial restoration. 11. How to achieve large-scale forest restoration: unlocking the potential of natural regeneration. 12. Tools and resources for planning and strengthening 			25%

			<p>smallholder farms. This could also capitalize on the efforts undertaken by GIZ in South-Kivu.</p>	<p>seed supply best suited to FLR. 13. Implications of systematic spatial planning and restoration optimisation for restoration economics and policy design. 14. Training of two young entrepreneurs to validate and develop business plans for investment attraction opportunities through TRI. Etc.</p>				
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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):

Component 1. Enabling policy for the promotion of FLR at provincial and national level

- A document on the provincial FLR strategy and the ROAM results was prepared, presented and validated at provincial level on 17 June 2021 in the RIO/Nguba room and on 24 June 2021 at national level.
- The document on the diagnosis of legal texts and Edicts and Decrees including 02 Edicts, the Edict on the supervision of slash-and-burn agriculture and the Edict on the implementation of the customary land management system and 03 Decrees including the Decree establishing the model of the sharecropping contract, the Decree on the control of forest and bush fires and finally the Decree identifying protected forest species, aimed at promoting Forest and Landscape Restoration and Land Tenure in South Kivu was presented by the partner Rights Empower and validated on 23-24 June 2021.
- The technical, participatory and institutional diagnoses in the villages of two chiefdoms led to the development of LDPs in each chiefdom and their validation on 14/03/2021 in Ngweshe and on 26 June 2021 in Kabare.

Component 2: Demonstration of the FLR approach and promotion of sustainable natural resource-based livelihoods in Kabare and Ngweshe chiefdoms.

- The two contracted academic institutions including the "Université Evangélique en Afrique" (UEA), which hosts the Independent Observatory, and the "Université Catholique de Bukavu" (UCB) which is conducting the MRV and Sustainable Land Management studies to determine the state of carbon sequestration prior to the implementation of the project activities, have already signed their Letters of Agreement with the FAO and are operational
- Validation on 22/12/2020 of a socio-economic study carried out by an expert recruited by the RGEM Project for the two chiefdoms.
- Another study on ecosystem services was conducted by an expert from 10 to 30 May 2021 to update the situation on ecosystem and bio-physical services in the project area.
- An LoA has already been signed with LCD to develop micro-projects promoting FLR interventions and is being implemented by raising awareness of 150 associations/cooperatives for the implementation of micro-projects.
- The two local NGOs working to raise awareness of the RGEM project among the local community. The latter already has made 5992 Ha available for different types of restoration.
- The two local NGOs setting up Clubs Dimitra managed to create 90 of them, including 50 in Ngweshe and 40 in Kabare for actions of development of their environment.

Component 3: Scaling up: Institutional and financial capacity building for scaling up the FLR approach at provincial and national levels

- A letter signed by the Governor of South Kivu Province was sent to CAFI requesting additional funding for the South Kivu Forest and Landscape Restoration project.
- Several training sessions were carried out by the partners in order to strengthen the capacities of the members of CLDs and Clubs Dimitra.

Component 4: Knowledge management: Knowledge sharing, partnerships, and monitoring and evaluation of forest and landscape restoration interventions.

- A visit to Katanga/Lubumbashi with the aim of analysing the functioning of the Miombo Clear Forest Observatory upstream and supporting the effective establishment of an independent observatory for forests and mountainous landscapes in South Kivu.
- Several webinars allowed the PMU to share knowledge with the outside world on different topics.

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

- Delay by FAO in processing Letters of Agreement and releasing funds in a timely manner.
- Delay in carrying out some of the activities in the Work Plan for 2020-2021, especially during the lockdown period for the second wave of COVID-19.
- The abrupt resignation of our Monitoring and Evaluation Officer has delayed the process of developing a document on the long-term Monitoring and Evaluation of the FLR.

