



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):	São Tomé e Príncipe
Project Title:	Landscape Restoration for Ecosystem Functionality and Climate Change Mitigation in the Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP/STP/002/GFF
GEF ID:	9517
GEF Focal Area(s):	CC-2 Program 4: Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest, and other land use, and support climate smart agriculture LD-2 Program 3: Landscape Management and Restoration LD-3 Program 4: Scaling-up sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach SFM-3: Restored Forest Ecosystems: Reverse the loss of ecosystem services within degraded forest landscapes
Project Executing Partners:	The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), through the Directorate of Forests and Biodiversity (DFB)
Project Duration:	2019-2023 – 5 years
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	Praia das Conchas, Northern Landscape on Sao Tomé island: 0°24'33.1"N 6°37'29.5"E Angolares, Western Landscape on Sao Tomé island: 0°07'56.4"N 6°38'57.6"E Malanza, Southern Landscape on Sao Tomé island: 0°02'52.4"N 6°32'06.5"E Bom Sucesso, Buffer Zone Obo National Park, on Sao Tomé island: 0°17'18.6"N 6°36'44.2"E Buffer Zone of the National Park, on Principe island: 1°37'27.5"N 7°24'13.4"E

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	24 April 2018
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	13 November 2018
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	12 November 2023

¹ As per FPMI

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

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	4,666,515 USD
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	16,700,000 USD
Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	716,024 USD
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	4,472,012 USD

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	16 February 2021
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	Spring 2021
Actual Mid-term review date:	October 2021
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	Yes or No
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	N/A
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	Yes or No
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes or No

² In case of a project extension.

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

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

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

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

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

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core

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Ratings

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

Status

Implementation Status (1 st PIR, 2 nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	3 rd PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
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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

2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO)

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

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
Objective(s): Promote the restoration and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of São Tomé and Príncipe to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation, and stop and reverse forest and soil degradation						
Outcome 1.1: Enhanced national commitment to Forest and Landscape Restoration in STP	(i) # of operational FLR coordination platforms.	There is no such thing as a coordination body or platform in STP, to steer/support forest-related work.	PFLR established and recognised by the GoSTP. Inception workshops held. Learning visits planned and locations identified.	1 permanent Platform for Forest and Landscape Restoration officially established and operational	<u>Indicator (i):</u> Platform officially established by ministerial decree (MARD). Four thematic sub-groups of PFLR operational. Meetings and workshops held throughout reporting period, although with limitations due to COVID-19 regulations.	HS

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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).

	(ii) # of FLR management plans.	No updated forest landscape plan exists: the last national forest survey was issued in 1999.	Baseline report on the state of forests and existing FLR policies produced by DFB.	1 Forest Landscape Plan produced and validated.	<u>Indicator (ii)</u> : National FLR Plan produced as a joint effort of DFB and TRI-STP. In Annex to this report.	HS
	(iii) # of people providing inputs to FLR policy planning and development.	There is no such thing as a coordination body or platform in STP, to steer/support forest-related work.	PFLR established and recognised by the GoSTP. Inception workshops held	At least 30 people are active members of the platform, of which 30% women.	<u>Indicator (iii)</u> : PFLR: 33 Platform members (27M-6F) + 10 members of the Project Steering Committee (COPIL) regularly involved in the FLR policy planning and development FLR Planning: 1219 people from 96 communities (607M-612F) consulted for the development of FLR plans, of whom 674 (470M-204F) provided written feedback.	HS

Outcome 1.2: Improved and conducive policy framework for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of STP forest.	(i) # of policy blueprint produced	Several laws regulating forest management and conservation exist, but none is specific on FLR. Several gaps on regulations	Set of guidelines and recommendations to improve policy framework ready for validation.	1 blueprint for policy improvement and cross-sectoral integration.	<u>Indicator (i):</u> Blueprint for Policy produced and validated, including Policy Influence Plan that will inform implementation phase 2021-2023	HS
	(ii) # of normative documents (decrees, laws, regulations) produced and/or approved.	and difficult implementation mechanisms. Poor collaboration and coordination mechanisms among different branches of the administration. Poor link between forest-related legislation and agriculture, fisheries and husbandry legislation.	National consultant hired to support the mainstreaming of new policies, laws and regulation into the existing framework.	At least 5 FLR-related policies, laws, or regulations produced/improved.	<u>Indicator (ii):</u> Policy Influence Plan including three objectives and a number of intermediate results. Two consultants hired (national and international). Policy working group established including members of PIU/FAO and DFB. Implementation work started in July 2021.	S

