



## **FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report**

## **2023 – Revised Template**

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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# 1. Basic Project Data

## **General Information**

Region:	Africa
Country(ies):	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Project Title:	The Restoration Initiative, National component of the project for the DRC: Improved management and restoration of agrosylvo-pastoral resources in the pilot province of South Kivu
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/DRC/054/GFF
GEF-ID:	9515
GEF Focal Area(s):	Multifocal area Biodiversity BD-4.9, Climate Change Mitigation CCM-2.4, Land Degradation LD-3.4, Sustainable Forest Management SFM-3
Project Executing Partners:	General Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Louvain-Coopération, Evangelical University in Africa (UEA), Catholic University of Bukavu (UCB), ASEC, APES, ACCB, CRSN-Lwiro, INERA-Mulungu, PNKB-ICCN, CONGRESS, Chiefdom of Ngweshe, Chiefdom of Kabare, Provincial Ministry in charge of the environment.
Initial project duration	5 years
(years):  Project coordinates:  This section should be completed ONLY by:  a) Projects with 1st PIR; b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.	N/A

# **Project Dates**

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	06 April 2018
Project Implementation Start	10 October 2018
Date/EOD:	
Project Implementation End	30 December 2022
Date/NTE 1:	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As per FPMIS

Revised project	09 October 2023
implementation End date (if	
approved) <sup>2</sup>	

#### funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	3,600,000
Total co-financing amount	12,381,530
(USD) <sup>3</sup> :	
Total GEF grant delivery (as of	3,150,983
June 30, 2023 (USD):	
Total GEF grant actual	2,519,005
expenditures (excluding	
commitments) as of June 30,	
2023 (USD) <sup>4</sup> :	
Total estimated co-financing	11,991,710
materialized as of June 30,	
2023 <sup>5</sup>	

#### **M&E Milestones**

Date of Last Project Steering	21 July 2022
Committee (PSC) Meeting:	
Expected Mid-term Review date <sup>6</sup> :	
Actual Mid-term review date (if	April 2023
already completed):	
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date</b>	30 September 2024
<sup>7</sup> :	
Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators	Yes
(CI) updated before MTR or TE stage	
(provide as Annex)	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  T his is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO Document /Project Document.

 $<sup>^{4}</sup>$  The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR, a round half-p o int between EOD and NT E. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date .

 $<sup>^{7}</sup>$  The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

## **Overall ratings**

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

## **ESS** risk classification

Current ESS Risk classification:	Moderate
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#### Status

Implementation Status	5 <sup>th</sup> PIR
(1st PIR, 2nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	

# **Project Contacts**

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# 2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective) ( All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start , not annual)

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators <sup>8</sup>	Baseline	Mid-term Target Mid- term Target <sup>9</sup>	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress <sup>10</sup> since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progr ess ratin g <sup>11</sup>
	Outcome 1						
Increase development opportunities in the DRC through the sustainable exploitation of natural resources	FLR-friendly policy framework is in place in a pilot DRC province, South Kivu	Number of policies and regulatory frameworks in TRI countries that support forest and landscape restoration while	Existing texts are obsolete or not implement ed. Several key texts are missing for the sustainable	At least one law in the forestry sector is adopted	At least one law in the forestry sector (Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy and Action Plan), at least one in the agricultural or	The process of adoption and promulgation of the various laws (Provincial Strategy for FLR, the method for evaluating FLR opportunities, the collection of legal and regulatory provisions on the FLR and land tenure, draft decree on the control of bush fires, draft provincial decree on the management of early fires and	MS
		incorporating	manageme		environmental	draft provincial decree on the	

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 8}$  This is taken from the approved results framework of the project .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio -economic co -benefits as well.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Moderately Satisfactory** (MS), **Moderately Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (HU). Refer to Annex 1.

Outcome 2	biodiversity conservation, accelerated low-GHG development and emission reductions, and resource considerations sustainable livelihoods.	nt of resources.		sector ( provincial environmental policy or program for sustainable agriculture and two local chiefdom development plans	model sharecropping contract) for the promotion of FLR in the pilot province of South Kivu is facilitated by the provincial ministry in charge of the environment, supported by teams from the General Secretariat mission in Bukavu.	
Forest and land degradation in Kabaré and Ngweshe is reduced through the promotion of good FLR practices (including agroforestry) in pastoral lands, agricultural lands, forests and hills	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as a co-benefit of GEF investment  Average annual household income from forest and non-timber forest products, and increased agricultural	High level of poverty and land degradatio n in targeted chiefdoms \$52.5	6,000 people or 1,000 households  To be determined	30,000 people or 6,000 households, 50% of whom are women  To be determined	- 500 households of Indigenous Peoples (including 284 headed by women and 216 by men, of which 70% or 350 young people) were sensitized and home garden activities were supported; - 27 members (including 10 women and 17 men, including 18 young people) from the local community were trained on monitoring techniques, and community management initiatives of natural resources in Nyangezi were supported 3165 households (including 1615 led by women and 1550 by men and whose young people represent 75% of households) are supported in order to uptake FLR activities	S

and pastoral	through the Dimitra clubs in the
productivity	two target chiefdoms.
p. 2.2.3,	- 80 members of the Kabare
	chiefdom (including 22 women, 38
	men and 20 young people) were
	trained to manage forest
	9
	nurseries;
	- 800 people (480 women, 200 men
	and 120 young people) were
	trained within the context of
	farmer field schools;
	- 998 members of the Kabare and
	Ngweshe chiefdoms (including 480
	women, 433 men and 85 young
	people) were trained on erosion
	control techniques and
	agroforestry;
	- 986,677 tree seedlings produced
	in community nurseries were
	distributed to 1456 households
	(including 846 male headed
	households and 610 female
	headed households for the
	community implementation of the
	various FLR options (agroforestry,
	reforestation and erosion control);
	- 500 households of indigenous
	Pygmy peoples were supported
	with vegetable seeds;
	- 100 households of indigenous
	Pygmy peoples were supported
	with a rabbit breeding kits;
	with a rabbit breeding kits,

					<ul> <li>- 3,218 households (including 285 indigenous peoples' households) were supported with fruit tree seedlings;</li> <li>- 1,307 beneficiaries (including 1,007 women and 300 men) received support to improve household income through the financing of 65 direct impact micro-projects.</li> </ul>	
Outcome 3						
Institutional and financial capacity is strengthened to enable the implementat ion of FLR in the province of South Kivu and nation wide	Number of investment plans, strategies and action plans that include FLR in their package of interventions	FLR interventio ns are not prioritized in current investment plans and strategies, or action plans related to natural resource manageme nt and sustainable developme nt.	At least one investment plan and the strategy or action plan includes FLR in their set of talks	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	An action plan – part of the local development plans of the target chiefdoms - was drawn up integrating FLR and results from soil type and restoration option maps for the pilot sites in South Kivu.  Synergies with other partners involved in FLR in the area was secured.	S