Development Objective Ratings, Implementation Progress Ratings and Overall Assessment

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁵	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating¹⁶	Comments/reasons justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	S	MS	<p>On the technical side, our efforts have been focused on the activities of the annual work plan from 1/07/2020 to 30/06/2021. We have accelerated the development of the provincial strategy, which provides the axes and strategic orientations for FLR in South-Kivu. Another step is its integration into the Local Development Plans of the two chiefdoms.</p> <p>Concerning the diagnosis of the texts and laws promoting FLR, two drafts of edicts and three drafts of decrees have been proposed for adoption and promulgation. The identification and development of 40 environmentally sound micro-projects has been initiated and should continue unabated. The same is true for the implementation of Restoration Options on the ground with the effective monitoring of Land Use Indicators.</p>

¹⁵ **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.

¹⁶ **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

<p>Budget Holder</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>In my capacity as overall Project Manager at the country level and at the same time Budget holder, I have closely followed the activities of the project in the field as well as the advancement towards the achievement of its operational objectives.</p> <p>During this period 2020-2021 and despite the particularly challenging Covid-19 environment, I have personally chaired over five (5) monthly planning meetings for this project's field activities.</p> <p>On these different occasions, I particularly encouraged the technical team in charge of implementation to focus on the monthly planning of the activities in the Annual Work Plan and a good follow-up of the project progress indicators.</p> <p>As Budget holder, my support has contributed to removing certain constraints, in particular, the decision on the acquisition of goods and services needed for the project.</p> <p>Professional contacts have been maintained with the government, through the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to ensure continuous exchanges on the steps taken by the Project team in terms of supporting enabling policies and other achievements related to FLR.</p> <p>We will continue to give this initiative our necessary support so that the implementation on the ground, such as the restoration opportunities already identified, will be a reality during this fiscal year 2021-2022.</p>
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Lead Technical Officer¹⁷	S	MS	<p>The PMU has been able to implement partially its second Annual Work Plan and Budget for the period July 2020 to June 2021 including: (i) the publication of the ROAM in the province of South Kivu, (ii) the validation of the restoration strategy for the province of South Kivu, (iii) the operationalization of the Independent Observatory for Forests and Landscapes in South Kivu under the responsibility of the “Université Evangélique en Afrique”, (iv) the provision of support to several Dimitra clubs active in South Kivu and (v) 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. The implementation of the FLR investments on the ground (including small grants) should be considered as a top priority during this upcoming period (July 2021-June 2022).</p> <p>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/DRC/054/GFF, to revise/adjust eventually the project targets (including proposing, if needed, a one year no-cost extension) and to provide recommendations to the Project Management Unit (PMU).</p>
GEF Operational Focal Point	S	MS	<p>At this third meeting of the Steering Committee, we jointly adopted the PTBA 2021-2022. While appreciating the results achieved during the previous year (2020-2021), we expressed the wish to be able to accelerate the implementation of this PTBA and at the same time our wish to be able to concentrate efforts on visible results on the ground in terms of restored areas, given that these are the important indicators monitored by the GEF.</p> <p>We have also noticed that a lot of time is spent on procedures related to the Project Implementing Body (FAO) and we request FAO to make them more flexible.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the members of the Project Management Unit have committed themselves to taking this into account in the field. The results can be visited and assessed during our next mid-term monitoring mission.</p>