Outcome 2.1: Participatory FLR interventions to enhance ecosystem services and mitigate climate change in vulnerable natural forest areas in STP as a public- private partnership	(i) # of hectares of the Contador watershed restored. (ii) # of hectares of degraded natural forests restored. (iii) # of hectares of mangroves restored (iv) # of beneficiaries trained on FLR techniques. (v) # of beneficiaries hired and trained on surveillance.	Environmental and Social Management Framework report for the PRSP project available. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment ready by end of 2017. Management guidelines for buffer areas of natural parks developed under ECOFAC project	Contador FLR working group operational. FLR plan produced and ready for implementation, operational partners identified. Target degraded forest landscapes selected and mapped. FLR plans for degraded forests on both islands produced and ready for implementation. operational partners identified. Seedling production plans in place. Beneficiaries trained on FLR techniques. Mangrove management plans validated and ready for implementation. Operational partners identified. Project in contact with NCP Guinea Bissau.	(i) 4,500 ha of the Contador watershed and corridors along evacuation lines restored. (ii) 23,000 ha of natural forestland restored and sustainably managed in target forest areas. (iii) 600 ha of mangroves restored and sustainably managed. (iv) 3500 beneficiaries trained on FLR restoration techniques in the target Districts of both islands, (gender-disaggregated). v) 20 members of local communities hired and trained to carry out surveillance of restored areas	<u>Indicators (i-ii-iii):</u> Four FLR Landscape plans finalized. Zero hectares restored so far, but the FLR interventions in the four focal landscapes started in July 2021, under the leadership of DFB and with the participation of various partners (CECAFEB, CECAB, CECAQ-11, AARB, Regional Government of Príncipe). <u>Indicators (iv-v):</u> So far, FLR training has been provided to 135 beneficiaries, who will pass on the knowledge to practitioners at the field level during the implementation phase.	S
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			Twenty members of local communities identified hired and trained on surveillance.			
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<p>Outcome 2.2: Enhanced and improved use of forest resources for the benefit of local communities living in sensitive landscapes of STP.</p>	<p>(i) # of ha of shadow forests supporting high-quality agro-forestry plantations restored. (ii) # of households benefitting of improved shade forest plantations. (iii) # of community members supplied with sustainably harvested and processed wood and timber. (iv) # of ha reforested by CECAQ11 cooperative and the RAP under the “intelligent wood processing plant” scheme. (v) # of beneficiaries engaged in new NWFP economic activities and expected increase in annual income.</p>	<p>Pilot scattered reforestation work carried out by the PAPAC cooperatives within their mandates. No portable sawmills exist on STP, no experience carried out so far on “intelligent” use of the biomass felled trees. Pilot successful NWFP initiatives finalized by several projects (ADB, IFAD, HBD). SME and NGOs exist in STP that are willing to establish economic agreements with local communities for the purchase of NWFP.</p>	<p>GEF/PAPAC steering committee operational. Target shadow forest areas identified and mapped. FLR plans finalized and ready for implementation. Community nurseries adapted, enlarged or established. Representatives of communities trained by DF. Portable sawmills purchased and installed in pilot communities. Community members trained on their use. Controlled felling areas identified by DF. Reforestation areas identified and plans ready for implementation. MoU with target communities signed for implementation of new NWFP-based economic activities. Members of the target communities trained.</p>	<p>i) 7,150 ha of shadow forests supporting high-quality agro-forestry plantations restored. (ii) 15,600 people belonging to 85 communities benefit of improved shade forest plantations. (iii) Sustainably harvested and processed wood and timber supplied to 1300 inhabitants of pilot communities. (iv) 250 hectares of forest land reforested by beneficiary communities. (v) 650 beneficiaries from 4 rural communities engaged in new NWFP economic activities. Increase of \$ 1000 in annual income per community from PY 4.</p>	<p><u>Indicators (i-ii):</u> see previous Outcome on Number of restored hectares. Letters of Agreements signed with the cooperatives CECAQ11 (high quality cocoa) and CECAFEB (organic coffee) for the restoration of the shadow forests in the target landscapes. <u>Indicators (iii-iv):</u> new road map for the sawmills’ activity officially endorsed by the Minister of Agriculture. <u>Indicator (v):</u> New action supporting NWFP activities has started. Approx. 600 beneficiaries involved and engaged in 4 rural communities (Generosa and S. Carlos in S. Tomé / Porto Real and Monta Alegre in RAP), on honey and ground snail value chains. people, including 125 women) on Sao Tomé in partnership with the NGO Oikos.</p>	<p>MS</p>
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			Equipment and resources identified and purchased. Contacts with buyers started. work plan for the initiatives ready for implementation.			
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Outcome 3.1: Strengthened national capacity on the principles and practices of FLR, on the concepts and use of ecosystem services, and on FLR financial instruments	<p>(i) # of people from all stakeholder groups trained and aware of FLR principles, practices and financial instruments.</p> <p>(ii) of investment tools developed or improved to support FLR initiatives (i.e. ASB code of conduct, specialized credit lines, improved NNFD etc.)</p>	<p>No capacity development work on FLR, PES and related financial instruments carried out in STP so far. No financial instruments exist to date in STP to support SME in FLR or agroforestry. ASB and other financial bodies in STP lack specific policy to support FLR work. Benefit of fiscal incentives poorly known by agro-forestry practitioners. NNFD weak and hardly operative to date.</p>	<p>FAO Capacity Needs Assessment carried out in STP. 3 training courses organized on FLR, PES and related financial instruments. Partnership agreement with ASB-STP signed and in place. Funding Opportunities Forum and “peer-to-peer” meetings between experts and local enterprises organized. National specialist hired to run a critical assessment of the NNFD and to analyze the new regime of benefits and fiscal incentives.</p>	<p>i) At least 150 people from all stakeholder groups trained and aware of FLR principles, practices and financial instruments. (ii) At least 3 investment tools are developed or improved (i.e. Code of Conduct adopted by ASB to screen investment against criteria for sustainable forest management, improvement of the NNFD and increase in its capital, specialized credit lines, etc.)</p>	<p><u>Indicator (i):</u> Capacity development plan prepared based upon assessment. Four training courses scheduled (3-4th quarter 2021; 1st-2nd quarter 2022) for a total of approx. 100 participants. <u>Indicator (ii):</u> MoU signed with the Association of Banks of STP and the Central Bank, capacity development plan for approx. 10 representatives from both institutions is being negotiated with the support of the GCP (UNEP). STP representatives from SME involved in the capacity development initiatives managed by the GCP - “Landscape finance and bankable projects” and “The Restoration Factory”.</p>	<p>MS</p>
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Outcome 3.2: The FLR work of TRI is upscaled by triggering and supporting the development of public-private partnerships for nationally-implemented bankable projects.	i) # of medium-large bankable projects developed and submitted to donors. (ii) # of small-medium bankable projects implemented by the end of the project	No sizable actions carried out in STP in the domain of FLR and agro-forestry, little private funding mobilized so far. Relevant international funding schemes remain untapped because of weak capacity. Lack of financial instruments for SME involved in FLR and agro-forestry business	Two public-private partnerships signed, project development grant awarded and project development work plan approved. Written agreement signed between DF and private business companies, project grants delivered to beneficiaries and projects started	(i) Two medium-large bankable projects developed and submitted to donors by the end of the project. (ii) At least three small- medium bankable projects implemented by the end of the project.	<u>Indicator (i):</u> Partnership with Plan Vivo started to obtain certification for part of the FLR work carried out by the project and sell carbon credits on the voluntary market. <u>Indicator (ii):</u> Five small-medium bankable projects approved in July 2021 and two additional projects in the pipeline for autumn 2021.	S
Outcome 4.1: Collaborative M&E system successfully implemented to support the NFLMS at DF and report properly on FLR initiatives (including NCP) in STP	i) National Forest and Landscape Monitoring System (SNMFP) set up and operative at DF. (ii) # of DF staff and other partners trained on FLR M&E systems and tools.	No SNMFP exists in STP. Total lack of national capacity to run M&E systems and tools for FLR	SNMFP designed with help of international consultant. Training programmed designed with the input of GCP. Members of the working group for FLR M&E appointed	(i) SNMFP operational and providing relevant information to DF managers. (ii) Team of at least 10 people from DF and partner institutions fully trained and able to manage the system	<u>Indicator (i):</u> the action has been frozen until late 2021 (see following section). <u>Indicator (ii):</u> training for DFB staff is being organized with AGEOS, Gabonese Agency for Spatial Observations and Studies (early 2022).	U

Outcome 4.2: TRI related lessons learned and best practices from the NCP and the TRI network disseminated among relevant audiences.	i) Info Hub for KM on FLR. (ii) # of people in STP reached by the project's communication work. (iii) # of project partners benefitted of international learning visits (iv) % of GCP-organized events attended by STP GEF team.	i) Info Hub for KM on FLR. (ii) # of people in STP reached by the project's communication work. (iii) # of project partners benefitted of international learning visits (iii) % of GCP-organized events attended by STP GEF team.	Service provider hired for set up of the Info Hub. DF and other partners trained on communication. Info Hub designed and work plan approved. Preliminary identification of venues and experiences for international visits. STP GEF team has attended at least 30% of GCP organized events	i) Info Hub for KM on FLR fully operative under DF and providing information to stakeholders. (ii) At least 10,000 people informed of the best practices and lessons learned by the project and TRI. (iii) 20 project partners benefitted of international learning visits. (iii) At least 75% of GCP-organized events attended by STP team	<u>Indicator (i):</u> Info Hub in place, communication strategy and workplan for TRI-STP approved and under implementation. <u>Indicator (ii):</u> Project featured regularly on radio and television, awareness raising events organized (i.e., national forest week). Estimates: 145,000 people reached with radio broadcasting and 100,000 people reached with TV broadcasting during the reporting period. (Source: Info Hub) <u>Indicator (iii):</u> international learning visits suspended because of COVID19. <u>Indicator (iv):</u> 100% of GCP-organized events attended by STP team so far.	S
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Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
Outcome 2.2: Enhanced and improved use of forest resources for the benefit of local communities living in sensitive landscapes of STP.	Finalise agreement with local partners on both islands, purchase two portable sawmills from Brazilian service provider and make sure that partners make available all the rest of the equipment needed to run the action.	FAO-TRI; FAO-STP; FAO-SFC; Instituto Oikos; DFB; Regional Government of Príncipe, Association Friends of the Biosphere Reserve	September 2021
Outcome 3.1: Strengthened national capacity on the principles and practices of FLR, on the concepts and use of ecosystem services, and on FLR financial instruments	Keep regular contacts with local partners ABS and Central Bank, and with the GCP (UNEP) so that the capacity development program that should trigger the partnership is initiated when all concerned parties are ready.	PIU-TRI STP; LTO; CTA; GCP (UNEP)	September 2021
Outcome 4.1: Collaborative M&E system successfully implemented to support the NFLMS at DF and report properly on FLR initiatives (including NCP) in STP	Convey a workshop including all local parties to better focus the needs in terms of capacity development and the technical features of the system. After that, approach service provider and agree on new terms of reference for this action.	LTO, CTA, PIU and DFB	End of 2021

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

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

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR		
Output 1.1.1 National Platform for Forest and Landscape Restoration created and operational, to support and steer FLR work, including concerned institutions, private sector, civil society, local communities and partner projects	Q4 Y5	PFLR established, sub-groups created, first meeting held	Three-day training course on FLR held in November 2019 (36 participants of which 28 men and 8 women). PFLR subgroups supporting the different working lines of the project i.e. acting as coach and advisors to the national consultants hired to carry out assessments and providing inputs to the work of DFB under component 2. However, the COVID crisis impacted	Several meetings of the PFLR were organised during the reporting period, for the validation of reports and assessments produced by national consultants - such as the Policy Influence Plan (PIP), the National Capacity Assessment, the Communication Plan - and by DFB - the National FLR Plan and the four FLR Landscapes Plans. The plans were shared with the PFLR on workshops organised during the National Forest Week, in March 2021. The input of the PFLR members was key to identify gaps, introduce recommendations, and define future priorities. One of the priorities identified in the PIP was to upscale institutional recognition for the PFLR through a governmental decree - the PFLR is currently established by ministerial			50 %	The PFLR remained dormant during the first half of 2020 due to COVID19 restrictions in STP, and it resumed works at a slow but increasing pace on the second half of the year, to become fully operational as of early 2021. The minutes of the last project Steering Committee Meeting (COPII) are included in this report as Annex 12 .

			frequency of interaction.	decree - and to harmonize its TOR with other existing platforms.				
Output 1.1.2 Directorate of Forest empowered to produce a Forest Landscape Plan (FLP) to inform and guide future forest management, conservation, and restoration initiatives	Q4 Y2	LOA between FAO and DFB agreed	A team of DFB staff led by the TRI Focal Point Meyer Antonio is working at the preparation of the FLP with the technical assistance of FAO.	The National FLR Plan (Forest Landscape Plan in the original project document) was delivered by DFB in May 2021, after the integration of comments and suggestion from the validation workshop. This is a comprehensive document including four main chapters: Context, Objectives, Methodology and Identification of Restoration Options – plus annexes and maps. The National FLR Plan was conceived to inform and drive not only this project's interventions, but more broadly the FLR work in STP during the next decade.			100%	The progress in the design of the National FLP was slowed by several factors, including difficulties in finding data and information, COVID19 restrictions (i.e., fieldwork was impossible for several months), and chronic understaffing of DFB. A copy of the National FLR plan is included in this report as <u>Annex 01</u> (Portuguese).
Output 1.2.1 Blueprint for FLR policy	Q2 Y3	TOR for consultant ready,	The national consultant hired for the task	The national consultant hired for the production of the assessment worked on the			100%	A copy of the Plan for the Improvement of FLR Policies including the Policy Influence

¹² 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.

