



Project Implementation Report (PIR)

01/07/2022– 30/06/2023

Restoration Challenge Grant for Smallholders and Communities with Blockchain-Enabled Crowdfunding (GEFID 10637)

Kenya and Cameroon

Table of Contents

A. Basic Data.....	2
B. Overall Ratings	2
C. Outcomes achievements and outputs delivery	3
D. Ratings and Overall Assessments	16
E. Adjustments	16
F. Implementation Progress	18
G. Critical Risk Management	19
H. Gender	20
I. Implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.....	22
J. Environmental and Social Safeguards.....	24
K. Knowledge Management	30
Annexes – Supplementary information	32
Annex - Ratings definitions	32

A. Basic Data

Project Information	
IUCN Project ID	P04159
GEF ID	10637
Title	Restoration Challenge Grant Platform for Smallholders and Communities, with Blockchain-Enabled Crowdfunding
Country(ies)	Global; Kenya; Cameroon
Regional Programme	
Global Thematic Programme	Forest and Grasslands
Joint Agency (if relevant)	
Executing Agency(ies)	Bioversity International
Project Type	GEF-TF

Project Description	
<p>The <i>Restoration Challenge Grant Platform for Smallholders and Communities, with Blockchain-Enabled Crowdfunding</i> (hereafter referred to as the MyFarmTrees Platform), will facilitate, incentivize and support enhanced smallholder and rural community member engagement and financial investment in restoration. The Platform utilizes mobile cellular technology and payment transfer services to provide small grants/payments for smallholder-, community-, and school-led restoration work – principally tree-planting (and seed collection)– matched by co-investment (in-kind and/or cash). Cellular technology will allow for efficient and effective verification of work and transfer of payments. Another key innovative focus of the Platform will be the integration of blockchain technology throughout the restoration value chain to provide transparency, build trust, facilitate real-time monitoring, evaluation and verification, and support mobilization of funding for restoration. From appropriate species selection, seed sourcing and seedling propagation, to tree planting and maintenance and transfer of payments, each transaction will be marked by a unique, traceable, unchangeable, and verifiable blockchain. A second phase of the Platform will utilize a public-facing web platform and partnerships with other tree planting and restoration investment matching platforms to facilitate crowdfunding of Platform-supported restoration and financial sustainability, drawing upon the blockchain technology and ledger for security and transparency and trustworthiness of crowdfunded transactions. A range of engagement approaches and selection of a diverse group of landscapes will allow for cross comparison and learning to inform restoration initiatives going forward. Upon successful development and implementation of the Platform including blockchain-enabled crowdfunding, the Platform will function as a freestanding initiative – one that can inform and link with other global and regional initiatives and platforms supporting the restoration agenda, including the Trillion Trees Initiative, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and others.</p>	

Project Contacts	
Task Manager (Implementing Agency)	Joshua Schneck
Global Thematic Lead (Implementing Agency)	Carole Saint-Laurent
Project Manager (Executing Agency)	Chris Kettle
GEF Operational Focal Point	Unusa Haman (Cameroon)

B. Overall Ratings

Overall Development Outcomes Rating ¹	Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Rating ²	Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating ³	Moderate Risk

¹ This section will use the scale used by the GEF and outlined in Annex L of this document: 1) Highly satisfactory, 2) Satisfactory, 3) Moderately Satisfactory, 4) Moderately Unsatisfactory, 5) Unsatisfactory, 6) Highly Unsatisfactory

² Idem

³ This section will use the scale used by the GEF and outlined in the Annex of this document: 1) High Risk, 2) Substantial Risk, 3) Moderate Risk, 4) Low Risk

C. Outcomes achievements and outputs delivery

The **MyFarmTrees (MFT)** project has started effectively in July 2022 following the appointment of the country coordinators in Cameroon and Kenya with excellent buy-in from national partners and stakeholders. Two constructive well attended inception workshops were organized, in July 2022 in Yaoundé Cameroon and in September 2022 in Nairobi Kenya, with robust stakeholder engagement in subsequent field visits. A Project Steering Committee meeting was organized in December 2022 with inputs from the PSC members. On 28 February 2023, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, we held a meeting of the National Technical Committee set up by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED).

After the successful launching events in both countries, we have primarily focused on following the **development and user-centred design phase of the MyFarmTrees (MFT) platform**. MFT provides a mobile phone-based app to track on farm restoration efforts led by farmers. What is especially unique about the platform is that it tracks information from seed collection through to tree maintenance on farm and includes verified digital incentive payments to farmers. The platform uses an immutable digital ledger system (blockchain) to document and verify the activities and includes a range of instruction, push notifications and a central database of seed collectors, nurseries, and farmers engaged in restoration. As the co-design phase has progressed, **we organized a series of training and user-centred design workshops in Cameroon and Kenya between February and May 2023**. This provided important insights from different users on the user-friendliness of the applications developed. In Cameroon, the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and MINEPDED have expressed strong interest in national implementation of the platform as part of their restoration strategy.

In Kenya, a highlight from this reporting period includes the request of Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) who are largely responsible for the national seed system in Kenya to integrate the seed collection app into their national seed system verification as a means to digitize their current seed system. In Kenya, we have also held stakeholder engagement workshops in Siaya county, Laikipia and Turkana and signed letters of Agreement with local partners to support a range of activities.

The agreement with KEFRI for their **provision of planting material in Kenya** has been signed with some delay, but the agreement is now in place and provision of planting material is in progress. Sub agreements have been developed with local partners (Miti Alliance and APIR TURKANA) to accelerate the distribution of planting material and training of farmers, as well as raising awareness about restoration potential of native trees.

In both countries, registered tree nurseries will be trained in order to raise their capacity and achieve self-sufficiency in tree seedlings production of native tree species, matching the demands of rural communities engaged in restoration efforts.

In Cameroon, in order to take advantage of the approaching rainy season, **planting was initiated in June 2022 with a total of 10,000 seedlings distributed across the different project sites**, before the establishment of the MFT platform. All trees planted before the establishment of the platform can be recorded retrospectively in the coming months and monitored, as farms will be registered a posteriori. Furthermore, an agreement is in place with ABIOGeT (NGO) supporting project implementation, particularly the provision of planting material and the realisations of water reservoirs in North Cameroon. Further agreements are in discussions with the National School of Forestry (ENEF) and the PEM (NGO).

Challenges encountered during this reporting period include delays in the onset of rains in Kenya leading to delays in planting across the project target sites. However, communities and schools with regular water supply have been given seedlings and have started planting. In addition, we had some delays in the finalisation of the payment system and blockchain components which are currently being finalised. The main challenge encountered in Cameroon was related to the lack of permanent water sources usable during the dry season in the project site located in Northern Cameroon. Thus, we had to build few low-cost water ponds and water reservoirs. In addition, we provided water pumps and water cans to farmers to ensure the availability of water throughout the year and the survival of the seedlings planted.