	Number of bankable projects developed and submitted	No bankable projects	A bankable project	Four bankable projects	- Potential opportunity to finance FLR actions at the national level with FONAREDD's support was identified 150 associations were trained on good practices in project formulation and planning and two young entrepreneurs were trained in the context of the Restoration Factory; - A project proposal was submitted to CAFI (September 2022); - With the support of WRI and Terrafund for AFR100 a webinar was organized in March 2023, targeting fifty participants from South Kivu and other cross-border groups from Rwanda and Burundi; As a result, ten project proposals were submitted to Terrafund for AFR100, and are awaiting the donor's response.	S
Outcome 4						
Awareness raising, long-	Number of TRI knowledge	No TRI knowledge	At least 1 chapters of	At least 2 chapters of	- 1 comic book and 2 videos translated into local languages to	S
term	products	product	university	university	raise awareness of local	
monitoring	developed,	product	programs	programs, 1	communities on FLR;	
and	disseminated		and 1	school program	- An Illustrated Guide to Fruit Tree	
knowledge	and		booklet of	booklet, 2 short	Grafting Techniques and an	
sharing on	accessible via		school	documentaries, 1	Illustrated Guide to the	
FLR			programs	brochure, 2 radio	Management of Wildling Seedling	

interventions	relevant			programs, 1 play	Nurseries useful to indigenous	
are	platforms			and 2 games for	peoples were produced in	
strengthened	piacionnis			children	collaboration with CRSN-Lwiro;	
to promote				ciniaren	- Technical Sheets (Technical	
sustainability					References) on Erosion	
and					Control/LAE, Agroforestry and	
replication of					Reforestation as well as the	
Child TRI					Illustrated Brochure in Swahili on	
project					Erosion Control/LAE &	
interventions					Agroforestry have been produced.	
					- In collaboration with the Catholic	
					University of Bukavu, an illustrated	
					brochure of Good Practices for	
					Sustainable Land Management has	
					been developed.	
					- In collaboration with INERA -	
					Mulungu, an illustrated brochure	
					on agroforestry practices has been	
					developed.	
	TRI project	No M&E	A project-	A specific project	- Collaboration with the Provincial	S
	monitoring	system to	specific	M&E system and	Environmental Coordination has	
	system set up	track FLR	M&E	a provincial M&E	been consolidated;	
	and provide	interventio	system	system for FLR	- a draft long-term monitoring and	
	relevant	ns	developed	interventions	evaluation strategy for the FLR is	
	information to		and		elaborated and awaits its	
	managers		implemente		validation at the provincial level.	
			d			

## Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Result 1	- Monitor the promulgation of laws promoting FLR activities and maintain follow-up with the General Secretariat for the Environment to unlock the implementation of the LoA with the provincial Ministry of the Environment Follow the validation of the annexes to the Local Development Plans of the chiefdoms of Ngweshe and Kabare	charge of the environment,	September 2023

3. Implementation Progress (IP)
(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)

Outcomes and Outputs <sup>12</sup>	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements <sup>13</sup> (please DO NOT repeat results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance <sup>14</sup> in delivering outputs
Outcome 1.1				
Output 1.1.1	Provincial Forest and Landscape Restoration Strategy Developed Using the MEOR Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology Approach in South Kivu	Adoption and Promulgation of the Provincial FLR Strategy	- In collaboration with the supervisory provincial Ministry, the provincial FLR strategy in South Kivu was presented to the Environment Commission of the Provincial Assembly of South Kivu for examination before its adoption in a plenary session of the Assembly and its promulgation by the Provincial Governor.	'

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 12}$  Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

				support of the provincial Minister of the Environment.
Output 1.1.2	Workshops held with relevant stakeholders to overcome barriers in the national and provincial policy environment to promote FLRs	Promulgation and popularization of legal texts promoting FLR in the pilot province of South Kivu.	contracted (Letter of Agreement)	The adoption and promulgation of these decrees were delayed following multiple political crises which led to a troubled related between the Provincial Assembly and the Provincial Governorate. With the establishment of the new Provincial Government, the process was initiated again, with the support of the General Secretariat for the Environment and the Sectoral Provincial Ministry.
Output 1.1.3	Development plans integrating forest and landscape restoration options developed respectively for Kabare and Ngweshe chiefdoms in Kabare and Walungu territories	Develop annexes complementing the LDP for Kabare and Ngweshe chiefdoms using a participatory approach to ensure integration of FLR interventions.	1	The validation of these annexes was also delayed following the political crises that had marred the governance institutions of the province.  With the arrival of the new Sectoral Authority, activities resumed.

Outcome 2.1				
Output 2.1.1	Site-specific restoration plans developed in targeted chiefdoms, including identification of priority areas, species, restoration practices and tenure systems	Carry out the study of environmental compliance of FLR interventions in the priority sites of the project	- The TORs of the study have been harmonized and validated at the level of the FAO ESM unit and initial administrative steps have been undertaken to deliver the study.	The study has experienced delays following budgetary revision processes. ESM unit recommendations for social and environment risk management were integrated.
Output 2.1.2	4,800 ha of forest, agricultural and pastoral ecosystem interventions under improved landscape management practices using APFS and Dimitra Clubs	Intensification and monitoring of FLR activities in the various target sites.	- 3423 ha (including 1678 ha under restoration and 1745 ha under improved practices); - A plan to ensure the continuity of FLR activities in the priority site of Cisheke was delivered; - A management plan was finalized to manage the impact of people living in and from the PNKB, jointly with ACCB and indigenous Pygmy peoples	The activities were punctuated due to administrative delays.
Output 2.1.3	70 micro-projects for the development of profitable and sustainable	Finalize the selection process for the second cohort of microprojects (30 micro-	- 65 micro-projects (93%) were selected and approved by the PMU, while the remaining 5 selected proposals could not proceed due to fiduciary issues.	Small Grants Funding arrangements – which require due diligence before signature of agreements and payments - impacted process speed.

	livelihoods based on the sustainable management of natural resources in the intervention sites implemented to increase the economic value of forest, pastoral and agricultural resources, thus promoting the conservation of natural resources	projects) and monitor the signature of the letters of approval for the 70 selected micro-projects as well as their effective implementation.	<ul> <li>Approval letters for micro-project financing (65 micro-projects) have been signed and their registration finalized;</li> <li>The first payments of these micro-projects are being processed.</li> </ul>	
Outcome 3.1				
Output 3.1.1	Training on best practices and methods of FLR planning, implementation and monitoring organized for governmental and non-governmental entities in South Kivu	Ensure the structuring and operationalization of the intersectoral coordination mechanism for the management of natural resources, particularly forestry in the province of South Kivu	<ul> <li>The Sector Ministry is contracted to deliver this output;</li> <li>The relevant stakeholders for intersectoral coordination in the field of natural and forest resource management are identified.</li> </ul>	The structuring of intersectoral coordination has been delayed following the political crises that have plagued the governance institutions of the province.
Output 3.1.2	An independent civil society-led observatory to monitor progress	Obtain the decree creating an independent forest and landscape	- The draft decree, which officially creates the independent observatory and identifies its functioning within the UEA, was	- The purchase of a drone was delayed due to the preliminary administrative formalities that the UEA should complete, and