¹³ As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

¹⁴ 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)

¹⁵ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

improvement including recommendations produced, based on gap analysis of the policies, laws and regulations on forest management, conservation and FLR.		candidate consultants being selected, assistance being negotiated with GCP	prepared a work plan and road map and started the assignment with the technical assistance of the TRI GCP specialist from IUCN	second half of 2020/early 2021 and delivered a draft, which was shared with, and validated by the PFLR in late March 2021. The final document includes a Policy Influencing Plan (PIP), with three policy objectives and related intermediate results. The PIP will be the basis of the policy work of the project from now till its finalization (Output 1.2.2).				Plan is included in this report as Annex 02 (Portuguese).
Output 1.2.2 Policy framework enhanced through the improvement of existing, and the adoption of new laws, regulations, and incentives.	Q4 Y5	Foreseen as from Q3 Y3	Foreseen as from Q3 Y3	The project team has identified national and international consultants whose contracts are being prepared and that should start the work from the second half of 2021. Besides the support to be provided by the PFLR, a Policy Working Group including members of the PIU, DFB and PFLR has been set up to guide and monitor the work of the consultants.			10%	This output consists of the implementation of the work plan identified through OP1.2.1.
Output 2.1.1 4,500 ha of the Contador river watershed restored in partnership with the WB-supported PRSP project.	Q4 Y5	Contador working group being created, first field visits held.	The Contador Watershed is one of the landscapes selected for the development of FLR plans. The mapping of the landscapes is under way and the	The planning and mapping phase for the FLR Plan of the Contador watershed was finalized in July 2021, as part of the FLR planning exercise for the “Northern Landscape” on the Island of Sao Tomé. The implementation phase will start on the second half of 2021.			20%	The PIU maintains contact with the PRSP team of the World Bank. The FLR planning exercise was led by the DFB with the technical assistance of FAO staff and consultants. A copy of the four FLR Landscape Plans for the islands of Sao Tomé and Príncipe are included in this report as Annex 03 (Portuguese).

			corresponding FLR plan should be ready by Q4Y2.					
Output 2.1.2 23,000 ha of natural forestland restored and sustainably managed in degraded areas of STP	Q4 Y5	LOA between FAO and DFB agreed	FAO facilitated the design of a detailed workplan including national forest assessment (FLP); mapping of the focal landscapes; production of draft FLR plans; participatory exercise; production of final validated FLR plans. The workplan consists of 6 steps and covering the whole year 2020. The exercise is led by DFB with the participation of other branches of the administration and the technical assistance of FAO staff and consultants.	The FLR mapping and planning exercise took place between 2020 and early 2021. The process was led by DFB with the technical assistance of FAO staff and consultants and consisted of desktop and field work, including consultation with stakeholders such as communities, local authorities, private sectors, and civil society. Four draft FLR Landscape Plans and a Seedling Production Plan were shared for inputs and validation with local stakeholders in March 2021 and finalized in June/July 2021. The plans cover the three priority landscapes identified by DFB – “North”, “Centre”, and “South” on the Island of Sao Tomé, plus one on the island of Príncipe. The four documents follow the same patterns and structure: (i) introduction and context; (ii) state of land cover and maps; (iii) socio-economic context and stakeholders; and (iv) restoration options. The implementation phase has just started (July 2021).			20%	The pace of the work was slowed down but several constraints including COVID19 restrictions (fieldwork was not possible for a good part of 2020) and slow data gathering. A copy of the four FLR Landscape Plans for the islands of Sao Tomé and Príncipe are included in this report as Annex 03 (Portuguese). The seedling production plan produced by DFB is included in this report as Annex 04 .

Output 2.1.3 600 ha of the mangrove sites in STP restored and managed for conservation and recreational purposes	Q4 Y5	LOA between FAO and DFB agreed. IFAD shared old plan for Malanza mangroves with PIU	See output 2.1.2. The PIU is working to create synergies with the EU-funded ECOFAC6 program that is also active on mangrove management and conservation. A partnership is also being developed with the TRI NCP of Guinea Bissau, where mangrove restoration is the main focus.	Mangrove sites are included in all the four focal landscapes identified and mapped by the project (see Output 2.1.1). Recognizing the ecological and technical specificities of these ecosystems, DFB sought the involvement of national specialists from Sao Tomé research institutions in the implementation of this specific part of the FLR plans. The TRI project is also in contact with the TRI-Guinea Bissau, which is largely focusing on mangrove restoration. Exchanges of know-how and experiences between the two teams are foreseen.			20%	The pace of the work was slowed down but several constraints including COVID19 restrictions (fieldwork was not possible for a good part of 2020) and slow data gathering. A copy of the four FLR Landscape Plans for the islands of Sao Tomé and Príncipe are included in this report as Annex 03 (Portuguese).
Output 2.2.1 7,150 hectares of shadow forests supporting high-quality agro-forestry plantations restored and sustainably managed in the buffer zones of Obo and Príncipe Natural Parks	Q4 Y5	LOA developed and pending signature, waiting for the new IFAD project to take off. First meetings held between concerned parties: PIU, DFB, IFAD and	See output 2.1.2. Preliminary meetings were held with the national cooperatives managing the cocoa, coffee, pepper and vanilla value chains. The signature of a MoU is on hold due to administrative IFAD issues, but the commitment	The shadow forests supporting cocoa, coffee and pepper plantations are included in all the four focal landscapes identified and mapped by the project (see Output 2.1.1). The project team worked with CECAFEB, CECAB, CECQA11 and CEPIBA - the four cooperatives that manage the plantations – throughout the FLR planning process. Letters of Agreement are being established between the project and the cooperatives, for the implementation of part of the FLR plans, the training of members of the cooperatives,			25%	The pace of the work was slowed down but several constraints including COVID19 restrictions (fieldwork was not possible for a good part of 2020) and slow data gathering. A copy of the four FLR Landscape Plans for the islands of Sao Tomé and Príncipe are included in this report as Annex 03 (Portuguese).

		PAPAC cooperatives	of IFAD is unchanged.	the creation of small tree nurseries and the monitoring of the future restored areas.				
Output 2.2.2 Pilot “Intelligent Wood Processing Plants” using portable sawmills established, as a private/public	Q4 Y5	First meetings held between concerned parties: PIU, DFB, CECAQ11 and RAP	With the assistance of FAO, the PIU carried out a preliminary assessment of procurement options for the purchase of the sawmills (Brazil, Angola, EU). A technical assessment of the implementation plots is about to start, entrusted to the NGO Alisei. The assessment will inform the PIU and DFB on the technical features of the plots, the amount of timber and the quality of the trees and it will formulate a proposed management plan for each plot. The MoU with beneficiary	During the second half of 2020 the project commissioned to the NGO Alisei a rapid assessment on the potential of wood and timber extraction in three pilot communities on Sao Tomé. FAO specialists produced the technical specifications for the sawmills and an open procurement process was launched. In consideration of all the constraint for the implementation of this action and in agreement with local stakeholders, a new work plan was eventually designed with shifts in terms of increased number of beneficiaries and areas to be covered by the action. The new plan was officially endorsed by the Minister of Agriculture and the Regional Government of Príncipe. The procurement process is currently ongoing, and the work should start towards the end of 2021.			20%	This action accumulated delay as it had to be reoriented based on the findings of the baseline assessment, which recommended widening its scope and including a bigger number of partners and beneficiaries. The design of the new workplan took into account the views and recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, as the introduction of a new device such as portable sawmills in the country must be handed very carefully in order to avoid undesired side effects such as an increase in the harvesting of trees. Eventually, the new plan was endorsed by both the Minister of Agriculture and the Regional Government of Príncipe, and the procurement process was resumed in Jul 2021. A copy of the baseline assessment carried out by the Ngo Alisei is included in this report as <u>Annex 05</u> (Portuguese).