Overall, this first year was successful despite some delays, and is laying the critical foundations for the successful delivery of outcomes.

Please fill in the table below building on your result framework.

Objective 1: To facilitate, support, and mobilize investment in, smallholder and community-led restoration of critical landscapes to provide global environmental benefits and enhanced resilient economic development and livelihoods, in support of the Bonn Challenge, AFR100, the Trillion Tree Campaign, and other global and national restoration efforts							
Outcome 1	Indicators	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of project Target	Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)	Result to Date (from project start)	Progress rating (HS, S,MS,M U,U,SU)
1) Increased implementation of forest and landscape restoration by local community actors, with benefits for land, water, climate, biodiversity, and people					The project officially started work on the ground on August 03, 2022 , so the periodic result report covers the period 03 August 2022 – 30 June 2023)	Results to be reported here are the same as those reported under the periodic result report – the time intervals coincide	S
Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of project Target	Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)	Result to Date (from project start)	Implementation status (%)
	1.1) Platform mobile app supporting Platform through verification and payments transfer	0 (platform has not been created yet)		1.1) 180,000 verification and payment transactions covering planting of 400,000 trees and 1.3M instances of tree care/maintenance work to <i>Restoration partners*</i>	First training/design workshops in Cameroon week 27th March 2023, Similar trainings in Kenya were conducted in the week of 27th April, 2023. Follow up training of trainers in both countries are planned. The platform mobile app is going through a phase of user centred development but is already being piloted/utilized by different users.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	0%
	1.2) Network of Platform-provided phones hosting Platform mobile app supporting Restoration partners and	0 (platform has not been created yet)		1.2) 300 mobile phones with mobile app provided to Community entrepreneurs and/or Restoration partners &	Decision had been taken on models of mobile phones suitable for each country and different stakeholder groups. In Kenya, a total of 63 phones have been purchased for use in registering the beneficiaries and monitoring project indicators. Three of the phones will be distributed to the Regional Grievance Focal	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	20%

	Community entrepreneurs			tech support provided	<p>Persons, one in each site across the three counties (Siaya, Laikipia and Turkana). These phones will be used for monitoring and reporting of grievances from the communities. The other 60 phones will be distributed across the three sites depending on needs. The initial ratio was set around 10 phones/ 100 farmers, but the actual number of phones distributed will vary depending on needs. In areas like Turkana and Laikipia, where only a few people have access to smart phones, the items distributed will be more than in Siaya. All beneficiaries registered in the platform will be invited to a workshop where the rules for use of the phones will be shared and lead farmers will be identified to assist others in registration; they will be nominated custodians of the phones, whose use will serve a broad group of farmers. In addition, an agreement with KEFRI has been finalized to get their further assistance in registering beneficiaries over the course of June/July. An additional agreement has been finalized with MITI Alliance in Kenya to conduct capacity building of school environmental clubs in the project locations, and to increase awareness of the importance of native tree species.</p> <p>In Cameroon, suitable mobile phones and tablets have been identified and procurement will be completed in August 2023. Agreements are also being finalised with national partners (ENEF, ANAFOR), NGOs (ABIOGET and PEM) and some Communal Forestry Associations.</p>		
	1.3) Farmers incentivized to plant, maintain, and verify survival of native and genetically diverse tree species on farms using Platform	0		1.3) 400,000 trees planted and maintained as a result of Platform support and co-financing leveraged; At least 4,000 direct	<p>In Cameroon, tree planting has started in the North and West Cameroon in June 2023 to take advantage of the approaching rainy season. At the time the MFT platform was not in place, but all individual trees planted on farm will be registered in the next months. For this first lot of planted trees, we will not have associated information on tree seed sources, but farmers will be able to monitor their growth and receive compensations, A total of 24,039 trees were planted in 240</p>	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	5%

				beneficiaries of Platform restoration grants, male & female; At least 5,000 ha of land under restoration; At least 5,000 ha of land under improved practices	<p>farms (20% headed by women) and in sacred forests. In addition, 5 water ponds, 5 water reservoirs were built in North Cameroon to ensure the availability of water during the harsh dry season. Finally, 10 water pumps and 50 water cans were provided to farmers.</p> <p>In Kenya, the purchase of 100,000 tree seedlings for distribution to farmers has been secured through the agreement with KEFRI.</p> <p>A total of 400 tree seedlings were distributed in Turkana to community and schools. Registrations of farmers and nurseries in the myGeoFarmer app have started.</p> <p>The first payments of farmers on the platform are expected to start in September 2023, with a short delay of 1-2 months against the original timeline due to delays in finalising sub-agreements.</p>		
Outcome 2	Indicators	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of project Target	Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)	Result to Date (from project start)	Progress rating (HS, S,MS,M U,U,SU)
2) Strengthened awareness of restoration opportunities and best practices among smallholders and rural communities; strengthened capacity for restoration among smallholders, communities and seedling supply chain actors in target landscapes							S
Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of project Target	Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)	Result to Date (from project start)	Implementation status (%)

	2.1) At least 1,000 Restoration partners and 25 Community entrepreneurs registered with Platform following awareness-raising campaign in target landscapes	0 (platform has not been created yet)		2.1) 1,000 Restoration partners and 25 Community entrepreneurs registered with Platform	<p>The project website https://www.myfarmtrees.org has been developed and is ready for the official launch. This includes links to the applications that are part of the Platform (mygeotree/mygeofarmer). Videos and messages for social media are in preparation, as well as links to training videos and online learning resources.</p> <p>In Cameroon, registration of 60 nurseries were carried out in June 2023 and 120 farms were mapped with MyGeoFarm app.</p>	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	Too early to give a %
	2.2) At least 1,000 Restoration partners and 25 Community entrepreneurs trained on use of Platform mobile app, use of Platform-provided phones, and restoration practices	0 (platform has not been created yet)		2.2) 1,000 Restoration partners and 25 Community entrepreneurs trained with Platform	<p>Training has been provided on the use of MyGeoTree Collector app for 20 trainers in in Cameroon (6 from northern region, 4 in western and 10 in Central-Southern regions). In Kenya, 7 project participants have been trained (4 in Siaya and 3 in Turkana) with trainings done in person in the respective communities.</p> <p>A draft training module on best practices for handling planting material has been completed and linked to FAO E-learning academy. Training on seed collection and documentation of sources has been conducted in May/June in Cameroon and is planned in the second half of July in Kenya. In addition, the platform has been presented to youth groups through the Yale University ELTI training platform FLR for young people in Africa in June 2023.</p>	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	5%
	2.3) At least 1 tree nursery(s) in each target landscape established and/or strengthened and providing seedlings of suitable species and genetic stock to meet local demand,	0		2.3) Number of new or existing tree nurseries producing seedlings for the project	<p>A paper evaluating seed systems in both countries is being finalized.</p> <p>Candidate nurseries were identified to increase production of native species in both countries.</p> <p>In Cameroon, 60 nurseries were registered with MyGeoTree Collector app. In Kenya, 25 tree nurseries have been identified for registration. Some of these nurseries will be empowered to raise quality of the seedlings produced and increase the</p>	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	50%

	with point-of-transaction training on planting and care				diversity of species handled for distribution to farmers in the next planting phase.		
Outcome 3	Indicators	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of project Target	Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)	Result to Date (from project start)	Progress rating (HS, S,MS,MU,U,SU)
3) Improved knowledge of best practices for engaging, supporting, and incentivizing restoration by smallholders and rural communities; adaptive management of project facilitated through participatory M&E							S
Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of project Target	Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)	Result to Date (from project start)	Implementation status (%)
	3.1) 1 case study per targeted landscape on Platform-supported work and 1 Consolidated Report on Platform experiences with recommendations, including on Phase II scale up, developed and disseminated through relevant knowledge platforms	0		3.1) 2 Report and 1 case study per country (Kenya and Cameroon) and 1 Consolidated Report of Platform experiences	To be completed in the second half of 2023 and in 2024		N/A