0	of FLR in South	observatory in	finalized and transmitted to the	the development and approval
K	(ivu	South Kivu and	Secretary General of the MEDD for	of the technical specifications.
		equip the	approval before signature by the	Nevertheless, the drone
		observatory with	supervising Minister;	remains of great use in
		equipment for	- A contract ensuring the	supporting FLR activities.
		monitoring major	organization and operation of the	
		deforestation	observatory has been signed and is	
		events in real time.	being implemented;	
			- A drone was purchased for real-	
			time monitoring of major	
			deforestation events in the	
			mountainous landscape of South	
			Kivu.	
			- Among the key results achieved	
			by the FLR Observatory during the	
			period under review, we can point	
			out the following:	
			a) <b>Webmail:</b> the following link:	
			https://mail.obsforetsetpaysage	
			s.org gives access to	
			professional Webmail b) Access to Site	
			Administration: the following	
			link gives access to the	
			administration panel of the site:	
			https://obsforetsetpaysages.org	
			/pages/?p=login	
			c) Capacity-building activities:	
			Over the past two years, the	
			OFP has contributed to the	
			training of young people in the	
			province and local institutions:	

trainees from the Faculty of
Agronomic Sciences and the
Faculty of Economics and
Management of the
Evangelical University in
Africa, a few agents from the
GIZ (German Society for
International Cooperation) and
2 agents from the CAID (
Development Indicators
Analysis Unit).
d) Practical activities: since its
creation (2019), the OFP has
carried out analyses of the state
of land use in the province of
South Kivu (2000-2022) and
the evolution in the changes of
the latter. The analyses are
based on the solid
methodologies of machine
learning. The work of the
observatory focuses on
updating spatialized data in the
territories of Walungu and
Kabare where particular
emphasis is placed on annual
analyses and field visits.
e) For the period from July 2022
to June 2023, the observatory
supervised 7 students wishing
to improve their knowledge of
the landscapes and
mountainous forests of South
inountainous totests of South

Kivu and Geographic Information System (GIS) and remote sensing initiation;  f) During the same period, 5 researchers from the Observatory were initiated and shared their experiences in this sector. The paragraphs below describe the training activities carried out and the results obtained.	
Capacity building for researchers from the FLR Independent Observatory	
<ul> <li>Presentation of the results, their promotion and their dissemination in the scientific world, with the submission of 3 articles for publication, 2 posters as well as the participation in 3 conferences and seminars.</li> <li>In total, 3 Researchers from the observatory are continuing their doctoral research, with themes related to the management and conservation of mountain ecosystems in South Kivu.</li> </ul>	
g) In conclusion and with regard to the monitoring activities of the restoration and of the areas being restored, certain changes	

			are already observable on the scale of the Pleiades images, Google Earth Pro and on the sites concerned when missions are carried out there.  h) The observatory recommends, for the next phases, closer and permanent monitoring with the use of a fixed wing drone given the juvenile state of the sites being restored, which is difficult to monitor at larger scales. and at irregular time intervals.  It also recommends a quantitative analysis of the contribution of the project in terms of carbon sequestration of the activities carried out to assess its contribution to the effective management of the environment through the restoration activities.	
Output 3.1.3	Four bankable large-scale restoration projects subject to appropriate funding sources	Identification of potential funding opportunities for FLR actions	<ul> <li>A project has been submitted to CAFI.</li> <li>At the end of the webinar organized by WRI and Terrafund for AFR100, Lake Kivu &amp; Rusizi river basin (March 2023), participants were made aware of the process for submitting applications for restoration initiatives.</li> <li>As a result, dozens of candidates with innovative restoration projects</li> </ul>	- This source of potential funding (WRI through its partner Terrafund for AFR100) is an opportunity for actors in South Kivu involved in forest and landscape restoration.

			in the province of South Kivu	
			submitted their initiatives and are	
			awaiting the decision of the donor: (	
			https://www.terramatch.org/fr-FR.)	
Outcome 4.1			intps://www.terramaten.org/11-1-1K)	
Outcome 4.1				
<b>Output 4.1.1</b>	Awareness-raising	Produce spots and	- UEA was contracted to develop	
	events and	plays for the	awareness raising tools for the	
	education	popularization of	school and academic communities	
	campaigns on the	FLR and develop	in South Kivu;	
	value of natural	educational	- An open day and a conference on	
	resources,	modules on FLR	FLR are being organized within the	
	especially forests		EBU and course modules/chapters	
	implemented for		related to FLR produced;	
	pupils, students		- A manual of good practices in the	
	and adults in South		fields of sustainable land	
	Kivu		management was produced;	
Niva			- An Illustrated Guide to Wildling	
			Nurseries Useful to Indigenous	
			Peoples and an Illustrated Guide to	
			Fruit Tree Grafting Techniques	
			were produced;	
			- An Illustrated Brochure in Swahili	
			on Erosion Control (EAL) &	
			Agroforestry as well as Technical	
			Sheets (Technical References) on	
			EAL, Agroforestry and	
			Reforestation were also produced.	
<b>Output 4.1.2</b>	A long-term	Technical	- The long-term strategy for	Validation was delayed due to
	monitoring and	validation of the	monitoring and evaluating FLR	provincial institutional crises.
	evaluation	long-term strategy	interventions is initiated;	
	strategy	of		

implemented for the monitoring and evaluation of FLR interventions beyond the implementation of the TRI project in South Kivu  Output 4.1.3 Knowledge sharing	Evaluation ( Including environmental and social benefits)	- A LoA with the Provincial Ministry of the Environment for the organization of the validation workshop of the said strategy has been signed and is being implemented.  Four PMU delegates participated	
activities on FLR implemented at the national and regional level to promote the replication of project interventions in other territories and provinces of the DRC	fourth TRI Project	in the Fourth Global TRI Knowledge Sharing Meeting, held in Nairobi, 12-19/11/2022. The main results of this activity are:  a) Knowledge sharing on progress made in countries, lessons learned and good adaptation practices to overcome challenges;  b) Improve the capacity and understanding of national teams on topics such as FLR funding to support the longterm sustainability of project interventions;  c) Global support work plan reviewed and approved with clear activities identified;  d) Improved communication between national project components and the Global TRI program.	

The DNALL montion at a discount in such in such	$\neg$
The PMU participated in webinars	
to share knowledge and	
experiences on FLR. In this regard,	
we can mention the following	
webinars:	
1) <b>Theme:</b> Capitalize on case	
studies of FLR interventions in	
favor of Indigenous Pygmy	
Peoples (PAPs): 05/15/2023:	
Highlight the interventions of	
the TRI project in favor of	
Indigenous Pygmy Peoples;	
define the problems that the	
Project has addressed, also	
define the approaches used by	
the project in their favor, take	
up the successes and	
challenges encountered,	
capitalize on the efforts made	
by the TRI project.	
2) <b>Theme:</b> From May 29 to June	
02, 2023, with 20 participants	
from Bukavu on: the Ex-Ante	
Carbon Balance Tool (EX-ACT)	
v.9. Her main objective was to	
provide participants with an	
introduction to the EX-ACT tool	
and its autonomous use, thus	
developing their ability to	
conduct and monitor a carbon	
footprint. The additional	
100tpinio inc additional	

objective was to train them to assess the quantitative and qualitative impacts of their decisions in terms of mitigating climate change .
As results , the participants able to use EX-ACT for project analysis; they can interpret the results; collect the data needed to establish the carbon balance.  They know how to determine the activities with the best results in terms of climate mitigation, establish the links between the activities of the Project, climate change and the EX-ACT tool.
3) <b>Theme:</b> Sharing experiences on the Farmer Field School (CEP) approach applied to FLR (21/06/2023): - Highlights: the process of learning the approach, involving men and women, contribute to the development of CEP programs, social inclusion, gender equality, biodiversity, links between CEP and community

members, monitoring results.	of
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#### 4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

#### Component 1. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: Development of policies to promote FLR at the provincial level

The annexes to the PDL for the two target chiefdoms are finalized and the drafts of three decrees that promote the FLR as well as the duly validated provincial FLR strategy are presented to the supervisory authority as well as to the Environment Commission of the Provincial Assembly for adoption and promulgation by the Provincial Governor.

Component 2 DEMONSTRATION: Forest and landscape restoration options and sustainable natural resource-based livelihoods demonstrated at chiefdom level in the highlands of South Kivu province.