			partners (CECAQ-11 and Regional Government of Príncipe) have been prepared and are pending the above assessment for signature.					
Output 2.2.3 Income generating activities related to the production, processing and sale of NWFP promoted for 650 beneficiaries of 4 rural communities of both islands, based on the replication of existing experiences and on capacity development	Q4 Y5	Negotiations started to selected beneficiary communities	Two communities on Príncipe (honey) and three on Sao Tomé (honey, Búzio snails, bamboo) have been preselected based on various criteria including the interest of the communities themselves, the market potential of the VCs and the availability of local knowledge and expertise for TA. The selection should be officialised during the next PSC. The PIU is coordinating with other donors active in	Once the PCS ratified the proposal to work with the target communities of Generosa and San Carlos (Sao Tomé) on honey production, and with those of Montalegre and Porto Real (Príncipe) on ground snails, the project team developed a Letter of Agreement with the NGO Instituto Oikos, which will handle this action on behalf of TRI-STP. The agreement revolves around the following objectives: (i) develop the technical capacity and knowledge of the beneficiaries to manage the work, from production to sale on the national market; (ii) produce sectoral development plans and trade agreements for the target products; (iii) monitor the activities and provide the needed technical assistance to the beneficiaries. The agreement become operational in July 2021 and the			25%	The operational phase of the action was delayed by several factors, including the need to carry out a baseline market assessment to inform the choice of the target products and value chains, the selection of target communities and partners (Instituto Oikos), and the selection of beneficiary communities. Negotiations with INBAR to set up a pilot action on new bamboo value chains have not been successful so far.

			this area (BirdLife, ECOFAC, IO) to create synergies and avoid duplication.	implementation phase is being started as this report is written.				
Output 3.1.1 Capacity building program targeting FLR Platform Members, project partners, and other stakeholders from the institutional, private, and civil society sectors organized, on the principles and practices of FLR, ecosystem services, and on FLR and PES-related financial instruments	Q4 Y5	Negotiations started to get support from FAO for capacity needs assessment	The national consultant hired for the task prepared a work plan and road map and started the assignment with the technical assistance of a capacity development specialist from FAO.	In early 2021, the national consultant delivered the draft report that was subsequently validated by the PFLR. The following CD plan was approved: (i) Law enforcement and inspection, deontology for forestry actors (third quarter 2021); (ii) Management of nurseries, production and conservation of seeds and seedlings (fourth quarter 2021); (iii) The management of agroforestry systems and the practice of agro-ecology for the restoration of degraded landscapes (first quarter 2022); (iv) Forest and Landscape Restoration (second quarter 2022). The courses will target approx. 100 beneficiaries from a broad range of professional and social sectors. A new contract was signed by the consultant, who will lead the organisation of the courses in coordination with PIU and DFB.			30%	A copy of the baseline assessment "Survey of training needs of target groups in Forest and Landscape Restoration in São Tomé and Príncipe" is included in this report as <u>Annex 06</u> (Portuguese).
Output 3.1.2 Pathway identified and capacity and consensus	Q4 Y4	Negotiations started to get support from GCP	The PIU is engaged in negotiations with ASB and its members	A Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Work Plan was signed between FAO, ASB-STP, and DFB. The work took off in early 2021 with			20%	Negotiations with ASB are more difficult than expected, due to the rotational nature of its Secretariat which implies changing interlocutors and

created for the opening of new credit lines for FLR-related actions that can fit the needs of SME, and for the elaboration of a Code of Conduct to be adopted by Association of Banks of STP (ASB) and other private financial entities		for take-off of the work. Firsts meetings held with ABS and TOR being drafted	(International Bank of São Tomé e Príncipe (BISTP), Afriland Bank, BGFI, Ecobank, Energy Bank) to develop a partnership agreement that would set the framework for the work scheduled in 2020 with the technical assistance of UN-Environment. A specific MoU between ASB and FAO should be ready for signature in the next few months. The mission of a specialist from UNEP to evaluate the current scenario and agree on a work plan with ABS was postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis. The PMU is also engaged with the Central	online meetings with the designated UNEP consultant. A launching workshop was attended by a dozen representatives of ASB. The PIU engaged in a dialogue with ASB members to better focus their needs for capacity development. ASB-STP will participate in the global training modules for banks “Integration of Deforestation Risk in Environmental, Social and Governance” as a first step for further collaboration during 2022 and 2023. TRI-STP is also involved in the GCP-led CD initiatives “Landscape Finance and Bankable projects” and “the Restoration Factory”. The participation of TRI in the Financial Inclusion Strategy (ENIF) led by the Central Bank of STP will mainly consist of the provision of international expertise to develop national capacity and run training workshops, under the “environmental leg” of ENIF. TRI-STP will secure its support as soon as the CB is ready to start the works.				shifting priorities. The PIU is making a big effort to keep the flow of information and dialogue alive and identify new entry point to shape this partnership. The start of the joint work with the Central Bank under ENIF depends on the readiness of the CB to start the initiative.
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			Bank's Financial Inclusion Office, which is planning to set up a multisectoral working group for the elaboration of a National Strategy for "green financial inclusion".					
Output 3.1.3 Assessment study carried out on the National Fund for Forest Development of STP (NFFD) and the new regime of benefits and fiscal incentives and, with recommendations for their enhancement	Q1 Y3	TOR for consultant ready, candidate consultants being selected, assistance being negotiated with GCP	The national consultant hired for the task prepared a work plan and road map and started the assignment with the technical assistance of FAO	The assessment study under this output was carried out by the consultant engaged for 1.2.1 and nested within the same report. As a follow-up to the findings, it was decided that the "Regulation of the NFFD and the preparation of a new action plan to endow the Fund with adequate human and financial resources" will be one of the priority objectives for the Policy Influencing Plan of TRI-STP. National and international consultants were hired to carry out the work, that take place between October and December 2021. An awareness-raising brochure on the new regime of benefits and fiscal incentives was published in July 2021.			70%	A copy of the Plan for the Improvement of FLR Policies including the Policy Influence Plan and the preliminary assessment of the NFFD and the new regime of benefits and fiscal incentives is included in this report as Annex 01 (Portuguese). A copy of the awareness-raising brochure on the new regime of benefits and fiscal incentives is included in this report as Annex 07 (Portuguese).
Output 3.2.1	Q2 Y5	N/A	An introductory workshop for	The negotiations with Plan Vivo was resumed in spring 2021,			30%	The initiation of a certification scheme for the sale of carbon

Two medium-large size bankable FLR project are developed through public-private partnerships between nationally-operating actors by the end of the project			potential local partners under this working line was cancelled due to COVID19 travel restrictions. The workshop will be rescheduled as soon the situation allows. The PIU and FAO initiated dialogue with the UK-based organisation PLAN VIVO to explore partnership on PES and voluntary carbon sequestration market.	after the long break due to the pandemics. A Project Idea Note (PIN) was prepared, as a first step for the certification process that will continue throughout 2021 with the support of Plan Vivo and the hiring of international consultants. TRI-STP working with FAO Headquarters and the GoSTP (Ministry of Agriculture) to mastermind a new partnership that would translate into a project to be submitted to an international donor, as a follow up to the work of TRI.				credits for FLR in the voluntary market has been identified as a promising objective to grant continuity to the work of TRI beyond the end of the project. A copy of the PIN is included in this report as <u>Annex 08</u> (English).
Output 3.2.2 Three small-medium size bankable FLR project are started through public-private partnerships between nationally-operating actors by the end of the Project	Q4 Y5	N/A	An introductory workshop for potential local partners under this working line was cancelled due to COVID19 travel restrictions. The workshop will be rescheduled as soon as travel to STP is allowed. Meanwhile, the PIU carried out	After the production of a manual of procedures aligned with FAO's policy on grants, a call for proposal was launched in February 2021. The call was very well received by potential beneficiaries and 39 applications were received within the deadline of 30 April. Eventually, five applications were selected in July 2021 and are now being processed for the issuing of contracts. Two more applications have been selected, which will be			30%	This is one of the actions most impacted by the COVID crisis. The PIU intended to launch the call through presential workshops on both island and this was postponed several times until it became clear that face to face meetings would not be possible for a long time. Hence, the decision to manage the process virtually.