	3.2) 1 presentation at GLF or similar global forum on Platform experiences & recommendation s; 1 high-level roundtable with government and private-sector partners in each country where Platform is engaged	0		3.2) Number of presentations at landscape restoration fora (at local, national or international levels) of projects results	To be completed in 2024		N/A
	3.3) Collaboration/co ordination with other platforms that promote the restoration agenda	0		3.3) Collaboration with at least one existing platform	Interactions have continued with existing platforms, such as Ecosia, RaboBank Acorn, to explore potential collaborations. Ongoing discussions with OneAcreFund.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	
	3.4) Monitoring and evaluation plan implemented for efficient, effective and sustainable achievement of Project outcomes	0		3.4) Timely production of all required M&E reports and activities as described in M&E plan			
Outcome 4	Indicators	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of project Target	Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)	Result to Date (from project start)	Progress rating (HS, S,MS,M U,U,SU)
4) Strengthened capacity and instruments for scaled-up investment in smallholder- and community-led restoration							N/A

Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of project Target	Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)	Result to Date (from project start)	Implementation status (%)
	4.1) 1 public web platform with blockchain-supported technology to attract, enable, and verify crowd-funding investment in Platform-supported smallholder- and community-led restoration	0		4.1.) 1 public web platform with blockchain-supported technology fully developed and functional	The project website www.myfarmtrees.org is accessible online, ready for the official launch.	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	20%
	4.2) Awareness-raising campaign on crowd-funding opportunities for Platform-supported smallholder- and community-led restoration, and potential partnership with aligned platforms	4.2) \$250,000 USD of crowd-sourced investment in Platform-supported restoration transacted		4.2) At least \$250,000 additional funds raised by the end of the project	Interactions have taken place with global learning partners, Rabobank, Ecosia and TenTree. Discussion was started also with OneAcre Fund which is interested in the platform and how it can support their mission. The Ethiopian Government have commissioned a pilot of the platform in Ethiopia for 2023. In Kenya, preliminary discussions took place with the television channel Shamba Shape-up to create awareness, through activities to be implemented in the course of 2024. In July the platform was also introduced to youth restoration practitioners from Africa through the Yale Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative	Same as those reported under the periodic result report	20%

Narrative report

Activities are largely on track in both Cameroon and Kenya, given the significant seasonal constraints with planting. Locations for activities and target communities to work with were identified in both countries in the initial stages of the project, including candidate nurseries expected to contribute to the production of the selected native tree species in both countries.

In Cameroon, target species were identified; tree planting and adoption of improved practices kicked-off in North and West Cameroon, accompanied by the establishment of critical infrastructure, such as water ponds and reservoirs and the delivery of water pumps and water cans to farmers, to ensure the availability of water during the harsh dry season. Planting started before the set-up of the MFT platform to take advantage of the approaching rainy season. This will not pose a problem

as farms will be registered a posteriori in the next months as well as all individual trees planted on farm. For this first lot of planted trees, we will not have associated information on tree seed sources, but farmers will be able to monitor tree growth and receive compensations.

In West Cameroon, the original project site of Fouban was replaced by Bangou-Baham-Badenkop that ranked 4th during the site evaluation conducted at the pre-project phase. In addition, planting has been undertaken in degraded community lands called “sacred forests” in the region. We were obliged to exclude Fouban because the City Mayor wanted us to use the resources available to restore/manage the degraded Communal Forest Reserve (out of the scope of this project), and not plant trees on individual farmlands.

In Kenya, villages and communities of direct beneficiaries were identified and a baseline survey and gender-disaggregated focus group discussions were conducted to validate the selection of identify priority species for planting. Also, the **purchase of 100,000 tree seedlings for distribution to farmers has been secured through the agreement with KEFRI** and a first distribution of seedlings took place to the target community and schools in Turkana.

Decisions were taken on models of mobile phones suitable for each country and different stakeholder groups and purchases started in Kenya, while suitable mobile phones and tablets have been identified and procurement started in August in Cameroon.

The platform mobile application that is being developed to track planting material from the source to farmers’ fields is going through a phase of user centred development. First training/design workshops were held in both countries, so the app is already being piloted/utilized by different users and registrations of farmers and nurseries in the myGeoFarmer app have started. This process of training on the use of the app and registration of farmers will continue in the next months, with **expected first payments of farmers on the platform are expected to start in September 2023.** Further capacity is being built on seed collection and documentation of sources in both countries.

The main project website <https://www.myfarmtrees.org> has been developed and is now ready for the official launch, scheduled to coincide with the release of a working paper co-published with FAO Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism titled ‘Delivering tree genetic resources in forest and landscape restoration. A guide to ensure local and global impact’ (where the MFT platform is profiled), and with an event to be held at the Society for Ecological restoration annual meeting 2023. This will mark the start of a targeted awareness-raising and engagement strategy to reach potential investors and restoration practitioners. The website includes links to the applications that are part of the Platform. In July 2023, the Platform was introduced to youth restoration practitioners from Africa through the Yale Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative.

Videos and messages for social media are in preparation, as well as links to training videos and online learning resources. Interactions have started with global learning partners and existing platforms, such as *Ecosia*, *RaboBank Acom*, and *TenTree* to explore potential collaborations. Discussions are ongoing also with *OneAcre Fund* which is interested in the Platform and how it can support their mission.

After the Platform has executed the core elements of the project and a significant body of initial work is available, the experience will be showcased attracting interest of investors and other users. For within-country promotion, **in Kenya, preliminary discussions took place with the television channel Shamba Shape-up to create awareness, through activities to be implemented in the course of 2024.** In addition, KEFRI has requested to integrate the seed collection app into their national seed system verification. Furthermore, concrete opportunities have materialized to pilot the platform in Ethiopia, in the second half of 2023, as part of a government-led restoration effort. Finally, we have received funds to pilot the platform in India through a national government initiative.