FLR activities (Agroforestry, Reforestation and Erosion Control) were delivered. The monitoring of sites under restoration as well as sites under improved practices have been secured. 65 micro-projects for the development of profitable and sustainable livelihoods of beneficiary households based on the sustainable management of natural resources are being financed.

#### Component 3: IMPROVEMENT: Institutional and funding capacity to improve FLR at provincial and national levels.

The various stakeholders of the intersectoral coordination mechanism for the management of natural resources, were identified and support to structure and operationalise this mechanism secured. A project was submitted to CAFI for FLR activities in South Kivu.

Component 4 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: Knowledge sharing on FLR, partnership and monitoring and evaluation of FLR interventions.

UEA was contracted to produce tools for awareness raising and public uptake of FLR. Finally, the UGP participated in the fourth global meeting on TRI knowledge sharing as well as in several webinars organized by TRI.

#### 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.

	FY2023 Development Objective rating <sup>15</sup>	FY2023 Implementation Progress rating <sup>16</sup>	Comments/reasons <sup>17</sup> justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	S	MS	- This year 2022-2023 was characterized by a massive deployment of restoration activities in the project intervention area, in order to reinforce the achievements of the previous period.  - This report remains characterized by the achievement in the field of more than 75% of the activities planned in the budgeted and annual Work Plan 2022-2023. This involves the installation of nurseries, the production and intensive distribution of more than 2,000,000 seedlings of forest, agroforestry and fruit species with the facilitation of Club Dimitra members, as well as the implementation of options restoration, over a total area of 3,920 ha, taking into account the GEF restoration indicators, namely: Reforested forest (699 ha), Agroforestry (699 ha), Improved landscape, under Biodiversity (1770 ha) and Improved Landscape under Agricultural Practices (752 ha).  - The second cohort of 35 micro-projects sensitive to the environment was carried out, ie a total of 65 micro-projects. Compared to the objectives of the AWPB 2022-2023, this represents 92.85% achievement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

			- Support for the empowerment of 400 households of indigenous Pygmies, the activities of the FLR Observatory for monitoring the ecosystems of South Kivu, training on the use of the Ex-ACT tool for evaluation of the carbon balance of the activities of the Project as well as the mid-term evaluation mission, constitute the flagship activities of the Project for the year under review.
	S	MS	- For the 2022-2023 financial year, the implementation has reached the satisfactory level of the main development objectives, in particular thanks to the fact that we have aligned this project among our priorities for the aspects of coordination, technical monitoring, administrative and financier in Kinshasa and Bukavu, in the province of South Kivu.
Budget Holder			<ul> <li>However, the process of selecting the beneficiaries of the micro-projects, obtaining the delegation of authority, signing the letters of agreement, paying them to facilitate the start-up of project activities in the field, etc. proved to be very long contrary to expectations.</li> <li>This was the basis of the delay encountered in the implementation of this</li> </ul>
			activity as well as the expected result for this product.
GEF Operational Focal Point <sup>18</sup>	S	MS	In view of the role it played during this year, the MEDD General Secretariat was involved in the implementation of the budget and annual Work Plan 2022-2023, adopted at the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee.  During the missions carried out by the teams of the General Secretariat, orientations were given to lay the real foundations for the sustainability of the results of the project during its withdrawal.

 $<sup>^{18}</sup>$  In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

			The GEF Operational Focal Point recommends that the Project Executin Agency (FAO) concentrate efforts on residual activities deemed essential, i particular the maintenance and monitoring of young plantations, the implementation of 65 micro-projects financed, the collection of data and the integration into the tables of GEF results indicators, the capitalization of lessons learned in terms of restoration in the pilot area and their dissemination through the United Nations Decade for the Restoration of Ecosystems.		
Lead Technical Officer <sup>19</sup>	S	MS	The period July 2022-June 2023 has seen major implementation of restoration interventions on the ground utilizing the Farmer Field School and Dimitra Club approach ensuring the necessary impact at local level. The project also provided support to livelihood diversification of the Indigenous Peoples in the target sites outside the National Park of Kahuzi-Biega. The mid-term evaluation also was realized and provided some good recommendations regarding creating impact at local level. The project has identified the 65 micro-projects, and have had some delays in operationalizing the small grants due to the new approach/procedures.		
Officer			The project has requested a short extension until June 2024 as budgetary resources are limited, and efforts need to concentrate on the implementation and support to micro-project, collection of good practices and dissemination through FERM registry and ensure sustainability of activities at provincial level. Efforts need to be taken by relevant stakeholders to ensure validation of Provincial Strategy by Assembly and ensuring synergy with other projects and partners promoting FLR in South-Kivu to develop exit strategy.		
GEF Technical Officer, GTO (formerly Technical FLO)	S	S	The project delivery is showing results that may deliver sustainable impacts at scale, and this in all of its core components. The enabling policy and regulatory environment is being strengthened, actors are various levels are sensitised, informed and mobilised in support of FLR actions, women and		

 $<sup>^{19}\</sup>mbox{The LTO}$  will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

men in local communities and indigenous peoples' see in FLR an
opportunity to improve their lives and livelihoods. We look forward to
seeing the results of the micro-projects that have been approved. An
extension of the execution phase was granted to capitalise initial results and
deliver remaining key activities.

#### 5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with <u>moderate</u> or <u>high</u> 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 indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibilit Y
ESS 1: Natural Reso	urce Management			
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ESS 2: Biodiversity,	Ecosystems and Natural Habitats			
	Part of the project interventions will be implemented in the buffer zone of the PNKB. These interventions aim to increase forest cover, sustainably increase agricultural and pastoral productivity, promote the use of improved stoves and generate income from non-timber forest resources in this buffer zone. All of these activities in the PNKB buffer zone will reduce the dependence of local communities, including indigenous communities, on the natural resources within the park boundaries, thereby preventing future degradation of the natural resources of PNKB.	Development of rabbit farming in the four camps of the target indigenous Pygmy peoples and market gardening activities coupled with the planting of fruit trees.	hives in the buffer	CAM

<ul> <li>Adhere to existing national forest policies, forest programs or equivalent strategies.</li> <li>Compliance with Principles 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Voluntary Guidelines on Planted Forests is sufficient for native forests, but should be read in full compliance with SES 9 - Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage.</li> <li>Planners and managers must integrate the conservation of biological diversity as a fundamental element in the planning, management, use and monitoring of planted forest resources.</li> <li>In order to reduce the environmental risk, incidence and impact of destructive abiotic and biotic agents and to maintain and improve the health and productivity of planted forests, FAO will work with stakeholders to develop and define response options. appropriate and effective.</li> </ul>	1,322 ha have been put under improved practices including biodiversity protection and 1,260 ha of planted forests under three different FLR options (Agroforestry, reforestation and erosion control).	Continue the reforestation of strategic state sites (Cisheke) and strengthen the mechanism for real-time monitoring and surveillance of forest plantations in all priority sites.	FAO/MEDD
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agricultur	е		
A brief environmental impact assessment is required.	The call for expressions of interest aimed at recruiting a service provider for environmental compliance studies in the various project intervention sites has been closed and the process of identifying the service provider is underway.		CAM
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management			