¹⁷ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

<p>FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>MS</p>	<p>Recommendations (none of which are considered important changes to the project intervention logic) made by the previous Steering Committee meeting have been largely met, despite the very challenging context in the Kivu regions, not exclusively related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some delays have been further accumulated, but a MTR is foreseen for the next reporting period (together with CAR, these MTRs will conclude the reviews at mid-term of the TRI child projects). Progress on different outputs is varied, with the enabling environment work progressing satisfactorily (policies and plans for FLR), while field-based demonstration activities have been showing less progress (though important baseline information has been completed at the local level) and if successful the project would exceed the expected results at objective level. Reasons for these delays include Covid-19 containment measures and restrictions on mobility, lack of seedlings of chosen species in nurseries, changes in the project management unit, and more. Also outcome 3 has been lagging behind significantly. Nevertheless, on knowledge and learning, the Independent FLR Observatory has been recently inaugurated, which is a very exciting result of the project to date.</p> <p>When it comes to stakeholder engagement and gender mainstreaming, the project adopted the transformative approach of the Dimitra Listening Groups, already showing great results in the Kivus. Much is attended from the project in the coming review period.</p>
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5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft) 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.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures
<p>SAFEGUARD 2 BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL HABITATS</p> <p>Protected areas, buffer zones or natural habitats</p>	<p>Part of the project interventions will be implemented in the buffer zone of KBNP. These interventions aim to increase forest cover, sustainably increase agricultural and pastoral productivity, promote the use of improved cook stove and generate income from non-timber forest resources in this buffer zone. All these activities in the buffer zone of the KBNP will reduce the dependence of local communities including indigenous communities on the natural resources within the park boundaries thereby preventing future degradation of the KBNP natural resources.</p>
<p>SAFEGUARD 3 PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</p> <p>Introduce new crops and varieties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow appropriate phytosanitary protocols in accordance with IPPC • Take measures to ensure that displaced varieties and/or crops, if any, are included in the national or international ex situ conservation programmes
<p>Planted forests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Adhere to existing national forest policies, forest programmes or equivalent strategies. ☑ The observance of principles 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Voluntary Guidelines on Planted Forests suffice for indigenous forests but must be read in full compliance with ESS 9- Indigenous People and Cultural Heritage. ☑ Planners and managers must incorporate conservation of biological diversity as fundamental in their planning, management, utilization and monitoring of planted forest resources. ☑ In order to reduce the environmental risk, incidence and impact of abiotic and biotic damaging agents and to maintain and improve planted forest health and productivity, FAO will work together with stakeholders to develop and derive appropriate and efficient response options in planted forest management.
<p>SAFEGUARD 5 PEST AND PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Supply of pesticides by FAO</p>	<p>Preference must always be given to sustainable pest management approaches such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), the use of ecological pest management approaches and the use of mechanical/cultural/physical or biological pest control tools in favour of synthetic chemicals; and preventive measures and monitoring,</p>

	<p>2. When no viable alternative to the use of chemical pesticides exists, the selection and procurement of pesticides is subject to an internal clearance procedure http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/E_SS5_pesticide_checklist.pdf</p> <p>3. The criteria specified in FAO's ESM Guidelines under ESS5 must be adhered to and should be included or referenced in the project document.</p> <p>4. If large volumes (above 1,000 litres of kg) of pesticides will be supplied or used throughout the duration of the project, a Pest Management Plan must be prepared to demonstrate how IPM will be promoted to reduce reliance on pesticides, and what measures will be taken to minimize risks of pesticide use.</p> <p>5. It must be clarified, which person(s) within (executing) involved institution/s, will be responsible and liable for the proper storage, transport, distribution and use of the products concerned in compliance with the requirements.</p> <p>Encourage stakeholders to develop a Pest Management Plan to demonstrate how IPM will be promoted to reduce reliance on pesticides, and what measures will be taken to minimize risks of pesticide use. This should be part of the sustainability plan for the project to prevent or mitigate other adverse environmental and social impacts resulting from production intensification.</p>
<p>SAFEGUARD 9 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE</p>	<p>A Free, Prior and Informed Consent Process will be undertaken.</p> <p>To preserve cultural resources (when existing in the project area) and to avoid their destruction or damage, due diligence must be undertaken to:</p> <p>a) verify that provisions of the normative framework, which is usually under the oversight of a national institution responsible for protection of historical and archaeological sites/intangible cultural heritage; and</p> <p>b) through collaboration and communication with indigenous peoples' own governance institutions/leadership, verifying the probability of the existence of sites/ intangible cultural heritage that are significant to indigenous peoples.</p> <p>In cases where there is a high chance of encountering physical cultural resources, the bidding documents and contract for any civil works must refer to the need to include recovery of "chance findings" in line with national procedures and rules.</p>
<p>Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)</p>	
<p>M</p>	

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.