			an assessment of potential partners that will be involved as soon as the situation improves	approved pending minor adjustments, probably during fall 2021.				
Output 4.1.1 Collaborative National Forest and Landscape Monitoring System established and operational, in close partnership, and fully harmonized with the GCP of TRI	Q4 Y5	New work plan being formulated in collaboration with UNDP	The PIU is supporting INIC (National Institute of Innovation and Knowledge) that hosts the SNMFP and the GoSTP administration to identify options to settle the organisational issues causing the current shutdown of the system. Meanwhile the PIU is working with the foreseen service provider ESRI to organise the training on SNMFP use and management foreseen, as soon as the system is back into operation.	The joint DFB /INIC /PIU work plan includes: (i) Migration of INIC's SNMNF system to the Cloud; (ii) Pay fees for the maintenance of the system in the Cloud for the next three years; (iii) Acquisition and installation of solar panels; (iv) Online training of DFB and INIC technicians on the use and maintenance of the system; (v) Hire the international consultant for the management of the SNMF by DFB and INIC; (vi) Develop the professional M&E manual; (vii) Data collection, analysis, introduction of information in the SNMF System and dissemination of results. This road map is currently on hold, pending visit of LTO and CTA to STP.			30%	This action had a fast start, but it remained blocked during the reporting period because of by inherited conflicts between the different concerned institutions within the STP administration (DFB, INIC) and a certain deterioration of the relationship between the administration and the original service providers (ESRI-Portugal), which originated at the setup of the system service suppliers within the framework of a previous GEF project. The project intends to get the SNMFP back into operations and turn it into a sustainable tool for the monitoring of the FLR work and the state of forests in STP. However, it was decided to resume this action at the end of 2021, once the FLR fieldwork is in full speed and both the PIU and DFB will have more time to devote to this issue.

Output 4.1.2 All concerned project partners are enabled to take part to the collaborative M&E system	Q4 Y5	N/A	A preliminary list of partners to be involved was prepared by PIU/DFB, but the training for the M&E work and the production of the tools to support M&E is pending the solution of the issues described in the previous output.	Responding to a specific request of DFB to the project, contacts were taken with AGEOS - the Gabonese Agency of Spatial Studies and Observation - to discuss training possibilities for DFB technicians – either online or presential depending the development of the pandemics. It was decided that the training will take place not before the second half of 2021, so as to maximize the chances that the DFB delegation will be able to travel safely to Gabon.			20%	This action suffered delays mainly due to the putting on hold of the previous output. However, the project team managed to develop a dialogue with AGEOS and start building the capacity of concerned STP actors during the next reporting period.
Output 4.2.1 Information clearinghouse and focal node for knowledge management created and operational through partnership agreement with national actor.	Q4 Y5	TOR for consultant ready, candidate consultants being selected, assistance being negotiated with GCP	The NGO Alisei was selected as the implementing partner of the Hub, and a communication strategy for the first 18 months of the work was submitted and approved by PIU and DFB.	The Information Hub of TRI-STP is fully operational. Actions implemented in this reporting period include: - interviews and programs on the national media: public and private radio stations, RTP-Africa, Radio France International and TV Sao Tomé. - Training course on effective communication to DFB technicians (ten participants) - Celebration of the events related to the Forest Week and International Forest Day with the planting of 80 shade trees in the streets of the capital city and the planting of 800 forest trees in the Pedroma Community. TRI-STP is working with the authorities of STP to represent			40%	The work of the Info Hub is supported by a Communications Steering Committee including members of the PIU, DFB, and the NGO Alisei. The media that regularly feature TRI-STP cover between 80% and 100% of the potential audience of the country. An informative leaflet on TRI-STP is included in this report as Annex 10 (English). The Info Hub communication strategy is included in this report as Annex 11 (Portuguese)

				the project in the National Pavilion at the forthcoming EXPO in Dubai.				
Output 4.2.2 The STP NCP team benefits of the best practices, lessons learned and capacity development initiatives run by the GFP of TRI and involving the partners of the National Child Projects	Q4 Y5	PIU actively participates to all webinars and meetings organized by GCP	The participation of PIU and DFB staff to the various initiatives promoted by the GCP – webinars, enquiries, articles and newsletters continued during Y2. The STP team attended the Global TRI meeting held in Rome in October 2019. The STP NCP is in regular contact with the TRI project in Guinea Bissau, and planning to develop synergies and mutual learning on mangrove restoration.	Throughout the reporting period the STP NCP team attended and benefitted of all the online capacity development opportunities offered by the GCP, and actively participated in the exchange of information promoted by GCP with articles, pieces of news, reports that were shared with the TRI network. A closer partnership was developed with TRI Guinea Bissau on the specific topic of mangrove restoration.			50%	Interactions with the wider TRI network were only possible through webinars and other non-presential tools, because of the restrictions due to the COVID19 pandemics.

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):

A considerable share of the work of the Project Implementation Unit was devoted to the finalization of all the assessments, studies, mapping and planning exercises required to inform and guide the field implementation of the FLR program and the different components of TRI-STP., as well as to the preparation of the contractual arrangements and procurement actions that will enable field implementation. Among the most important deliverables in the reporting period: national FLR plan and maps; FLR plans and maps for the four focal TRI landscapes; seedling production plan; national assessments in the fields of policy and capacity development, communication strategy and work plan. The delivery capacity of the national partners was strengthened by securing extra international assistance and all possible support means, so as to create the best possible framework for the achievement of all set objectives from now till the end of the project. All the capacity development opportunities offered by the CGP were taken advantage for, and TRI-STP team and partners benefited of the webinars, courses, and coaching programs covered by The Restoration Initiative. The National FLR Platform created on FY1 keeps providing support and feedback on the different working lines, and technical validation for plans, strategies and assessments. The range of beneficiaries was increased with new agreements and contracts for the implementation of community-based projects and public-private partnerships in support to restoration, agroforestry, and sustainable value chains. TRI-STP is consolidating its reputation among national actors, making possible the forging of new partnerships such as that with the Central Bank under the Environmental Leg of ENIF – the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion. The STP National Committee for Expo-2021 Dubai (originally Expo-2020, postponed for the pandemics) invited TRI to join the initiative and be featured in this global event. The long-term sustainability of the FLR effort is being sought thanks to a new partnership with the British-based NGO Plan Vivo, for the certification of part of the restoration work of TRI and the emission of certificates on the voluntary carbon market. The Information Hub – the communications branch of TRI-STP - supported the project with a full calendar of interventions in the local (TV, radio) and social media, communication training, and the production of awareness materials. A special link has been established with the TRI project in Guinea Bissau for the exchange of knowledge on mangrove restoration.

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

- The ambitious and complex work plan of the project is challenging the capacity of DFB, the leading implementor of most of program. Adaptive management is required to provide the needed technical assistance and coaching, outsource part of the work and reschedule activities.
- The coordination and fine-tuning between all involved partners – including the FAO SFC and Headquarters, national partners, international supporting agencies and GCP – is extremely time-consuming and at times contributed to slowing down the pace of the work. In some cases – for instance OP 3.1.2, the project is obliged to adopt the pace of key national and international partners who are leading the work, which is also a reason for delays in the original timetable.
- Part of technical baseline information needed to run the project is harder to trace than expected. This obliges the project to look for alternative sources and new contacts among practitioners at the regional level or to commission additional studies, resulting in delays.
- The COVID19 crisis was a considerable challenge since it started in March 2021. The impact is twofold, on one hand forcing the cancellation or postponing of all scheduled missions from technical advisors, specialists and project staff, and on the other challenging the daily implementation of the work due to the lockdown measures introduced by the authorities of STP, including obligation for all civil servants to end their working day at 13:00. This is made worse by the lack of facilities/equipment for home-based work and the relative isolation of rural communities.
- The situation of the electricity supply in STP got considerable worst during the past year: public offices and in general all workers that have no access to diesel power generators are often unable to work due to the power cuts and the lack of internet connection.
- Some of the strategic priorities identified by partners and stakeholders during the project development phase changed at the time of implementation. This obliged the project team to engage in new negotiations to change the scope, focus and timeline of a number of outputs of the project, so as to make them more relevant and acceptable to the counterparts and beneficiaries.