1. Preference should always be given to sustainable pest management approaches such as integrated pest management, use of ecological pest management approaches, and use of mechanical/cultural/physical or biological pest control tools in favor of synthetic chemicals; preventive measures and monitoring,  2. When there is no viable alternative to the use of chemical pesticides, the selection and purchase of pesticides is subject to an internal clearance procedure <a href="http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests Pesticides/Code/E SS5 pesticide checklist.pdf">http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests Pesticides/Code/E SS5 pesticide checklist.pdf</a> 3. The criteria specified in the FAO ESM Guidelines under ESS5 must be met and must be included or referenced in the project document.  4. If large volumes (more than 1000 liters kg) of pesticides will be supplied or used throughout the duration of the project, a pest management plan must be prepared to demonstrate how pest management will be encouraged to reduce dependency to pesticides. be taken to minimize the risks of pesticide use.	households were trained through the Farmer Field School (CEP) approach in several biological crop control techniques using local plants.	Continue training beneficiary households on other themes of climate-resilient agriculture.	FAO/MEDD	
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement				
N / A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
ESS 7: Decent Work				

	Take steps to anticipate the likely risk of perpetuating poverty and inequality in socially unsustainable agricultural and food systems. Decent work and productive employment should be among the priorities of the project or, alternatively, the project should establish synergies with specific employment and social protection programmes, e.g. promote access to a social protection scheme or a form of social insurance. Specific measures and mechanisms should be put in place to particularly empower the most vulnerable/disadvantaged categories of rural workers such as small producers, contributing family workers, subsistence farmers, informal agricultural workers, paying particular attention to women and young people. An age and gender sensitive social value chain analysis or livelihoods/employment assessment is required for large scale projects.	65 community-based micro-projects have been selected, letters of agreement have been signed and their payment is underway for small direct grants to improve the income of beneficiary households.	evaluate the	CAM	
SSE 8: Gender Equality					
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
ESS 9: Indigenous I	Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
	A free, prior and informed consent process is in place	500 households of indigenous Pygmy peoples are an integral part of all beneficiary households in the project area and several actions have been carried out in their favour through the FAO-ACCB partnership	Multiply actions to consolidate social cohesion, in particular through the Club Dimitra.	FAO/MEDD	

New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY			
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	<b>Current ESS risk classification</b> Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid <sup>20</sup> . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Moderate	For the year under review, the environmental and social risk remained the same.

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.

N / A

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit ( <u>Esm-unit@fao.org</u> ) should be contacted . The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <a href="https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf">https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf</a>)

#### 6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and also reflects any new risks identified during the project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>Risk ratings means a rating of the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High . For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

Г		Tiani	Vac	Covered weeks because	Community.
		Low	Yes	Several workshops were held at the start of the project to identify potential land use issues. Mitigation strategies are	Community mobilization through Dimitra clubs and the involvement of local authorities including
	Political Risk: Provincial, territorial and local authorities are not fully supportive of addressing land use governance issues due to the development challenges facing the province and economic issues.  1 - Political instability of the institutions of provincial governance: repeated political crises between the provincial assembly and the provincial governorate with its corollaries on the proper functioning of the province.		No	Mitigation strategies are developed in a participatory manner with an implementation plan and formal agreements with responsible parties.  Several contacts have been made both at provincial and national level with the support of FAOREP and the Secretary General of MEDD to obtain an unblocking of the effective execution of activities for the adoption by the general assembly of laws that promote FLR as well as their promulgation by the Provincial Governor.	authorities including the provincial government and the chiefdoms (Kabare, Ngweshe) made it possible to resolve land issues in the realization of this project.  The project obtained the support of the Provincial Minister in charge of the environment to present the various draft laws to the "Environment" commission of the Provincial Assembly for examination before their adoption in plenary assembly.

	Type of risk	Risk-rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
2	Institutional risk: Difficulties of institutional cooperation between the sectors of Environment, Agriculture and Mines preventing the improvement of the political framework and the resolution of contradictions for a better management of natural resources.	Low	Yes	Sectorization was encouraged during the preparation of the project thanks to the participation of all the sectors concerned during the launch and validation workshops. It continues to be promoted throughout the implementation phase of the project through multisector meetings of the PSC, multi-sector training workshops and LoAs of agreement with the sectors concerned for the implementation of specific activities. This improves knowledge sharing, communication and coordination between sectors involved in natural resource management.	Stakeholders were invited to participate in the first COPIL meeting and were asked to identify bottlenecks and possible solutions to overcome them.  The coordination of the various sectors and stakeholders is integrated into the AWPB for a renewal of the LoA with the Provincial Coordination of the Environment, the General Secretariat of the MEDD, as well as the Provincial Ministry in charge of the Environment.  Also, the sectors concerned are involved in the various FLR activities.	

3	Social risk: Indigenous communities leaving near Kahuzi Biega National Park do not support the project	Low to medium	Yes	Project field interventions will be designed in collaboration with indigenous communities to enable their ownership of project interventions and ensure that the project generates direct benefits for these communities.  Young people are involved throughout the planning of FLR interventions and the organization of awareness raising events on FLR. The project will also put in place grievance mechanisms and the promotion of microprojects targeting youth groups.	The PMU organized a capacity building workshop on FPIC and the integration of the context of indigenous peoples throughout the implementation of the project and a roadmap was developed with the support of UEFA.  As part of the financing of micro-projects, support for associations of young farmers was particularly taken into account. As part of raising awareness and supporting Dimitra Clubs, the focus is also on this vulnerable group. In addition, actions have been carried out for the creation of hut gardens as well as the domestication of useful plants and the breeding of rabbits.  Following discussions	
🕶	Confusion of land			will be prioritized in the	between the PMU and	

Type of risk	Risk-rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
ownership between government and traditional authorities may result in the project not having the support of these key stakeholders.			design of specific field interventions. Only sites where government officials and traditional leaders have clear responsibilities, land ownership and good relationships will be chosen.	l •	

	Type of risk	Risk-rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
5	Risk related to ownership of natural resources: Property rights disputes between landowners, government and traditional leaders over trees planted on private land are likely to arise.	Low	Yes	Land and tree ownership systems will be clearly defined and signed before starting the implementation of field interventions. A management plan for all project outputs – including planted trees – will be developed in a participatory manner and signed by all relevant stakeholders.	strategy as well as the provincial decrees for a good environment in the RPF already adopted by the various technical services and in the process of being promulgated by the	

	Type of risk	Risk-rating <sup>21</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
6	Ecological risk: Climate change, including short and intense rainfall events, long periods of drought (and related bushfires) prevent restoration interventions from being successful in the long term.	Low	Yes	Observed climate changes and future climate scenarios will be considered when designing restoration activities and selecting species to plant. Only climate-resilient species will be valued by the project as well as the diversity and complementarity of species. Selection criteria for each species will include but are not limited to: climate resistant, native (or naturalized) and fire resistant.	workshop with all stakeholders was organized for the validation of the tree species to be used for the different FLR	

## **Project overall risk rating** (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2022	FY2023	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since
rating	rating	the previous reporting period
Moderat	Moderat	No new risks appeared during the period under examination of the project. Apart from the rainfall deficit
е	e	and the political instability of the provincial governmental institutions which created respectively an uncertainty of the rains during the period of the final establishment of the young seedlings and an uncertainty of the adoption and the promulgation of the laws promoting the FLR in the pilot province of South Kivu, the risks initially identified in the project remain unchanged and measures have been taken to mitigate these risks.