It is premature to evaluate the changes brought about by the project. In Kenya, stakeholder engagement workshops have been organized across all the three sites with participation of potential beneficiaries, women, youth and local leaders including the local politicians, chiefs and representatives of the line ministries in the Ministry of Environment as well as the Ministry of Youths and Social services. During the engagement events, members of local communities were able to freely ask questions and express their concerns. Stakeholder engagements and sensitizations will continue throughout the project implementation. A project grievance mechanism has been put in place and a grievance focal person has been identified in Kenya for all locations with a dedicated telephone number where complains can be reported. Information about

the grievance mechanism has been shared with the communities involved in the project. In Cameroon, stakeholder engagement activities have been carried out at different levels.

For both countries FPIC standards have been strictly adhered to in all dealings with local communities. An ESMP report has been prepared for Kenya, while the survey to prepare the ESMP for Cameroon is being delayed. The ESMP consultant has already visited the project sites earlier this year (2023) but has not been able to start a survey due to local stakeholders' fatigue related to the numerous surveys and requests for information triggered by the project in the initial stages. The farmers targeted as beneficiaries had already participated in interactions during the pre-project phase in 2021 and in baseline data collection in 2022. The project staff felt the need to start demonstrating which benefits the project could bring and decided to give priority to organize sourcing, distribution and planting of reproductive material, in time for this year planting season. Currently, the The ESMP survey is underway, and a report will be completed by December 2023.

The information about risks and their management considered in the project execution are derived from the risk analysis conducted in the preparatory phase. Regarding partners' attitudes, some changes have been already recorded in Cameroon, where some farmers appeared reluctant to be fully engaged in the project by the concern that their lands would be taken from them once trees will grow. This reaction was expected, and the project staff has worked with local government officials and partners to address this issue. The idea is that once the first payments have been made to those farmers more engaged in the project, others less motivated will be ready to join as well. Things appear to be already changing.

GEF Core Indicators

Please report on GEF core indicators that are relevant to your project using [guidance provided by GEF](#) on the implementation of the GEF-8 results measurement framework

Table 1. Eleven GEF Core Program Indicators

Indicator # As per GEF portal	Indicator	Baseline	Project Target	Progress to date (from project start)	Mean of Verification
1	<p>Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management</p> <p>This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrestrial protected areas newly created • Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness 				
2	<p>Marine protected areas created or under improved management</p> <p>This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine protected areas newly created 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness 				
3	<p>Area of land and ecosystems under restoration This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration Area of forest and forest land under restoration Area of natural grass and woodlands under restoration Area of natural grass and woodlands under restoration 	0	5,000 hectares of land under restoration	Locations for activities and target communities to work with identified. Tree planting has started in North and West Cameroon. So far 361 hectares have been put under restoration.	Documented and fully mapped areas of lands under restoration from projects beneficiaries
4	<p>Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided Terrestrial OECMs supported 				
5	<p>Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia Marine OECMs supported 				

6	<p>Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated This indicator will be reported through the following Sub-Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emission mitigated in the AFOLU sector • Greenhouse gas emission mitigated outside of the AFOLU sector • Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (Direct) • Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (Indirect) • Emissions avoided outside AFOLU sector (Direct) • Emissions avoided outside AFOLU sector (Indirect) • Energy saved • Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology 	0	395,749 tCO2eq direct	In Cameroon, target species were identified, and planting started with farmers (too early to quantify tCO2eq). In Kenya, a baseline survey and gender disaggregated FGDs were conducted to identify priority species.	Project reports quantifying the amount of carbon sequestered by trees planted, based on allometric equations and wood density.
7	<p>Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management This indicator will be reported through the following Sub-Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation • Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation • Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees • Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products 				
8	<p>Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels</p>				

9	<p>Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced This indicator will be reported through the following Sub-Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type) • Quantity of mercury reduced • Hydrochlorofluorocarbons reduced/phased out • Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste • Low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities • POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided • Highly Hazardous Pesticides eliminated • Avoided residual plastic waste 				
10	<p>Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced This indicator will be reported through the following Sub-Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air • Emission control technologies/practices implemented 				
11	<p>People benefiting from GEF-financed investments This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female • Male 	0	4,000 (2,000 male, 2,000 female)	Villages and communities of direct beneficiaries were identified in both Kenya and Cameroon. In North and West Cameroon 160 men, 50 women , 6 sacred forests (community lands) are being targeted by project activities. In addition, 149 beneficiaries (23 women and 126 men) from the TRI (The Restoration Initiative) have been integrated into this project.	Projects reports and database on beneficiaries disaggregated by gender

D. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	YEAR Development Objective Progress Rating ⁴	YEAR Implementation Progress Rating ⁵
Project Manager / Coordinator	Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment
	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
	Please provide justification for overall assessment	Please provide justification for overall assessment
	The Project is delayed in some activities due to longer time taken in redesign and development of mobile app than expected. In Cameroon we also had challenges with timing of the project's activities, to ensure that planting could happen before the seasonal rains	The overall implementation has been satisfactory. We hope to accelerate execution of activities in 2024. We have been a bit slower than hoped with starting implementation of the activities planned, partly due to the time taken to develop sub-agreements with national partners.
IUCN (IA) Task Manager	Overall Assessment	Overall Assessment
	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
	Please provide justification for overall assessment	Please provide justification for overall assessment
	Concur with the assessment of the Project Manager – good progress in launching the project and developing the application and engaging with the community, setting project on a path for success.	Concur with the assessment of the Project Manager – good progress in launching the project and developing the application and engaging with the community, setting project on a path for success. Also, the interest from government partners in Kenya for utilizing the Project-supported application in tracking seed sourcing is welcome and positive. We also look forward to following up with interested private sector stakeholders for the second phase of the project, once the application is fully launched.

E. Adjustments

Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.

Activities are mostly on track in both countries, with a slight 1–2-month delay in the distribution of payments to farmers due to finalizing the structure of the blockchain component and also negotiating with a private sector partner (SAFARICOM) as well as challenges with aligning supply of planting material with planting seasons.

The consultant to conduct the ESMP work in Cameroon has been selected and will start the work in August 2023. Our focus is now on tree planting to take advantage of the rainy season.