None received

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. The Notes column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, **as relevant**.*

	Risk	Risk rating ¹⁸	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions ¹⁹	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	<p>Health risks : The COVID-19 Pandemic may interfere with field activities due to restrictions on travel and meetings and implementation on the ground. Furthermore, the pandemic might also result in more people losing their jobs and returning back to the natural resource base which might cause extra pressure/degradation if not properly managed.</p>	Medium	Ensure safe working procedures/policies put in place, invest in health protection materials and support awareness raising.	<p>Support for awareness-raising on compliance with health regulations through the Clubs Dimitra that have been set up and the CLDs in the chiefdoms.</p> <p>The strict observance of barrier measures by the staff during the various missions carried out in the field.</p>	

¹⁸ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Medium, Substantial or High

¹⁹ 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".

	Risk	Risk rating ¹⁸	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions ¹⁹	Notes from the Project Task Force
2	<p>Social risk: Indigenous communities living in the surroundings of PNKB do not support the project. Young people sabotage the restoration efforts on the public concessions or other areas (fires on reforested areas)</p>	Low	<p>The on-the-ground interventions of the project will be designed in collaboration with indigenous communities to enable their ownership of the project interventions and ensure that the project raise direct benefits for these communities.</p> <p>Young people are involved throughout the planning of FLR interventions and organization of awareness raising events on FLR. The project also will put in place grievance mechanisms and the promotion of micro-projects targeting youth groups.</p>	<p>The PMU organised a capacity building workshop on FPIC and the integration of the indigenous peoples' dimension throughout the implementation of the project and a roadmap was developed with the support of UEFA.</p> <p>In the framework of the development of micro-projects in partnership with LCD, it was stressed that support to youth farmers' associations should be taken into account. Within the framework of awareness raising and support to the Clubs Dimitra, emphasis will also be placed on this vulnerable group. On an ad hoc basis, the PMU intends to organise an exchange-discussion meeting with young people and other stakeholders as part of the complaints management mechanism.</p> <p>The PMU will work with the LDCs to ensure their ownership of the RGEM project.</p>	

	Risk	Risk rating ¹⁸	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions ¹⁹	Notes from the Project Task Force
3	<p>Land-tenure risk: The unclear land ownership between the government and traditional authorities is likely to present the project from receiving the support of these major stakeholders.</p>	Medium-low	Potential land ownership issues will be assessed as a priority as part of the design of specific on the ground interventions. Only the sites where government representatives and traditional Chiefs have clear responsibilities, ownership over land, and a good relationship will be selected.	Preliminary discussions have been initiated with local government, traditional leaders and large concession holders to assess potential land ownership issues. This will continue through the validation of the Provincial FLR Strategy document and the results of ROAM, the diagnosis of the texts and laws by the law office mission and during the application of all these texts, thus during the popularisation of the validated texts.	
4	<p>Political risk: Provincial, territorial and local authorities do not fully support the resolution of governance problems regarding land-use because of the development challenges faced by the province and economic stakes.</p>	Medium-low	Several workshops will be organized at the onset of the project to identify all the potential land-use issues. Mitigation strategies will be developed in a participatory with an implementation plan and official agreements with the responsible parties.	The involvement or ownership of the RGEM project by the different stakeholders including the government, the chiefdoms (Kabare, Ngweshe) and the communities has enabled the resolution of land issues in the implementation of this project.	