# 7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented during this Fiscal Year
Recommendation 1: Approval of the MTR report by FAO, GEF, DRC Government, PMU and Steering Committee to guide implementation for the remaining part.	The MTR report was shared at all project management levels and observations in terms of the report's weaknesses were shared with the Consultant. The report was therefore partially approved.
Recommendation 2: Extension of the project for 2 additional years, until October 2025 (2018-2025): the mission	The available budget will not allow for a two-year extension without additional cost, but it can cover a maximum of one year. After approval of the PSC, the extension case will be formally referred to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.
recommends that the FAO, the GEF and the Government of the DRC take the necessary measures to negotiate an extension of 2 additional years	The PMU, in consultation with CTA has developed a new programme/work plan for the implementation of the project within the agreed extended period - including the budget - and will share it with the rest of the FAO team.
until in October 2025, which will make a total duration of 7 years (2018-2025).	This Work Plan takes into account: the consolidation of the achievements of the TRI Project, the strategic activities of the project document (PRODOC) and not carried out to date (examples, support for the 65 selected micro-projects, support for the agro- sylvo-banana, the supply of tillage tools and food seeds to the beneficiaries to enhance the community spaces put under improved management, the collection of data for the final evaluation of the project as well as the documentation of good practices and lessons learned with the restoration initiative.
Recommendation 3: Complete review of the	The recommended action is to review the entire PRODOC. This is not feasible at this stage of project implementation.
PRODOC: The review of the project document will focus on, among other things: (i) the objectives, activities, results and expected products, based	How the results matrix can be revised to incorporate recommendations from the mid-term review findings and to strengthen qualitative monitoring. The internal capacities of the FAO country office will support this exercise.
on the Theory of Change; (ii) the architecture of the vertical logic of the sector, with a	We had also informed the MTR consultants that the GEF grant is not subject to increase or renewal. Thus, it is not acceptable to make a recommendation based on an incorrect assumption.

downward refocusing of the results indicators (hectares to be restored, etc.) with the aim of making them more SMART; (iii) analyze the project implementation strategy, at all levels of delay or blockage, and difficulties, with the aim of improving the implementation of activities and achieving the expected results; (iv) Reassess the costs of the activities and carry out a budget revision (reallocation of the amounts by budget line, in the event of renewal of the current budget) or request an increase in the project budget according to the estimated needs on the deficit lines.

Limit the number of implementation partners: the PMU will collaborate with the MEDD and certain key partners for the capitalization of interventions implementing the PTAB of the last year

Decrease results on indicators on restored lands and beneficiaries:

After consultation with the project partners, the following indicators could be reformulated with new values: Core indicator no. 2, area of land restored: 1,678 Ha. Basic indicator n° 3: area of the landscape under improved practices: 1,745 Ha.

The PMU proposes to retain as Basic Indicator No. 2, the target of 940 ha for the area of restored land and as Basic Indicator No. 3, the target of 3,560 ha as the area of the landscape under improved practices.

The PMU has yet to agree on this, but agree to reduce the overall target and split it as we had double counting in the original;

For the PMU and because of the insufficiency of the budget to carry out certain PRODOC activities (for example the improvement of pastures), it is possible to reduce the 300 ha **intended** for the improvement of pasture and to modify the current target of **4,800** ha

**Recommendation 4:** Revise the logical results framework derived from the ToC: Review the logical architecture of the results by (i) selecting more particularly those capable of producing visible effects and carrying the expected changes, and (ii) limiting the number of implementing partners to those who master the knowledge relating to the management and restoration of forest and agricultural lands.

In this regard, it is strongly recommended to resize the results indicators of components 2 and 3 by readjusting the (i) areas to be restored from 4,800 ha to

2,000 ha and the number of beneficiaries from 30,000 people to 1,500 men and including women.

Revise the logical framework of the results derived from the ToCs:

Revise the logical architecture of results by (i) revealing more particularly those capable of producing visible effects and bringing about the expected changes, and (ii) limiting the number of implementing partners to those with a good command of knowledge relating to the management and restoration of forest and agricultural land. To this expectation, it is strongly recommended to resize the results indicators of characteristics 2 and 3 by readjusting (i) the areas to be restored from 4,800 ha to 2,000 ha and the number of beneficiaries from 30,000 people to 1,500 including men and women (\*).

planned to 4,500 ha which include restored areas (940 ha) and areas under improved management (3,560 ha) in the two chiefdoms.

The PMU did not agree with this recommendation (\*); how can the number of beneficiaries be limited to only 1,500 people?

The PMU thinks that the evaluators may have confused the figures between the households and the actual number of beneficiaries. This is an error that should be corrected.

These new indicators thus revised will be brought to the attention of the members of the COPIL at the next meeting of the Steering Committee, as results of the RMP.

Recommendation 5: Review of the prioritization of issues and priorities for intervention: (i) Identify the issues and priority areas of intervention most likely to bring about significant change; (ii) Review the current technical support system with a dynamic contribution and results-based monitoring-evaluation and mastery of technical packages;

- (i) The annual work plan and budget to be presented to the next CPM will focus on key priorities for the remaining period to ensure impact on the ground;
- (ii) The technical support system is already based on a dynamic demand response structure.
- (iii) It is not realistic to completely revise the ToC and results framework, as they are part of a larger global agenda. Efforts will be made to promote adaptive monitoring to achieve the expected results.

(iii) Translate the rationale for the alternative scenario for the CPR based on the revised results framework and theory of change.

Review of the prioritization of issues and priorities for intervention: (i) Identify the issues and priority areas of intervention most likely to bring about significant change; (ii) Revise the current technical support system with a dynamic contribution and results-based monitoringevaluation and mastery of technical packages; (iii) Translate the foundations of the alternative scenario for the RPF based on the revised results framework and theory of change.

Recommendation 6: Review of the project implementation strategy: the PMU must prioritize interventions and according to an appropriate implementation schedule, ensuring compliance with budget allocations, as well as the programming of field interventions with the commitment of the beneficiary populations.

Revision of the project implementation strategy: the PMU must prioritize the interventions and according to an adequate implementation schedule, ensuring compliance with budget allocations, as well as the programming of

This recommendation was shared with the PMU, which will take it into account to adapt the work plan and budget.

interventions in the field with the commitment of beneficiary populations.

Recommendation 7: Building the capacities of the populations: (i) Place special emphasis on building the organizational and operational capacities of the populations and members of the Dimitra Clubs; (ii) Technical support more closely under the effective supervision of FAO-Headquarters and MEDD.

Building the capacities of the populations: (i) Place particular emphasis on building the organizational and operational capacities of the populations and members of the Dimitra Clubs; (ii) Strengthen technical support under the effective supervision of FAO headquarters and MEDD.

The project is already interacting with relevant projects and programs and will further enhance interaction and synergies.

In the short term, the PMU and the CTA will discuss with the MEDD the means of improving the considerable technical support that the project already provides to the populations and to the Dimitra club.

For the PMU, this capacity building makes it possible to materialize community actions compatible with the actions of the Local Development Plans (PDL) in the 2 Chiefdoms

## **Recommendation 8:**

Refocusing, revitalization and sensitization of Dimitra Clubs: (i) Give the project a chance to achieve project results with the available budget balances and additional resources, with the support of FAO, MEDD and the 'PMU; (iii) Reduce the number of Dimitra Clubs to 40 at the rate of 20 CDs per intervention area and the number of intervention sites, to synergize the financial resources available and the activities to be carried out in the field.

The project has already strengthened the 90 Club Dimitra and will continue to further strengthen its support.

Additional resources cannot be supported.

At the moment, the project has committed with 90 CDs, and some of them will receive small targeted grants. Thus, efforts will be guided by budget availability, priorities and the most effective impact to be achieved during the last year of implementation.

Reduction in the number of CDs?

For the PMU, given that this dynamic of local catering with the support of Dimitra Clubs is already effective in the community, with the support of implementing partners and the CPEDD, the reduction in the number of CDs would be counterproductive for the project.