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

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

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

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁶	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating¹⁷	Comments/reasons¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	S	S	During the current year, the PIU was engaged in the completion of all the planning and assessment work that will allow shift to the implementation phase of the FLR plan, the capacity development program, the policy work and others. The work was impacted by several constraints of a bureaucratic nature, especially related to contract matters and the negotiation of partnerships, and in the acquisition of materials and equipment. Another constraint was the lack of on-site missions by international consultants due to limitations derived from COVID-19. However, the overall assessment is positive as the ground has been set for solid and rapid progress during the coming year.
Budget Holder	S	S	Despite the important operational challenges caused by COVID-19 (e.g. lockdown and teleworking measures in a context of poor internet connectivity, no field missions, staff directly affected by the disease), significant progress was achieved during this year that materialized the transition between the planning and implementation phases of the project. Various partnerships with locally based organizations are in the process of being signed to cover the breadth of activities and purchases to support field implementation are ongoing. Strong and tangible progress on the ground are expected for the coming fiscal year.

¹⁶ **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.

¹⁷ **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

GEF Operational Focal Point	S	S	<p>As Operational Focal Point of the GEF and member of the Steering Committee of the TRI Project in São Tomé and Príncipe, I have been monitoring its implementation, in accordance with the Annual Work Plan and the technical and financial reports.</p> <p>Therefore, I conclude that project activities are advancing and proceeding at a good pace, despite some cyclical constraints that are being gradually overcome, without forgetting the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	S	S	<p>During this FY, the team and national partners have demonstrated their ability to deliver high quality results. The technical soundness of assessments and plans endorsed is now serving as the backbone for field implementation of activities thoroughly planned in collaboration with national stakeholders, an excellent sign for sustainability of the project's results. Those activities will be implemented over the next FY through a variety of letters of agreement empowering directly national entities (in particular cooperatives set up through the cofinancing IFAD PAPAC project). The implementation of FLR investments on the ground in the targeted sites should be considered as a priority during the next period (July 2021-June 2022). Operational impacts of COVID-19 were mitigated through a reinforced provision of international back-up and expertise, which had to take place in non-ideal conditions (internet / energy cuts, no field missions).</p> <p>The Mid-Term Review, planned for the last Quarter of the year 2021, will be an excellent opportunity to better analyse the COVID 19 impact on this project GCP/STP/002/GFF, to revise/adjust eventually the project targets and to provide recommendations to the Project Management Unit (PMU)</p>

¹⁹ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	S	S	<p>The project is progressing well against its development objective and ambitious outcomes/outputs. While the focus has mainly been on setting the scene for optimal field implementation of restoration plans (key for implementation success), considerable progress has been achieved in terms of capacity building, knowledge generation, communications and strategic partnerships (locally/cooperatives, SME's, central Bank and internationally/Plan Vivo) – The fact that the STP National Committee selected the project to be featured at Expo-2021 in Dubai demonstrates how the project is gaining appetite nationally and is perceived as a restoration champion. The upcoming MTR will provide an opportunity to take note of the strength of the project and its achievements thus far and discuss challenges and identify corrective measures to address them.</p>
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5.Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

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

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

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

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Low	N/A

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

6. Risks

Risk ratings

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

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	The political will to implement reforms and improve the legislative and policy framework for FLR is not forthcoming. Turnover and changes in decision makers and institutional arrangements beyond the control of the project lead to a volatile environment that hampers the long-term success of the work.	M	Project priorities are in line with the international commitment of the GoSTP and with the most recent national legislation. Support for FLR will be further strengthened through implementation of components 1 and 4 focusing on policy development and information and awareness-raising work. The leading role of DFB will build robust support to FLR among technical staff that enjoy a more stable position within the administration. The setup of a FLR platform including representatives from many sectors of the GoSTP and the improved governance and legislation framework conveyed by the project will increase the chances of long term buy-in and conduciveness.	The PIU has forged a close relationship with the Minister of Agriculture, and monthly briefings are held to identify bottlenecks and challenges. The National FLR Platform includes representatives from several branches of the administration, including central bank, army and police. The partnership with the Regional Government of Príncipe has been strengthened with regular visits of the PIU to the island. Several branches of the GoSTP are involved in the FLR planning process lead by DFB and the PIU.	The Minister of Agriculture chairs all the meetings of the PSC, which includes several other members of the GoSTP.

²¹ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

²² 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 ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
2	There is insufficient capacity within the institutions of the GoSTP to successfully engage in a complex, comprehensive FLR program touching on many different aspects at the national level.	S	FAO is providing full backup to DFB to meet the challenges posed by the implementation of the ambitious FLR program. Component 3 will strengthen capacity at the national level to enable a range of institutions at different scales to effectively coordinate and engage in FLR and sustainable land management. Capacity development efforts will also be supported by Component 4, particularly opportunities for South-South learning and knowledge sharing. The development of a broad range of operational partnerships with the private sector and civil society will allow the outsourcing of large chunks of the work plan, helping to distribute workloads on several partners and alleviating implementation fatigue.	A list of priority capacity development needs was compiled to facilitate the coaching from FAO. The project is currently benefiting from the TA of the GCP (specialists from FAO, IUCN, UNEP) as well as external partner organisations (e.g. Bioversity). Adaptive management solutions are being introduced all the time to support and strengthen DFB. These include attendance to training and webinars, investing on new support staff, outsourcing part of the work to external organizations and support in the planning of the work.	The capacity assessment finalised in early 2021 provided the basis for the implementation of a tailor-made training program in the second half of 2021 and in 2022.

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
3	The private sector is reluctant to invest in FLR and agro-forestry due to lack of information, experience, and to the un-conductive framework for FLR finance.	M	A key emphasis of Component 3 will be to develop, test, and scale up financing tools and risk mitigation instruments that demonstrate the potential for restoration to yield a high return on investment. The actions under OP 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 will develop the capacity of the private sector and will help create a better environment for FLR investments. The development of public-private partnerships for nationally implemented bankable projects under OT3.2 will minimize the financial risks for the initiation of pilot bankable projects and will set models for the private sector. This component will be implemented in collaboration with UNEP, which is providing TA on FLR financing to the overall TRI programme.	A partnership with the banking sector is under way with the technical assistance of the GCP (UNEP). The partnership with the Central Bank under ENIF will hopefully lead to a financial framework that is more conducive to FLR and related economy. TRI-STP collaborations with small and medium size enterprises are being carried out in OP 3.1.2, 3.2.2, 2.2.1 and 2.2.2. The project has also started a voluntary carbon sequestration market initiative.	The work with international specialists and institutions is being made very difficult due to the travel restrictions of the COVID-19 crisis.

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
4	Local communities are reluctant to engage in the FLR effort in their respective territory, and unable or unwilling to grant the long-term support and monitoring that is needed to ensure the long-term success of the interventions.	M/L	The participatory nature of the FLR plans and interventions led by DFB and the accompanying capacity development work will maximize community buy in. The fact that most FLR work is clearly aimed at improving the rural economy and creating business opportunities for the communities will encourage involvement of the grassroots beneficiaries.	The participatory approach embedded in the mapping and design of FLR landscape plans guarantee the engagement of the local communities, while very reasonable provisions have been made in the project budget to ensure their participation in the implementation phase. The project works with rural communities and small and medium sized companies under the working lines on NTFPs and bankable projects.	During this reporting period, the project has made considerable progress in forging links and partnerships with the private sector (cooperatives, banks, SME).
5	Current and future climate change impacts threaten the sustainability of FLR investments.	M/L	The project seeks to restore and enhance the ecological integrity in deforested and degraded landscapes and enhance human wellbeing. In doing so, the objective of strengthening resiliency to anticipated climate impacts will be embedded into all restoration planning and investments.	The objective of strengthening resiliency to anticipated climate impacts is embedded into all restoration planning and investments. Knowledge and case studies on CC impact, adaptation and mitigation are part of the training and CD actions organised by the GCP for all NCPs including STP.	An interesting link with CC-originated financial opportunities is the new plan for the certification of carbon sequestration to be placed on the voluntary market.

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
6	The project is unable to secure the external expertise and technical assistance required to ensure a proper and timely implementation of the work plan.	L	The fact that the project is nested within the wider TRI, the pool of expertise made available by the GCP and the implementing partners (FAO, UNEP, IUCN), the involvement of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa and the effort to secure as much external expertise in Portuguese language as possible will highly minimize this risk.	International expertise has been secured to the benefit of the PIU and project partners. This includes specialist support from the GCP (FAO, IUCN, UNEP). and other institutions. International specialists are also being mobilized on a punctual basis (i.e., seedling production plan in 2021).	In-situ technical assistance from foreign experts is being slowed down because of the current travel limitation due to the COVID-19 crisis.
7	The global COVID19 crisis and the specific limitations adopted by the GoSTP have a negative impact on the pace of work, especially for field work and for all those actions where participatory consultations are required.	S	The project team is still coping to adapt to this unforeseen risk. Measures taken include the rescheduling of certain actions, changes in certain methodologies (i.e., emphasis on desk work and virtual meetings vis a vis direct meetings and visits) and the provision of facilities to key staff and partners to facilitate tele working and remote interaction.	International missions (CTA, GCP, external specialist) have been cancelled or re-scheduled. All the members of the PIU have the means to work from home. Remote meetings have significantly increased including Zoom, WhatsApp, Skype etc	The situation in STP is monitored on a weekly basis by the LTO and CTA. Innovative IT solutions have been used to provide technical assistance and to organize capacity building events or Steering Committee Meetings.