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

⁴ This section will use the scale used by the GEF and outlined in Annex of this document: 1) Highly satisfactory, 2) Satisfactory, 3) Moderately Satisfactory, 4) Moderately Unsatisfactory, 5) Unsatisfactory, 6) Highly Unsatisfactory

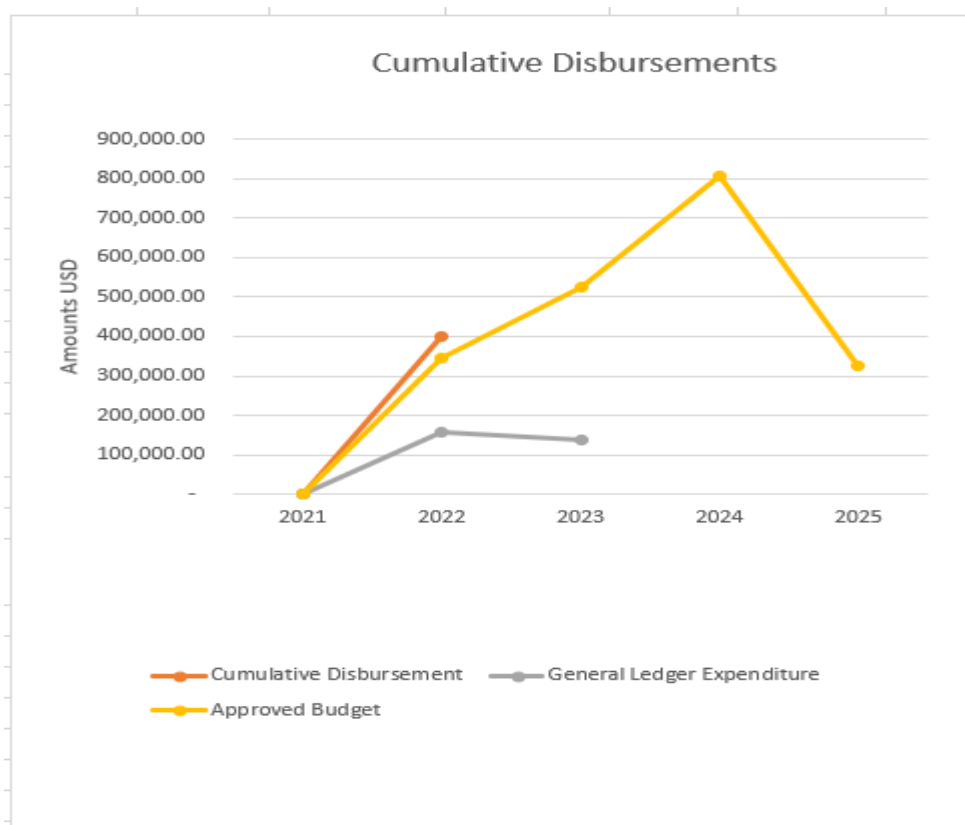
⁵ Idem

Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting documents as appropriate within this PIR submission.

- Results framework
- Components and cost
- Institutional and implementation arrangements
- Financial management
- Implementation schedule
- Executing Entity
- Executing Entity Category
- Minor project objective change
- Safeguards
- Risk analysis
- Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
- Co-financing
- Location of project activity
- Other

<i>Minor amendments</i>	<i>Change description</i>
GeoFarmer development	During implementation it was decided to integrate the seedIT app into existing GeoFarmer platform for efficiency

F. Implementation Progress



<i>Cumulative Disbursements</i>	
Cumulative general ledger delivery against total approved amount (in Project Document) - %	15 %
Cumulative general ledger delivery against expected delivery as of this year - %	34 %
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2023 (note: amount to be updated in later August)	USD 400,000

<i>Key Financing Amounts</i>	
PPG Amount	USD 50,000
GEF Grant Amount	USD 2,000,000
Planned Co-Financing	USD 2,490,507
Co-Financing to date	USD 117,493

<i>Key Project Dates</i>	
PIF Approval Date	March 11, 2021
CEO Endorsement Date	March 11, 2022
Project Document Signature Date (Project start date)	August 3, 2022
Date of Inception workshop (Project launch)	Project launch in Yaoundé (Cameroon) on July 6-7, 2022; this was followed by launch in Nairobi (Kenya) on September 20-21, 2022
Expected date of mid-term review	N/A
Actual date of mid-term review	N/A
Expected date of Terminal Evaluation	September 30, 2025
Original planned closing date	April 30, 2025
Revised Planned closing date	

<i>Dates of Project Steering Committee / Board Meetings during reporting period (June to July)</i>	
Project Steering Committee meeting, organized on	19 December 2022
Technical Committee Meeting of Cameroonian partners, held on	28 February 2023

G. Critical Risk Management

Please complete the table below (*Only risk with High or Medium rating / level should be recorded*) by using the information in the Project Risk register (excel file provided with PIR templates). If a project risk register has already been completed for the project, please provide any updates for High or Medium risk from this reporting period – e.g. changing in risk rating, risk owners or additional risk identified etc. in the table below.

Risk Category ⁶	Risk description	Rating / Level (H, M)	Mitigation measures undertaken in this reporting period	Risk Owner	Updates / Changes
Operational	Platform mobile application cannot be developed in time or on budget, and/or does not function as planned	M	A mobile application platform has been developed and training has been provided to users. The project is providing support for the mobile applications developed to users and will continue to do so throughout the life of the project. This will lead to a fully customized and robust application by the end of the project		The issues envisaged as potential risks have not yet emerged
Operational	Platform-provided phones do not function as planned, and/or are utilized for non-project means	M	Low-cost phones capable of running the Platform mobile application were assessed in the PPG-stage. Where phones are provided to <i>Restoration Partners</i> and/or <i>Community Entrepreneurs</i> , the project has identified a dedicated technical support to address any issues that arise with operation of either the phones or the Platform mobile application. A “rule book” covering the incentive programme and use of Platform-provided phones is being developed for Project participants as part of the training materials. It will outline a transparent 3-strike policy to build trust.		The issue has not yet emerged at this stage of implementation
Legal/Compliance	A significant number of project partners make fraudulent claims through false or misleading uploaded photos	M	To ensure the accuracy the mobile photo-verification system and to guard against possible misuse and/or fraudulent claims, field auditing/verification of a random sample of uploaded photos covering 5-10% transactions coupled with data analysis that automatically detects anomalies will occur. This will be complemented by cross checking records of all seedlings provided to <i>Restoration partners</i> and/or <i>Community entrepreneurs</i> . The Rule book and training (in preparation) will include clear rules defining any misuse of the Platform application, incentive		The issue has not yet emerged at this stage of implementation

⁶ IUCN risk categories: Strategic, Financial, People management, Operational, Legal/Compliance, Information systems, External

			program, and Platform-provided phones, and consequences for misuse.		
Strategic	Blockchain-enabled public-facing web platform fails to attract crowdfunding at anticipated levels	M-H	The project has started dialogues with aligned platforms and fora. The online platform is ready for launch, and this will enable to start a targeted awareness-raising and engagement strategy to reach potential investors. After the Platform will have executed the core elements and a significant body of initial work will be ready, the experience will be showcased attracting interest of investors.		
External	Current and future climate change impacts threaten the sustainability of restoration investments	M-L	Selection of landscapes and appropriate tree species will be done factoring in anticipated impacts from climate change under different warming scenarios. Bioversity International has developed a routine that accounts for future climate projects already integrated in the tool that is utilized in the execution of this project in Cameroon.		

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High). *Please see Annex – Ratings definition for guidance.*

2022 rating (H, S, M, L)	2023 rating (H, S, M, L)	Comments/reasons for the rating for 2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
M	M	No major changes in the overall risk rating

H. Gender

Progress in advancing Gender equality and women's empowerment

Please note that all projects approved since GEF 6 are required to carry out a gender analysis and provide gender-responsive measures to address differences, identified impacts and risks, and opportunities through a Gender Action Plan (GAP) or equivalent.