In addition, the dynamic is already very much appreciated by the local authorities of the Chiefdoms and it reinforces the actions contained in the Local Development Plan (PDL).

Refocusing, revitalizing Dimitra Clubs: (i) Give the project a chance to achieve the proposed results with available and additional resources, with the support of FAO, MEDD and PMU; (iii) Reduce the number of Dimitra Clubs to 40 at the rate of 20 CDs per area of intervention and the number of intervention sites, in order to synergize the financial resources available and the activities to be carried out in the field.

Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize

Yes, through the implementation of a specific AWPB accompanied by a quarterly activity monitoring and evaluation plan.

### 8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines <sup>22</sup>. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework	N/A		
Components and cost	N/A		
Institutional and implementation arrangements	N / A		
financial management	N/A		
Implementation schedule	A cost-free extension of nine months is requested due to the delay observed in the implementation of a number of project activities.	October 2023 to June 2024	Being analyzed by FAOREP for submission to GEF
Executing Entity	N/A		
Executing Entity Category	N/A		
Minor project objective change	N/A		
Safeguards	N/A		
Risk analysis	N/A		
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%	N/A		
Co-financing	N/A		
Location of project activity	N/A		
Other minor project amendment (define)	N/A		

<sup>22</sup>Source: https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update

### 9. Stakeholders 'Commitment

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
Government institutions		Liigagement	engagement
General Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development	Supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the TRI project; Chair project steering committee meetings and ensure that policies and regulations relating to the sustainable management of natural resources are followed in all project interventions.	discussions were initiated with the provincial supervisory ministry as well as with the Environment Commission of the Provincial Assembly of South Kivu for the acceleration of the process of adoption and promulgation of different laws on the	
Provincial Ministry as well as the Provincial Coordination in charge of the environment	Support and coordination of FLR interventions in South Kivu	Specialized training courses, particularly in the management of bush fires and the management of forest nurseries, have been organised. Support for the monitoring of state sites under restoration and/or under improved	Heaviness in the execution of the work plan due to multiple political crises between the provincial assembly and the provincial governorate with a change each time of the minister in charge of the environment.

		practices was also provided.	
INERA MULUNGU	Implementation of restoration options and technical support to beneficiary households for agroforestry through DIMITRA CLUBS using the farmer field-school approach	agricultural production systems and a producer field school (CEP) for learning the different agricultural production	
CRSN LWIRO	Implementation of restoration options and support for Pygmy households in the domestication of plants with social utility from the PNKB as well as training of communities on the techniques of grafting fruit trees.	A 40 ha site is under restoration and a producer field school for learning the different techniques of agricultural production and biological control has been set up.	
The customary authorities of the targeted chiefdoms (Ngweshe and Kabare)	Support for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of forest and landscape restoration interventions in the chiefdom management area	Monitoring of FLR activities in the administrative authority area	

NGOs <sup>23</sup>			
CACB	Support to indigenous Pygmy peoples in the implementation of activities to mitigate the pressure on PNKB forest resources.	farming as well as market gardening in the target camps of the	Delay in the supply of beekeeping equipment
CONGRESS	Follow-up of planting of seedlings in Cisheke and continued reforestation of the state site of Cisheke.	LoA signed and the first instalment paid.	RAS
Leuven Cooperation	Support for the development of micro-projects promoting the restoration of forests and landscapes in the province of South Kivu	1	Delay in payment of the first installment leading to a delay in the implementation of these micro-projects.
EPAS	Community implementation of FLR options through Dimitra clubs in the Ngweshe chiefdom	1306 ha undergoing participatory restoration through the Club Dimitra approach	Limitation of financial support
DRIED UP	Community implementation of FLR options through dimitra clubs in Kabare chiefdom	1277 ha undergoing participatory restoration through the Club Dimitra approach	Limitation of financial support

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Non-government organizations

Private sector entitie	25		
UEA	Establishment of an Independent Observatory for the Restoration of Forests and Landscapes and real-time monitoring of the forests of South Kivu	Observatory for Forest and Landscape	The decree creating the independent observatory of forests and landscapes of South Kivu within the UEA as well as the purchase of a drone for real-time monitoring of major deforestation events in the intervention sites of the project remain one of the priorities of the project.
UCB	Farming System Monitoring, Reporting and Verification and Diagnosis	A manual of good practices in the field of sustainable land management has been produced	Limitation of financial support
others <sup>24</sup>	, ,		
New stakeholders			
identified			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women's groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then

## **10.**Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) <u>during this reporting period.</u>

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.		
A ny gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment ?	Yes	All beneficiary data is disaggregated by gender and age, emphasizing 50% female representation.
Indicate in which results area(s) the identified at project design stage):	ne project is e	expected to contribute to gender equality (as
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources		
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	All beneficiary data is disaggregated by gender and age, emphasizing 50% female representation.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women		
M&E system with gender- disaggregated data?	Yes	The gender aspect is particularly taken into account in all project activities aimed at beneficiaries.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	The dimitra club approach promoted gender equality as well as the participation of women at all levels of decision-making.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	The VSLA approach developed in each club through income-generating activities has enabled the woman to increase her income and thus contribute to household income.

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Yes	The performance monitoring data collection questionnaire for output and outcome indicators is disaggregated by gender
Yes	There is an expert in the FAO/DRC office who deals with gender issues

## 11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, <u>during this reporting period.</u>

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.	Yes
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges <b>this year</b> .	Yes. Illustrated guides as well as brochures and leaflets for knowledge sharing and raising awareness of local communities on FLR practices have been developed.
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. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	The ongoing financing of the 65 micro-projects on FLR is likely to improve both the incomes and the knowledge of the beneficiaries on good environmental practices.
Please provide links to related website, social media account	A website has been created within the independent observatory of forests and landscapes of South Kivu.  This communication tool will provide stakeholders with information, particularly on land use change, as well as data on major deforestation events in the area of the province.
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	Updates are currently being made to the website of the independent observatory for forests and landscapes for more operationalization and visibility.
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details	Ms. Kacou Amondji Hyacine, <u>Hyacine.KacouAmondji@fao.org</u>

#### 12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.

If applicable, 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 and or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.

There is close collaboration between the project and the indigenous peoples through mitigation activities (practice of home gardens, rabbit breeding, domestication of plants with socioeconomic utility) to the exploitation of the PNKB's forest resources.

## 13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co- financing <sup>25</sup>	Name of Co-finance	Type of Co- financing <sup>26</sup>	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm	Expected total disruption by the end of the project
Beneficiary Government (National and South Kivu Province)	Provincial coordination of the environment and sustainable development	Grant	1,930,000	1,834,650		1,930,000
Donor agency	Directorate General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD)/LCD	Grant	626,730	626,730		626,730
GEF Agency	CAM	Grant	400,000	355,450		400,000
Bilateral agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft for the International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Grant	9,424,800	9,174,880		9,424,800
		TOTAL	12,381,530	11,991,710		12,381,530

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF\_FI\_GN\_01\_Cofinancing\_Guidelines\_2018.pdf

 $<sup>^{25}</sup>$ Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions

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

Appendix 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

<u>Development Objectives Rating</u> . A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.						
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed <b>all</b> 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 <b>most</b> of its <b>major</b> global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings					
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to achieve <b>most</b> of its major <b>relevant</b> 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 environmental benefits					
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to <b>achieve only some</b> of its major global environmental objectives					
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected <b>not</b> to achieve <b>most</b> 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, <b>any</b> of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits					

<u>Implementation Progress Rating</u> . A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the project's approved implementation plan.							
Highly Satisfactory	Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised						
(HS)	implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as "good practice"						
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of <b>most</b> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan						
	except for only a few that are subject to remedial action						
Moderately	Implementation of <b>some</b> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan						
Satisfactory (MS) with some components requiring remedial action							
Moderately	Implementation of <b>some</b> components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised						
Unsatisfactory (MU)	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	Implementation of <b>none</b> of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised
(HU)	plan.