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

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

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.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
Recommendation 1:	N/A
Recommendation 2:	N/A
Recommendation 3:	N/A
Recommendation 4:	N/A

Adjustments to the project strategy.

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

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

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	<div>Original NTE: NA</div> <div>Revised NTE: NA</div> <div>Justification: NA</div>

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))

A stakeholders' engagement plan was not requested at CEO endorsement stage, but the project approach revolves around the engagement of the widest possible range of stakeholders, and it is designed to maximize their participation. The national stakeholders fall into the following categories:

1. National authorities and institutions pertaining to the Government of STP: Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Forests and Biodiversity, Directorate of Agriculture; Management of Obo and Principe natural parks; Ministry of the Environment; Directorate for Nature Conservation; Directorate of Natural Resources and Energy; Ministry of Finance; Regional Government of Principe including Regional Directorate of Forests; INIC (National Institute of Innovation and Knowledge); CADR (Centre for the Support to Rural Development); CIAT (Centre for Agriculture Research); Police; Armed Forces of STP.
2. Civil Society Organizations: FONG (Coordination Body of STP NGOs); ONG Friends of the Biosphere Reserve (Principe); ONG Alisei; Association of Lumbermen of Sao Tomé.
3. Private sector in the field of Agro-forestry: cooperatives of high-quality cocoa, coffee and pepper: CECAB, CECAQ-11; CEPIBA; CECAFEB); COOPAPIP (honey cooperative on Principe), SATOCAO, Agripalma. SME, such as BioTech Sao Tomé, Sociedade Vanhá and others involved in OP 3.2.2.
4. Local District Authorities: District Authorities of Lembá, Cantagalo, Mé Zóchi, Lobata, Caué.
5. Local communities: local communities in the landscapes where the project is active, both on Sao Tomé and Principe.
6. International donors, partners, and representatives of other related projects: UNDP, European Commission/ECOFAC VI; BirdLife International; NGO Plan Vivo (UK); NGO Istituto Oikos (P); Project Obo Carbono; World Bank/AFAP for Contador Project; African Union/Treasures of Obo project; Foundation Principe Trust.

Progress on the engagement of the above stakeholders in the reporting period includes:

- I. Organization of the two Steering Committee Meetings (COPIL) in February and August 2021 (partly on-line due to COVID19 restrictions and delayed because of the national elections that took place on 18 July 2021).
- II. Organization of validation workshop for all major strategies/reports/work plan of the project including: Policy Assessment, Capacity Development Assessment, National Forest Plan and four FLR Landscape Plans.
- III. Planning, consultation and coordination meetings with partners and stakeholders including cooperatives, COOPAPIP; World Bank, UNDP, ASB, Central Bank, and others.
- IV. Partnership established with the Central Bank of STP in the framework of the recently launched National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (ENIF). TRI-STP was chosen by the CB as the main partner for the development of the "environmental leg" of ENIF.

- V. Field visits to the communities of San Carlos, Generosa, Boa Vista, and Montalegre to negotiate their involvement in the NTFP/income generation line of work.
- VI. Visits of PIU and DFB to the island of Príncipe, to discuss project developments and strengthen partnership with local stakeholders.
- VII. Participation of members of DFB to the capacity development initiatives organized by the GCP/TRI: training, workshops, webinars.
- VIII. Awareness raising and informative sessions, especially during the National Forest Week in March 2021.

A very important aspect of the stakeholders' engagement strategy of the project is the involvement of the private sector. The following developments are worth noting for the reporting period:

- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between TRI-FAO and the Association of Banks of São Tomé (ABS): International Bank of São Tomé e Príncipe (BISTP), Afriland Bank, BGFI, Ecobank and Energy Bank with the aim to build capacity of the national banking sector and develop a financial framework that is more conducive to agro-forestry and FLR in STP.
- Engagement with cooperatives and sectoral associations: CECAB (organic cocoa), CEPIBA (organic pepper), CECAFEB (organic coffee), CECAQ-11 (fair trade cocoa), and COOPAPIP (honey producers of the island of Príncipe) for the implementation of part of the FLR work and to support the work of the cooperatives.
- Launch of a call for small/medium sized bankable projects on FLR and agro-forestry. The call was launched in spring 2021 and approx. 30 small and medium sized company submitted applications.
- Discussion with the private tourism sector (eco-lodges) to explore their involvement as buyers in the community NTFP-based income generation projects that will be supported by TRI.
- The project is developing a partnership with the UK-based organisation Plan Vivo based on the certification of part of the FLR in the focal landscapes in view of the sale of carbon credits on voluntary private market.

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)

A social and gender analysis was carried out at project design, in order to make the project interventions more people-centred and socially inclusive, by ensuring a close fit with local contexts, culture and livelihoods, and to safeguard the interests of the weaker sections of the population, including women. The project works to improve women's participation and decision making by striving to reach a quota of 1/3 of women in the FLR platform and a participation of 1/3 women participants in all the CD programs delivered.

As documented in the baseline assessments, women's participation in community forestry and decision-making processes is quite healthy: the project will sustain this and will work to improve it further.

The project contributes to generating socio-economic benefits or services for women and to the closing of gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources through the selection of gender-balanced partner enterprises and organizations for the development of public-private partnerships for nationally implemented bankable projects of the project. Gender criteria are also being applied in the selection of the beneficiary communities under the working line of support to NTFP-related business (OT 2.2.3). The project staff of TRI-STP do not have specific gender expertise, but they do have a long track record of working in gender-sensitive projects. The M&E system has gender-disaggregated data when it comes to the beneficiaries of capacity building and income-generating activities, and for the participation of women into the steering and decision-making bodies set up by the project.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

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

The knowledge management strategy of TRI-STP is nested within that of the global TRI network and is managed by the Global Child Project (GCP) led by FAO, UNEP and IUCN. The GCP works as a KM clearinghouse, collecting, documenting and spreading best practices from and to the network of national projects. TRI-STP is regularly featured in TRI newsletters, yearly reviews, and other publications such as Unasylva. So far, the following relevant good practices from STP have been shared through these tools:

- Establishment and operationalization of a National FLR Platform
- Training of Forest and Landscape Restoration for members of the National Platform
- Partnership between TRI-STP and the national banking sector
- Work with rural communities in support to short and sustainable NTFP value chains

As a result of a tender launched at the national level, TRI-STP entrusted the communication work to on the organisation "Alisei", a social/environmental NGO well rooted in STP and with a solid project portfolio and track record. The Information Hub of TRI-STP was launched in 2020 and a communication strategy for the project was prepared and validated by the PFLR, as well as DFB. Since then, the Information Hub of TRI-STP is located within the premises of Alisei:

Alisei - Rua Barao de Água Izé, CP 486 São Tomé

infohubstristp@gmail.com

Focal persons: Ms Patricia Castro, InfoHub Coordinator; Mr Ruggero Tozzo, Director of Alisei

The TRI-STP project has its own logo, harmonized with that of the global TRI initiative.

A brief overview of the communications work in the reporting period includes:

- Several broadcasts on the National Radio of STP, with a total estimated audience of 120,000 people.
- Broadcasts on Radio Jubilar (Catholic Radio of STP) with an estimated audience of 25,000 people.
- Programs and interviews on the National TV channel on several topics, with an estimated audience of 100,000 people.
- Regular feeding of the Facebook pages of TRI-STP with news and information on STP.
- Regular feeding of the Facebook pages of DFB and the Regional Government of Príncipe.
- Public events and tree planting actions during the National Forest Week in March 2021.

- Production of two awareness-raising leaflets (Portuguese/English).
- Production of an awareness raising leaflet on the STP new regime of benefits and fiscal incentives, targeting potential beneficiaries from SME and other investors.