	Risk	Risk rating ¹⁸	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions ¹⁹	Notes from the Project Task Force
5	<p>Institutional risk: Difficulties in institutional cooperation between Environment, Agriculture and Mines sectors preventing to improve the policy framework and resolve the contradictions for improved management of natural resources.</p>	Low	<p>Cross-sectorality has been promoted during project preparation through the participation of all the relevant sectors during the inception and validation workshops. It will continue to be promoted throughout the project implementation phase via the biannual multi-sectoral PSC meetings, multisectoral training workshops, and MoUs with relevant sectors for the implementation of specific activities. This will improve knowledge sharing, communication and coordination between the sectors involved in natural resources management.</p>	<p>Through the kick-off workshop and the first COPIL meeting, all stakeholders were invited to participate and identify bottlenecks and possible solutions to overcome them. The coordination of the different sectors and stakeholders is integrated in the ToR of the PMU, and through a renewed contract with the Provincial Coordination of the Environment, the Secretariat of the National Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Provincial Ministry of Mines, Energy and Environment. Regular meetings between the PMU and FAO Kinshasa for the rapid processing of the RGEM Project files. Also, in all workshops and two field trips in Lubumbashi and Kinshasa the relevant sectors are involved.</p>	
6	<p>Natural resources ownership risk: Property rights' conflicts between landowners, the government and traditional Chiefs over the trees planted on private land will likely arise.</p>	Low	<p>Land and trees ownership systems will be clearly defined and signed off before starting the implementation of the interventions on the ground. A management plan for all the outputs of the project – including the planted trees – will be developed in a participatory manner and signed off by all the relevant actors.</p>	<p>The provincial FLR strategy and the various Edicts and Decrees presented respectively by WRI and the Law Office, adopted at all levels, provide solutions to the problems relating to the management of trees planted on private land. (see decree on the sharecropping contract template).</p>	

	Risk	Risk rating ¹⁸	Mitigation Action	Progress on mitigation actions ¹⁹	Notes from the Project Task Force
7	<p>Ecological risk: Climate change including short and intense rainfall, long drought periods (and correlated bushfires) prevent the restoration interventions from being successful in the long term.</p>	Low	Observed climate changes and future climate scenarios will be taken into account when designing the restoration activities and selecting the set of species to be planted. Only climate-resilient species will be promoted by the project as well as species diversity and complementarity. The selection criteria for each species will include inter alia: climate-resilient, indigenous (or naturalized) and fire resilient.	Through the ROAM assessment, possible restoration options were identified through a participatory approach, including FLR options, types of intervention and land use. A joint PMU-DIAF-Coordination MEDD mission was carried out and identified resilient species for reforestation.	

Project overall risk rating (Low, Medium, 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
Low	Low	<p>The risk rate at this stage of the project is basically the same as at the project's conception. The delay of some PMU activities is due to the lack of some PMU staff (a communication officer, a monitoring and evaluation officer). The following facts were observed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delay in conducting the validation workshop by WRI due to the 2nd wave of COVID 19 ; 2. Delay in setting up nurseries and signing Letter of Agreement with different partners. 3. Difficulties in obtaining equipment for the PMU office. <p>Solutions found to these barriers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take all measures to protect ourselves from this COVID 19 pandemic at all our meetings. 2. Complete the PMU team with a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer for the RGEM project, a Communication Officer and a member of the FAO/Kinshasa staff who will deal with the RGEM project files on a daily basis. 3. Change or review the system of file processing at the level of Bukavu and Kinshasa to allow for a positive evolution of actions on the ground

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.

Please report any adjustments made to the project strategy, as reflected in the results matrix, in the past 12 months²⁰

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

Adjustments to 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

²⁰ Minor adjustments to project outputs can be made during project inception. Significant adjustments can be made only after a mid-term review/evaluation or supervision missions. The changes need to be discussed with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, then approved by the whole Project Task Force and endorsed by the Project Steering Committee.

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.