Does this project specifically target woman or girls as direct beneficiaries?
The project aims to reach gender parity where 50% of the direct beneficiaries are women. To reach this goal norms surrounding land tenure, decision making power over income and gendered tree species will be taken into consideration throughout the project.
In case a gender analysis was not undertaken during project preparation (PPG), has it been carried out in this reporting period? If yes, what were the main findings? If an analysis during project design had been undertaken, but further updates have been carried out during the reporting period, please indicate this below. Please also report on additional site level gender analyses if they were undertaken during this reporting period.

An initial gender analysis was carried out during the project preparation stage using secondary data. During the reporting period a gender study has been carried out where qualitative data was collected through focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The data collected looked into the following gendered aspects:

- Access to and control over land
- Gender norms related to restoration practices.
- Decision making in relation to cultivation and restoration
- Decision making and control over income
- Access to, control over, and decision making in relation to mobile phones, and mobile money applications.
- Gendered priorities when it comes to selection of tree species.

Timing: Data collection has been completed in Kenya during April 2023.

Locations: The qualitative study was conducted in Siaya, Turkana and Laikipia counties (Kenya). The villages where the study was conducted were sampled purposively from the list of project locations/villages based on the mode of livelihood (farming) and tree planting practices as well as availability diverse groups of the community to participate in the focus group discussions (FGDs) (diversity based on sex and age). As such, in Siaya, Turkana and Laikipia counties, Karamogi, Kalemunyang' and Kimanjo villages were selected for the study respectively. Subject to available funds, similar work is planned in Cameroon, with tentative field data collection taking place in August 2023.

Method: A pure qualitative approach was used to collect data featuring focus group discussions and key informant interviews: a) Focus group discussions (FGDs) with community members disaggregated by gender and age (Young men, young women, men and women); b) Community Profile-Key informant interviews (KIIs) with local community leaders and extension service providers in the community

Key objectives: This qualitative component was designed to explore gender norms and disparities related to land tenure, access and usage of agricultural land at the household level, tree planting priorities and tree species preferred, delve into decision-making and control of agricultural and pastoralism activities at the household level, seek to understand community-level factors that may contribute to changes in gender norms and capacities for exercising agency and innovation in agriculture and NMR, as well as usage of mobile money at the HH level and how gender dynamics play a part in it.

Processing of results:

1. Transcription of all the interviews is finalized.
2. Coding of transcripts finalized.
3. Analysis and report writing ongoing.
4. A list of preferred tree species by different focus groups within the communities (men, women, young men, young women) were extracted to inform the project about the different groups' priorities. This is a step towards ensuring equal distribution of benefits.

Please describe progress in implementing the Gender Action Plan (GAP); you could also add the GAP in form of a GAP progress report as annex. Please also specify results achieved this reporting period through implementing gender-responsive measures.

Results reported can include site level results working with local communities as well as work to integrate gender considerations into national policies, strategies and planning. Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.

For Kenya, the analysis of qualitative data regarding gender aspects in the communities targeted by the project is enabling to identify challenges specific to each community and is providing elements that support the design of site-specific mitigation measures.

The results will inform the selection of tree species to make sure that the different groups needs and priorities are met. In addition, taking this into account together with gender aspects in relation to decision making over income, access and control over land, access to mobile phones and control over mobile money services will influence how the project will work towards equal distribution of benefits.

Please report on gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated targets as established in the results framework

GEF Core Indicator 11): Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

Report: Villages and communities of direct beneficiaries were identified in both Kenya and Cameroon. In North and West Cameroon **160 men, 50 women**, 6 sacred forests (community lands) are being targeted by project activities. In addition, **149 beneficiaries (23 women and 126 men)** from the TRI (The Restoration Initiative) have been integrated into this project.

Project target 1.3): At least 4,000 direct beneficiaries of Platform restoration grants, male & female; At least 5,000 ha of land under restoration

Report: The project aims to reach gender parity where 50% of the direct beneficiaries are women, although not explicitly mentioned in the target above. In terms of achievements at this stage of the project see report above for GEF Core Indicator 11.

I. Implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The GEF Stakeholder Engagement Policy Guidelines⁷ requires that Agencies prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to describe how Stakeholders will be engaged in the project, and means of engagement throughout the project/program cycle. Agencies should include information on progress, challenges and outcomes of stakeholder engagement in their annual Project Implementation Reports.

Either provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and its respective progress report as annex or complete the below table by specifying the engagement strategies and achievements for the most important stakeholder groups. This can include demonstrating how different stakeholders were engaged in decisions on project governance (e.g. as member of the steering group), in the management or monitoring of the project or in programmatic activities. Forms of engagement include direct consultation or exchange with representative groups as well as indirect forms such as through media or other communication channels. Please also specify how the engagement is documented to provide evidence of such activities.

Please note that the data may be used for reporting to the GEF or IUCN web site, and for other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts. The global thematic programme involved should review and edit/elaborate on the information entered here. All projects must complete this section. Please enter N/A in cells that are not applicable to your project.

Stakeholder	Role in project	Means for engagement/consultation	Comments and updates
<i>Cameroon</i>			
National Forestry School (ENEF) (<i>higher education institution</i>)	Support seed collection and production of good quality germplasm of native species in their nurseries # Support training of restoration practitioners enrolled in the school with the platform mobile app	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities Trainings of trainers and foresters, workshops	Part of the national steering committee
Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	Steering committee members Research permits, and facilitations of local staff based in field sites	Consultation meetings – providing information, exchange of documentation and correspondences	Part of the national steering committee

⁷ Stakeholder Engagement Policy Guidelines (SD/GN/01), December 20, 2018

Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF)	Technical steering committee members Research permits and facilitations of local staff based in field sites	Consultation meetings – providing information, exchange of documentation and correspondences	Part of the national steering committee
Actions pour la Biodiversité et Gestion des Terroirs (ABIOTeT) (NGO)	Overall coordination and engagement with beneficiaries and local authorities in a project sites	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities Trainings of trainers and foresters, workshops Training of communities and dissemination of knowledge and information	Part of the national steering committee
National Forestry Development Agency (ANAFOR) (governmental agency)	Technical steering committee members Provision of seeds # research permits to collect seeds in forest reserves	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities Training of the use of the platform and app	Part of the national steering committee
International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) (international research center)	Facilitating engagement with beneficiaries in the TRI project site of Cameroon	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities	
Partner communities, Restoration Partners, and Community Entrepreneurs where Platform-supported restoration work will take place	Beneficiaries of project, incentivized to participate in project activities including capacity building, planting, monitoring, maintenance, knowledge capture and dissemination.	Project activities detailed under Components 1-4, and following best practices including adherence to the Environmental and Social Management Plan developed by IUCN and Bioversity International for this project (see Annex)	
Kenya			
Save The Children (international NGO)	Overall coordination and engagement with beneficiaries, local Government and at Turkana County	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities	Save the Children was initially interested in a collaboration, then opted out because the available budget for partnership did not reach their minimum allowable. Collaboration will continue informally.
APIR Turkana (not-for-profit charitable foundation)	Overall coordination and engagement with beneficiaries, local Government and at Turkana County	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities	Discussions have been conducted and an LoA is being finalized
Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) (membership-led, not-for-profit conservation organization)	Overall coordination and engagement with beneficiaries, local Government and at Laikipia County	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities	Discussions have been conducted and an LoA is being finalized
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry	Members of technical steering committee at the national and county level in three counties.	Consultation meetings – providing information, exchange of documentation and correspondences	Part of project steering committee. Involved in day-to-day running of project in the three sites in Kenya

Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) (<i>national research center</i>)	Overall coordination and engagement with beneficiaries in the three project sites. Provision of seeds and capacity building of restoration partners	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities Training of the use of the platform and app	An LoA has been finalized and signed
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) (<i>international research center</i>)	Supply seeds of agroforestry native species and providing training of nurseries establishment and management	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities	Invited to Kenya launch workshop, still exploring ICRAF involvement
Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)	Facilitating engagement with beneficiaries in the TRI project site in Kenya and dissemination of apps and training materials	Letters of agreement with Bioversity for involvements in components 1 & 2 activities	FAO joined launch and field visits. We are discussing how to build on work in Laikipia county in TRI sites.
Partner communities, <i>Restoration Partners</i> , and <i>Community Entrepreneurs</i> where Platform-supported restoration work will take place	Beneficiaries of project, incentivized to participate in project activities including capacity building, planting, monitoring, maintenance, knowledge capture and dissemination.	Project activities detailed under Components 1-4, and following best practices including adherence to the Environmental and Social Management Plan developed by IUCN and Bioversity International for this project (see Annex)	

J. Environmental and Social Safeguards

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the Environmental and Social Management Plans or other safeguard tools, when appropriate. Note that this only applies to projects classified as moderate or high risk, not to low risk projects.

For reporting progress on the implementation of ESMS plans or tools, please either provide the ESMP Monitoring Table as annex (see ESMP guidance note and template⁸) or complete the below table.

After a series of steps documented in the previous report, IUCN prepared a specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) template to be used by the project and an Excel template to be used for the ESMP monitoring, reporting and registration of complaints. These ESMP template was presented it to the project team. After reviewing the template, it was decided to hire external consultants to develop the plans for the project in each country. In November 2022, an updated version of the ESMP template was presented to the project team and the candidate consultant identified to perform the ESMP in Kenya. During the reporting period the hiring process of consultants in both countries was finalized. Field data collection has been completed in Kenya and the report is available (see Annex 6).

⁸ https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/esms_esmp_guidance_note_and_template.docx

Progress of implementing the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other safeguard tools			
Environmental and Social Risks	Risks identified by ESMS Screening or during any update of ESMP since project start⁹	Actions taken during this FY; explain in particular how you engaged with groups affected by the identified risks	Are the measures considered sufficient? Are there any outstanding issues relevant for next FY?
Adverse gender-related impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some of the restoration initiatives are labor intensive and can exacerbate women's pre-existing heavy labor burdens, especially if the project does not ensure they have control of any associated benefits. - Additionally, as per the project design, 50% of the project's beneficiaries are women, this lock out men who would have wanted to be part of the project intervention and could easily lead to gender based violence at the household level particularly during sharing out the proceeds of restoration work done. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project has taken into consideration the potential increases in labor and time burden on women and has conducted various sensitization meetings with the beneficiaries on various ways to reduce the burden such as on division of labour between different family members and on use of the most appropriate tools to use to help reduce the labour burden i.e. tools for digging holes and clearing bushes, - Since the project is being implemented in areas and communities that subscribe to patriarchal system; a benefit sharing strategy highlighting clearly how both men and women gain from the intervention, directly and indirectly as well as short and long term is currently under development in each community. - Before registration of the project participants, both men and women (husbands and wives) were sensitized on the objective of the initiative as well as the different kinds of benefits this will bring to the different genders to ensure that partners have prior agreement on sharing the proceeds arising from tree planting and minimize the possibility of the initiative creating a conducive environment for gender-based violence to occur. - There is established a grievance redress mechanism with a committee to handle any conflicts arising from project implementation. There is a dedicated grievance focal person in each of the project location, a dedicated contact number and is in the process of putting in place a grievance box where written complains can be dropped. 	The measures are sufficient. The issues will remain relevant throughout the next FY.
Risks of affecting vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibility of disadvantaging vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and farmers with low literacy levels from accessing the benefits from proceeds of restoration by failing to consider the specific conditions of their vulnerability status (such as ability to participate in meetings, or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project, working through the local leadership, put in place and affirmative action during the registration to ensure that socially excluded or marginalized (classes accepted by communities as marginalized, i.e. widows, extremely poor, PWD, farmers with low literacy level) are part of the project participant. - In addition, to ensure that communities have equal opportunity, co-creation and training workshops have been 	The measures are sufficient. Issues remain relevant for the next FY

⁹ Add n/a if the respective risk issues has neither been identified during the ESMS screening nor in any update of the ESMP.

	capacity to use the platform and mobile applications adequately.	organized across the project sites to empower communities to use the platform	
Risk of undermining human rights	None		
Community health, safety and security risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The digging of holes will expose local communities to risks of accidents and injuries. Such injuries can result from accidental falls in holes, injuries from hand tools and cuts from sharp edges tools. Open ditches, unfinished works and improper storage of materials can lead to accidents to both the public and workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Awareness raising and trainings provided on safety, first aid and safe use of equipment and pesticides □ -Promoting use of adequate PPEs such as eye protection goggles, masks, gloves, boots, aprons among others by farmers while spraying pesticides, and during herbicides application 	The measures are sufficient. Issues remain relevant for the next FY
Labour and working conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The tree planting interventions may increase the economic incentive that smallholder households take children—out of school to provide labour thereby increasing the risk of child labour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – While this is not very likely, the communities have been sensitized on the consequences of such actions. Using local administrative channels, the community leaders have been sensitized to ensure that tree planting and maintenance is not done involving harmful child labour within the farm households. 	The measures are sufficient. Issues remain relevant for the next FY
Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nursery establishment works, will need water for irrigation, after irrigating the water will be running back to the nearby water bodies. The water might be containing the agrochemicals like fertilizers and pesticides used in the nursery and some sediments which will cause water pollution. – The pesticides used in the nursery might pollute the soil and kill non-target living organisms of nearby the nursery. The agrochemicals can also harm the human if no proper protective equipment is used. – Pesticides in nursery have the potential impacts to contaminate air, affecting human, animal and plant health. Some pesticide ingredients stay in the atmosphere for only a short period of time, while others can last longer. – Pesticides released into the air can settle to the ground, be broken down by sun light and water in the atmosphere or dissipate into the surrounding air. Air pollution could also arise from dust during land preparation activities, movement of vehicle carrying seedlings to the farmers for planting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sensitization with nursery owners to strictly control wastes discharge to avoid any discharge into the water bodies and use of water collection & sedimentation system instead of discharging into the water bodies directly. – Sensitization of the beneficiaries on timely collection of waste and transportation to licensed waste disposal sites. 	The measures are sufficient. Issues remain relevant for the next FY