Newsletter articles:

- [Sustainable agroforestry value chains to support forest and landscape restoration in Sao Tome and Principe](#) (published 10/11/2020 and distributed to ~5,000 recipients of the FLRM newsletter)
- [Implementing forest and landscape restoration in Sao Tome and Principe](#) (published 19/03/2021 and distributed to ~5,000 recipients of the FLRM newsletter)
- [The Restoration Initiative Programme partners with Yale University to build capacity on forest and landscape restoration for TRI Africa projects](#) (published 19/03/2021 and distributed to ~5,000 recipients of the FLRM newsletter)

Publications:

- [The Restoration Initiative Year in Review 2019](#) (launched on 2/7/2020) including a dedicated highlight on progress of the TRI national child project in Sao Tome e Principe
- [Unasylva 252 “Restoring the Earth – the next Decade”](#) (launched on 29/10/2020, downloaded about 3 000 times) including an article focused on national coordination mechanisms showcasing the National Platform for Forest and Landscape Restoration

Webinars and trainings directed at TRI beneficiaries, including from Sao Tome e Principe:

- [Forest and landscape restoration as an economic enterprise and driver of job creation](#) (digital forum, 29 April 2021)
- [The Restoration Factory: a business accelerator to achieve the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration goals](#) (online conference, 29 April 2021)
- [WePlan – Forests: Une plateforme d’appui aux décideurs pour la planification de l’optimisation spatiale de la restauration des écosystèmes forestiers](#) (French webinar, 30 March 2021) / [WePlan – Forests: A decision support platform for the spatial optimization planning of forest ecosystem restoration](#) (English webinar, 23 March 2021)
- Bankable Projects and Landscape Finance training workshop 10 - 12 March (online training, French)
- [Turning forest and landscape restoration into sustainable business](#) (webinar, 18 February 2021)
- [Ressources Génétiques Forestières dans la RFP - Regrouper tout ensemble: outils et ressources](#) (French webinar, 27 October 2020) / [Forest Genetic Resources for FLR - Bringing it all together: tools and resources](#) (English webinar, 20 October 2020)

E-learning freely available online:

- [Introduction to forest and landscape restoration](#)
- [Monitoring forest and landscape restoration](#)
- [Sustainable financing of forest and landscape restoration](#)

11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

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

The islands of São Tomé and Príncipe do not hold any population of indigenous people as these are defined by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/en/>) because both were uninhabited until Portuguese explorers arrived in the 15th century. The current population of the country is made up of descendants from African slaves freed at abolition and contracted African plantation laborers from elsewhere, mainly in Lusophone Africa (Cape Verde and Angola above all). This being said, local communities are fully involved in the project, through: (i) active participation in all stages of the FLR process, from the mapping of the landscapes to the design and eventual implementation of the FLR plans; (ii) membership of the PFLR, the National Platform for FLR set up by the project, which act as a steering body for all components of the project (represented by District Authorities); (iii) beneficiaries of the numerous training and other capacity development opportunities included in the project.

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative²³ approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.

The following actions are innovative in the context of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and have the potential to yield innovative results and bring the desired changes in the way forest landscapes and resources are regarded, managed and taken care of:

Component 1, OT 1.1.1: Creation of a cross-sectorial multi-stakeholder platform for FLR.

For the first time, a very broad range of actors including the administration, business, and civil society, and even sectors that traditionally are not considered direct stakeholders – such as the army and the police – are gathered in this innovative body that is playing an important role in the achievement of outputs and the delivery of the work plan. Throughout the reporting period the FLR Platform has been supporting the projects during regular consultation and validation workshops covering areas such the design of the FLR plans, policy and capacity development action plans, communication strategy etc.

Component 2, OT 2.1.1 to 2.2.1: Design of a comprehensive FLR programme covering a large percentage of the national territory.

The last national forest survey undertaken in STP was issued in 1999. The new scoping exercise implemented in 2020-2021 made use of a mix of tools such as satellite images, fieldwork, interviews and desktop research. The new National FLR Plan not only yields a more reliable picture on the state of forests in the country, but provides an overview of FLR options and opportunities, and an analysis of

²³ Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

the costs and benefits associated with FLR. The second product of this exercise are the four FLR Landscape Plans featuring the detailed restoration work plans elaborated for each focal forest and agro-forestry landscape identified by the project. Finally, the Seedling Production Plan provides an accurate picture of the current national capacity and know-how when it comes to seedling production and the management of forest nurseries, and it sets a road map for the production of the seedlings needed for the completion of the TRI FLR plan. The ambitious FLR goal of the TRI/STP project – approx. 36,000 Ha of forest landscapes covered by FLR plans - meaning over one third of the total surface of the country – is an unprecedented effort and commitment by all involved partners, and first and foremost the Government of STP, to place FLR at the center of the country's agenda.

Component 2, OT 2.2.2: implementation of the “Intelligent Pilot Processing Wood Plant” action as a public-private partnership.

This action tries to address key issue associated to forest management and conservation in the country: (i) the “grey zone” where timber and wood felling and harvesting is confined at the moment – a commodity that on one hand meet basic needs for energy and construction, and on the other is considered illegal and officially banned under current legislation; and (ii) the problem of under-use of the timber illegally felled in the forest, where the main trunk of the tree is often left to rotten on the ground while only the branches are taken. For the first time, “users” (communities, land managers and owners, local authorities) and “guardians” (the DFB) of the forest are being brought together, on a pilot action that will develop plans for the legal, sustainable harvesting of wood in forest plots, and that will make use of imported portable sawmills to take full advantage of each tree harvested under this scheme. The width and scope of the action is being reconsidered in the light of the technical assessment carried out in the original pilot plots and a new workplan was recently agreed upon and subscribed by the Ministry of Agriculture with an endorsement letter.

Component 3, OT 3.1.2: Partnership with the banking sector.

For the first time in STP, the project is trying to bring together the banking sector and the forest users on a platform of dialogue aimed at creating a more conducive financial environment for the development of small and medium sized business linked to the sustainable management of forest resources. This is a challenging endeavour that entails considerable capacity development and a strong link to the policy component of the project. With the help of the GCP and the tapping of international expertise, the project signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Banks Association of STP (ABS), that foresees capacity development and technical assistant for the “greening” of the national finance system, while another agreement was reached with the Central Bank to provide technical support to the “environmental leg” of the newly launched National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (ENIF).

Component 2, OT 3.2.1: access the voluntary carbon market through independent certification of the FLR work.

At the moment, there is virtually no or extremely limited local knowledge in STP on schemes such as the compliance and voluntary carbon markets, REDD+, Green Climate Fund, etc. TRI-STP has started dialogue with the Plan Vivo Foundation (PVF), an independent certification body that administers a voluntary carbon certification standard established in 1997. With 23 certified, operational projects, the Plan Vivo Standard is now being utilized in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia and Asia Pacific. More than US\$ 21 million have been channeled to local community groups, and activities implemented are set to deliver reductions of over 3.5 million tons of CO² emissions. TRI and PVF are working with authorities and stakeholders in STP to help them access the voluntary carbon market, towards supporting long-term forest restoration and community benefit. PVF is providing guidance on the certification process, which has gone through the first step with the production of a Project Idea Note (PIN).

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.

The COVID-19 pandemics had a strong impact on TRI-STP, in several different ways:

At a global country level, all aspects of social and economic life were severely affected, and the pace of work slowed down in every sector. This had – and is having -direct and indirect impacts on the project.

Among **direct impacts**, the work time of all civil servants was reduced, and even if the PIU largely maintained its pre-COVID timetable, the capacity to liaise with counterparts, service providers and beneficiaries, including the main partner DFB, was largely reduced. Also, prohibition to travel outside the capital city deterred field work, assessments and consultation processes for many months. Finally, as all international travel was put on hold, all technical assistance (LTO, CTA, international specialists and consultants) had to be provided in remote mode, or just cancelled or postponed.

Among **indirect impacts**, the standstill in many productive sectors and internationally funded projects is one of the reasons behind the dramatic power shortage that is hitting the country, with very serious impact on internet connections and the capacity to work on-line.

The project team worked hard to lessen the impact of the adverse impacts of the pandemic: the members of the project team were equipped with means to work from home, and the workplans were modified and made more flexible to avoid standstills and compensate the lack of inputs from international providers of technical assistance. The capacity development program scheduled under the GCP was delivered as much as possible through online webinars and Q&A sessions with key specialists.

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁴	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
Other Multi-lateral Agency	World Bank, PRSP project	Grants	10,600,000	2,800,000		10,600,000
Other Multi-lateral Agency	IFAD, PAPAC project	In-kind	6,100,000	1,672,012		6,100,000
		TOTAL	16,700,000	4,472,012		16,700,000

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

²⁴ 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.