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))

Below the list of stakeholder engagement:

Gouvernement représentants / institutions	Responsabilités dans l'exécution du projet	Engagement
Governor of South-Kivu	The governor will be consulted throughout the implementation phase to ensure his support for the project and contribute to coordinate the different institutions to facilitate the implementation of the project interventions.	The Governor facilitates the granting of authorizations for field visits in the event of restriction of the movement of people or the quarantine of the city of Bukavu
Secrétariat General du Ministère de l'Environnement et Développement Durable	Supervision, and monitoring and evaluation will be the responsibilities of the MEDD regarding the TRI child project implementation. The Project Steering Committee meetings will also be led by this institution. In addition, MEDD will be responsibility for controlling that policies and regulations regarding the sustainable management of natural resources are followed in all project interventions.	The Secretary General of MEDD is the president of steering committee. He chaired the last virtual meeting of SC held on June 12, 2020. It organized a mission to monitor and evaluate activities in the project area. Three main results were obtained during this SC meeting, namely: i) the official launch of the independent RFP Observatory; ii) the evaluation of the results and indicators of the project activities for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 and finally iii) the validation of the AWPB 2021-2022.
Ministère Provincial en Charge de l'Environnement	Support and coordination of FLR interventions in South-Kivu	The provincial Minister of the Environment supports the implementation of the project according to a well-established memorandum of understanding and PMU sits in premises ceded by the latter. He participates in workshops organized within the framework of this project.
Coordination provinciale de MEDD	Support and coordination of FLR interventions in South-Kivu	The Provincial Coordination of MEDD supports the implementation of the project according to a well-established memorandum of understanding and has appointed a focal point of the RFP project and who also participates in joint missions also with PMU. Organizes community awareness activities.
FAO	Support the local communities in terms of good practices linked to FLR Support beneficiaries through utilization of Club Dimitra approach, FFS/JFFS	Most PMU members work at its facilities due to a lack of office coordinator equipment.
GIZ	NGOs with past experience in project target zone in terms of reforestation,	GIZ carried out the technical, participatory and institutional diagnostics in the project villages

	afforestation, territorial planning, biodiversity conservation	which ended with the development and validation of a PDL in each Chiefdom which integrates RFP interventions through a participatory approach with local communities and CLDs of two chiefdoms.
Traditional leaders		
Chefs des Chefferies	The traditional chiefs or Chiefs of Chiefdoms will coordinate project interventions in the targeted chiefdoms of Kabare and Ngweshe and will make more or less 400 ha available to the RGEM Project.	Participation in meetings and workshops developed within the framework of this project and in additional consultations to ensure that project interventions are planned in accordance with development plans at the local level through the CLD of which he is the Head of this institution.
INERA Mulungu	Providing research support	Participation in capacity building workshops for RFP actors and others
ISDR Walungu	Providing research support	Participation in capacity building workshops for RFP actors and others
UEA	Providing research support and executing partner	Partner to host the Independent Observatory for RFP
UCB	Providing research support and executing partner	Partner for MRV Studies within the framework of the Project.
APES	Support for community implementation of the RGEM project	Partner for the establishment of DIMITRA Clubs
ASEC	Support for community implementation of the RGEM project	Partner for the establishment of DIMITRA Clubs
SAMWAKI	Support for community implementation of the RGEM project	Partner for raising awareness among local communities to take ownership of the RGEM project
AJCDI	Support for community implementation of the RGEM project	Partner for raising awareness among local communities to take ownership of the RGEM project

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)

This project adopts a number of gender transformative approaches, including in particular the Dimitra Listening Groups, which have been operating in DRC for a number of decennia and showing great results.

- Put in place of M&E mechanism in order to collect and analyze desaggregated data and information
- Continuous discussions with the Government Institutions (Provincial Division on Gender and Families) to reinforce the capacity of decentralized services and local stakeholders to integrate gender considerations in the planned restoration interventions
- Integration of gender-responsive measures to be taken for FLR into the awareness raising efforts by local partners for which recruitment process is being finalized
- Ensuring the mainstreaming of gender into the process of development and revision of the Local Development Plans for Kabare and Ngweshe
- In the framework of the setting up of Club Dimitra (identification of partners is being finalized), specific sessions will be organized focusing on gender-responsive interventions of FLR
- At least 40 RFP-sensitive micro-projects will particularly target women's associations and those of young people in order to promote their empowerment.
- Out of the 1,662 CD members supported by the Kabare Chiefdom Project for the period from October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, we have 866 women (or 52.2%) against 796 men (or 47, 8%).
- In addition, four (4) DCs had women as moderators and 24 had women as assistant moderators. This shows that women have been well placed by their communities in the decision-making spheres of the DCs.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