Risk-rating will assess t	Risk-rating will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects					
for achieving project ob	for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:					
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the					
	project may face high risks.					
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or					
	the project may face substantial risks					
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or					
the project may face only moderate risk						
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may					
	face only low risks					

#### Annex 2.

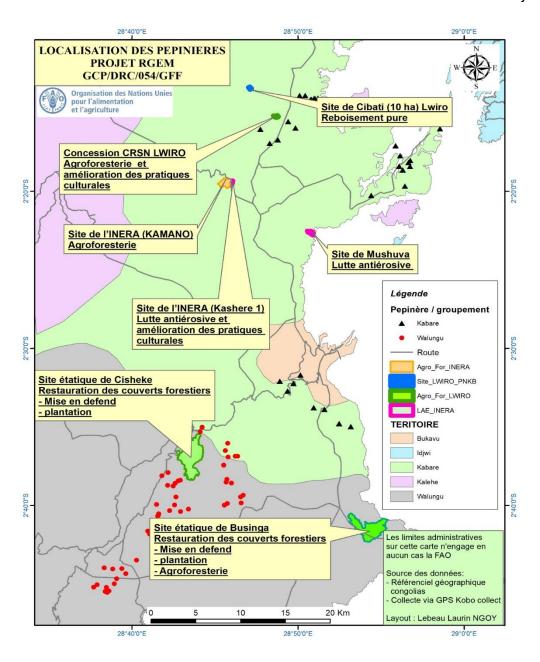
#### **GEO LOCATION INFORMATION**

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as <a href="OpenStreetMap">OpenStreetMap</a> or <a href="GeoNames">GeoNames</a> use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <a href="https://coordinates-converter.com">https://coordinates-converter.com</a> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking <a href="https://coordinates-converter.com">https://coordinates-converter.com</a> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
INERA site (Kashere 1)	9742963.93 m S	696466.99 m E	Site_INERA_LAE.kmz	Kabare INERA Mulungu site of Kashere 1: installation of anti-erosion hedges and improvement of farming techniques through the titonia bocage
INERA website (KAMANO)	9743077.66 m S	695707.66 m E	Agrofor_Inera.kmz	Chiefdom of Kabare INERA-Mulungu Kamano site: implementation of agroforestry and improvement of farming techniques
Cibati (10 ha) Lwiro	9754083.82 m S	698505.96 m E	Site_lwiro_pnkb.kmz	Kabare/CRSN-Lwiro CIBATI site: Reforestation of 10 ha with endemic and medicinal plants useful to indigenous peoples.
Lwiro concession	9750719.90 m S	701510.38 mE	Agro_forest_lwiro.kmz	Kabare/CRSN- Lwiro Lwiro site: implementation of agroforestry and improvement of farming techniques and soil fertility through the bocage.
State site of Cisheke	9711863.74 m S	692091.43 m E	MAE_CICEKE_LayerToKML.kml	Walungu/State site of Cisheke: Restoration of forest cover.
Mushuva website	9737080.61m S	705391.42 m E	LAE_MUSHUVA.kmz	Kabare/Mushuva site: installation of anti-erosion hedges and improvement of cultivation techniques

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate.

### LOCATION MAP OF WHERE THE PROJECT INTERVENTIONS IS



Number of hect							
Type of land		Nu	mber of h	nectares (	Total number of hectares	Links to shapefiles or GPS coordinates for areas under restoration	
		2021	2022	2023	Total by area		
Area of degraded agricultural land restored		0	25	206	231	1678	Site INERA LAE.kmz
Area of forest or forest land restored		70	323	1054	1447		Agro_forest_lwiro.kmz
Area of grasslands and natural shrublands restored		0	0		0	1070	
Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) restored		0	0		0		
Total per year	0	70	348	1260			

Number of hectares under improved practices							
Type of land	Number of hectares (ha)				a)	Total ha	Links to shapefiles or GPS coordinates for hectares under improved practices.
туре опапа	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total by area		
Area of landscapes subject to improved practices for the benefit of biodiversity			332		332		LAE_KASHUNGURI.kmz
Area of landscapes respecting national or international certification by a third party and integrating biodiversity considerations					0	1,745	
Area of landscapes subject to sustainable land management in production systems			91	1322	1413		Agrofor_Inera.kmz
Area of avoided losses of high conservation value forests		0					
Total per year	0	0	423	1322			

Number of direct beneficiaries						
Date	Type of support received	Profit generated	Total number of people	Number of women	Number of men	Number of young people
From 5 to 30/7/2022	Revitalization of Dimitra Clubs	Sensitization and support of CDs in the Kabare chiefdom	1461	834	407	220
On 5/8/ 2022	Presentation workshop of the project to the authority of the chiefdom and to the partners of three groups	All the authorities of the three groups in which the project is implemented were suitable for this activity accompanied by the agronomists and the civil society of each group, the latter were accompanied by the head of the chiefdom who was represented by his secretary.	18	3	11	4
From 1 to 15 October 2022	Training and capacity building of community nurseries	Equipping nurseries with all the CDs, 40 of which are 80 people who have received instructions on the choice of land, the preparation and the actual setting up of a nursery (taking ownership of the principles and the characteristics of a nursery This activity should end with the formation of the provincial coordination of the environment.	80	22	38	20

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From October 16 to 30, 2022	Technical support to the 40 DCs in setting up nurseries	This activity consisted of: Distributing inputs for setting up nurseries (polyethylene bags, gloves, seed and other necessary inputs); also the members of 40 CDs received support in cash for each CD in order to support the filling of pockets; in addition, the latter also received agricultural tools consisting of watering cans, hoes, rakes and tarpaulins for the maintenance and development of the nurseries.	844	426	360	58
From 3 to 10/11/2022	Training and capacity building of DC members on the FFS approach	Equip DC members with the farmer field school approach; It should be noted that this activity began with the training of ASEC technicians together with those of the other organizations involved by the FAO before the latter made the restitution to the members of the DCs.	800	480	200	120
April 2023	Training of Dimitra Club members in Kabare and Ngweshe on erosion control techniques and agroforestry	Knowledge sharing	998	480	433	85

Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated							
Production date	Product Name	Type of product	Format	Publication on the TRI website	Award	Number of printed copies published	Number of views or downloads
October 2020		Educational or awareness material	Printed / hard copy	No	Developed directly by TRI	60	
January 2023	Illustrated Brochure in Swahili on Erosion Control/LAE & Agroforestry	technical tool	Printed / hard copy	No	Developed directly by TRI	125	
July 2022	Technical data sheets (Technical references) on Erosion control/LAE, Agroforestry and reforestation	technical tool	Printed / hard copy	No	Developed directly by TRI	150	
April 2023	Illustrated Guide - Fruit Tree Grafting Techniques	technical tool	Printed / hard copy	No	Developed directly by TRI	200	
April 2023	Illustrated guide to managing wildling seedling nurseries useful to indigenous peoples	technical tool	Print/hard copy	No	Developed directly by TRI	200	