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

Lessons learned and best practices

- Beyond the actual projects, limited focus is put on financing opportunities and potential investments for FLR ;
- Despite the large interest demonstrated by the Provincial actors in Forest and Landscape Restoration, little attention is going to the different roles of men and women and the associated

possible interventions. So far issues linked to social equity are not being integrated in existing restoration projects ;

- There is a risk that the restoration actions will have limited impact on the ground if Government does not take measures to ensure their sustainability in the long run ;
- Extra focus should be put on studying and understanding the linkages between restoration initiatives and land conflicts ;
- It is crucial to ensure the establishment of adaptive M&E mechanisms to track success and failures of restoration interventions in order to promote efficient management and exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Knowledge exchange

- Webinar sessions, more than 15 knowledge sharing sessions through Zoom were organized by the TRI team with the themes below:
 - COVID-19 and the forest sector: challenges, opportunities and strategies for better resilience in Africa "
 - Foundations of systematic planning and optimization of space restoration.
 - How to ensure large-scale forest restoration: unlocking the potential for natural regeneration.
 - Tools and resources for planning and strengthening the most suitable seed supply for RFP
 - Implications of systematic spatial planning and restoration optimization for restoration economics and policy design.
 - Payments for environmental services: an option for financing restoration.
 - Launch of the beta version of the online interface of the decision-making support platform
 - Towards investment topics for nature,
 - define the role that the private sector can play in a Landscape,
 - Introduction to investment solutions for nature,
 - The production of natural rubber in concessions,
 - Fundamental principles of landscape finance,
- Development of a bankable activity,
- WePlan: A decision support platform for spatial planning of ecosystem restoration.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation system: update of the RFP Theory of Change file.
- Within the framework of knowledge management activities, the RGEM Project received significant support from the TRI Global Component. As such and without being exhaustive, we can cite the following examples:
 - A dozen webinars or online workshops that enabled the Project Management Unit to share knowledge with the outside world on various subjects relating to RFP;
 - Reflections on different sources of investments in RFP: public, private or citizen sources and their realization in different forms.
 - Private investors including individuals and companies that make commitments in terms of social responsibility or carbon offsets, cooperatives, as well as non-traditional sources of finance, which generally aim for a social or financial return.

- An interactive workshop presenting the fundamentals of landscape finance, focusing on private sector solutions, in particular bankable projects.
- An online participatory training of two young entrepreneurs from the project area who have been identified and who are following this virtual incubator training under the theme "Restoration Factory";
- A review of the various investment mechanisms at the local level ", which examines the available means of financing restoration for positive benefits at the local level;
- Etc.

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

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

- In the framework of grievance mechanisms, the project has requested the set-up of collection boxes at the local level in order for indigenous and local people to be able to submit complaints/questions. Based on these, necessary correcting measures can be taken.
- Discussion sessions organized with the partner UEFA to study the possible strategies to be put in place to ensure the implication of the indigenous peoples in the planning and execution of the restoration interventions.
- In the framework of the identification and development of the micro-projects in collaboration with LCD, specific focus will be on the promotion of alternative sustainable livelihoods for the youth and the Indigenous Peoples.
- GIZ and partners are ensuring the integration of the needs of the Indigenous Peoples in the development and revision of the PDLs of Ngweshe and Kabare
- When identifying the areas targeted by the Project for awareness-raising activities and the establishment of CD in the Chiefdom of Kabare, the Groupement de Miti was added as a priority in order to take into account the indigenous peoples to support by the RGEM project.
- For the conservation of biodiversity, the establishment of the gardens of Cases in the four (4) villages of Indigenous Peoples was initiated in collaboration with the support of the Service Provider Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity "ACCB".

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative²¹ 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.

Development of microprojects following a microproject approach with the integration of the private sector 'Local Economy Window of South Kivu, GEL in acronym in order to consolidate the links between this structure and micro projects promoting RFP interventions which the project will support in collaboration with the partner LCD. A call for Expressions of Interest launched by LCD will be open to everyone and especially to local communities in the project sites according to an operational manual which determines the selection criteria.

An independent Observatory of Forests and Landscapes in South Kivu was set up by the RGEM project and is operational under the responsibility of the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA / Bukavu).

Thanks to the support of the project and the collaboration with the said Service Provider, this observatory is equipped with scientific instruments for the collection, processing and dissemination of data and useful information on RFP, conservation and protection of natural resources.

This Observatory constitutes a permanent tool which will help all the stakeholders in decision-making on the management of natural resources.

The involvement of the authorities (Government and sectoral services) is essential to support the actions of the Observatory in the short and medium term.

²¹ 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.

N°	Impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of project activities: (Difficulties)	Mitigation measures adopted
1	Increase in the costs of operations and training of beneficiaries following the reduction in the number of people to be trained to less than 20 people per workshop, but by increasing the number of workshops to reach the planned numbers; which increases the cost of training (DSA, room rental, purchase of mufflers, hand washing devices, etc.)	Acceptance of the increase in the cost of training per workshop by integrating the additional cost of charges related to COVID-19
2	Inability for trainers to travel to other territories to provide training following the limitation of movements in this period of COVID-19: Case of WRI, Right Empower, LCD, General Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development,	Circumscription of training in the perimeters authorized by the authorities, by postponing training to other sites
3	Difficulties in monitoring activities at the desired pace due to strict barrier measures banning movement to contain COVID, resulting in reduced movements of FAO staff and its service providers.	Contacts kept with chieftom agents, association leaders and other site partners to report project information by telephone. Which is expensive.
4	Some partner structures to be contracted are pushing back the dates of entry into force of their contracts / memoranda of understanding (WRI, LCD,) Because of COVID -19.	Postponement of the dates of entry into force of the activities of the memoranda of understanding, request for an extension without financial impact,
5	Containment of service provider staff and impact on the monitoring and evaluation missions of the project in the field, physical and social distancing measures caused a downtime of activities.	Postponement of activities despite their importance in the implementation schedule of project activities,
6	Due to a lack of work meetings following the confinement, the technical staff do not have the means to buy units and mega for communication, internet and Teleworking	Granting of VODACOM units to some to communicate and have access to the Internet to send documents
7	The support missions expected from TRI Global have been systematically postponed, delayed and / or outright canceled (following the ban on national travel and international flights to the provinces & the DRC): which constitutes a shortfall for the project.	Give priority to virtual sessions for discussion and remote consultation, despite the limitations that these work systems present (poor internet connection, high cost of communication, poor supply of electrical energy, breakdown in communication during training sessions in mode). virtual, ...).
8	Impossibility of bringing international trainers to the DRC to provide technical support expected from TRI Global	The missions are pushed back for months to come, with no hope of saying exactly when these missions will be possible!

14.Co-financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²²	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 (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
Beneficiary Government (National and Province of South-Kivu)	Ministères national et provinciale de l'Environnement et Développement Durable	Subvention	1 930 000	744 423		1 930 000
GEF Agency	FAORDC	Subvention	400 000	160 000		400 000
Bilateral agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Subvention	9 424 800	5 654 880		9 424 800
Donor Agency	Direction Générale de la Coopération au Développement et Aide Humanitaire (DGD)/LCD	Subvention	621 464	329 815		621 464
TOTAL			12,376,264	6 889 118		12,376,264

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

²² 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.

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.