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large quantities of solid waste will be generated by various project activities at the site. Such waste will consist of vegetation, rejected materials, surplus materials, surplus spoils, paper bags, and empty cartons, among others. Such solid waste materials can be injurious to the environment through blockage of drainage systems, choking of water bodies and negative impacts on human and animal health. 		
Risk of project not taking into consideration climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These project activities are located in areas that are especially vulnerable to climatic shocks. If too little attention is directed to the potential effects of drought, famines and floods etc. vulnerability of the communities to both human and manmade disasters could increase. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness creation and advocacy to the beneficiary households to use part of their proceeds to diversify into low-income sources that can caution them against such disasters. 	The measures are sufficient. Issues remain relevant for the next FY
New risks emerged	None		
ESMS Standards¹⁰	Required management measures/plans (when standard triggered)	Actions taken during this FY; explain in particular how you engaged with groups affected by the identified risks	Are the measures considered sufficient? Are there any outstanding issues relevant for next FY?
Involuntary Resettlement & Access Restrictions <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement Policy Framework <input type="checkbox"/> Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts Access Restriction <input type="checkbox"/> Access Restrictions Mitigation Process Framework <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This standard has not been triggered by the land restoration project through tree planting. The restoration project will be implemented in existing farmlands as well as degraded ecosystems near water catchments such as rivers, lakes, swamps, on land managed by institutions such as schools, hospitals, parks among others. No displacement will take place during the entire project period. 	N/A
Indigenous Peoples <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Peoples Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because the project is generally expected to generate tangible benefits for the target groups, including members of indigenous communities, it is not considered commensurate to require the development of a dedicated Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP). It was also confirmed during the stakeholder engagements in the project sites that the project components are aligned with the current socio-cultural and economic activities in Turkana and Mukogodo and therefore there will be no conflicting cultural, spiritual, economic and indigenous knowledge values or leading to intra or inter-community imbalances. The project will be coordinated in 	The measures are sufficient

¹⁰ Please check the respective box to indicate the decision at Screening stage: whether a standards has been triggered or not, or the decision was deferred to the implementation phase. If the latter, please explain the status of this decision.

		Turkana by our partners APIR Turkana and in Mukogodo by Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF), both of which are local NGOs with operations in the two landscapes with extensive experience working with the two indigenous communities.	
Cultural Heritage <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Chance Find Procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	N/A	N/A
Biodiversity & Sustainable Use Natural Resources <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Pest Management Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		<p>The land restoration project has not triggered this standard since the conservation activity consists solely in tree planting carried out by willing farmers and institutions, regardless of their social status, gender, level of education, among other factors. Adequate consultation with the project beneficiaries will be undertaken to ensure that tree planting does not create overexploitation of other resources, such as water, hence leading to resource-based conflicts.</p>
Project Risk Category (as per ESMS Screening)		<input type="checkbox"/> Low Risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate Risk <input type="checkbox"/> High Risk	
Have findings during implementation triggered any changes to the Project Risk Category ? If yes, explain the issues and the new rating.		No	
List all risk issues that are now rated as high risk (if any)		None	
Has a list of relevant host country regulations on environmental and social matters been established? What is the status of the project's compliance with the applicable laws and regulations?		<p>The country has in place an existing regulatory framework that guides implementation of the project. The Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act (EMCA), 1999/2015 is the operative law on matters concerning the environment. It sets out general principles, creates administrative bodies, lays out environmental quality standards and provides for the inspection, enforcement, and punishment of environmental offences. In addition, the ESMP report has identified several other acts of parliament and regulations that guide the implementation of such project in Kenya and is in full compliance with all.</p>	
In case any changes of regulations have occurred since project design, have these changes been reflected in project implementation?		None	

In addition, please indicate whether any grievances as per IUCN and GEF ESS policies have been received during this reporting period. If yes, please answer the below questions and attach the grievance log as annex in order to describe status and progress of the case. The latter should also be done in case grievances had been received in earlier reporting period.

Please explain the grievance
The project has put in place a Grievance Redress system in each of the three project locations. The community has been sensitized about the redress system and in each location a grievance focal person has been appointed together with the community with a dedicated telephone number through which all complains can be reported as and when they occur. Despite the presence of this system and the community being sensitized of its existence, no complains have been reported.
Please indicate how it is being/has been addressed

K. Knowledge Management

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

Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? How does the project collect, document and share good practices? Please list relevant good practices from this year that can be learned and shared from the project.

To be able to develop 1 case study per targeted landscape, we are currently capturing the dynamics at the different project sites. We are documenting the early stages of the project through visual material which we plan to combine with short narratives to develop blogs/short communications for release at strategic times, in occasion of awareness events and in synchrony with the release of research outputs of the Alliance aligned with the objectives of this project. We are preparing a tentative calendar for upcoming opportunities to release information about the project and progress made to date.

We are also compiling information material on the MFT applications, to develop training material on their use, thinking about upscaling engagement of nurseries in documenting sources of seed and involvement of farmers in on farm planting, also in view of extending the approach to other countries (e.g., in Ethiopia, where the opportunity to pilot the platform is already materializing).

We are also keeping track of user-friendliness, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the different practices promoted through the project, to be able to adjust interventions. Major learning points are expected to derive particularly from the following aspects:

- level of actual engagement of smallholder and rural communities in restoration, resulting from the different processes set in place in the target communities,
- effectiveness of use of cellular mobile technology for incentivizing smallholder and rural communities in restoration, considering the variable range of conditions found across the project sites targeted (e.g., socio-cultural background, degree of internet connectivity, ownership of smart phones, etc),
- the effectiveness of smallholder- and rural community-led restoration, particularly regarding the effective use of a diverse set of native tree species,
- the effective mobilization of local nurseries to produce high quality tree seedlings of suitable species and genetic stock to meet local demand and restoration needs, considering market and other socio-economic factors.

Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.

A set of activities have been identified in the project proposal to enable access and use of the public web platform and underlying software system that will support crowdfunding for smallholder- and community-led restoration. The main project website is ready for launch and a campaign with announcements on social media is about to start. We have also established a twitter account @myfarmtrees which will be launched along with the website. All comms are being linked to OneCGIAR nature positive Initiative comms.

The main elements of the awareness raising campaign have also been identified in the project proposal and action will be put in place after the mail launch of the project website.

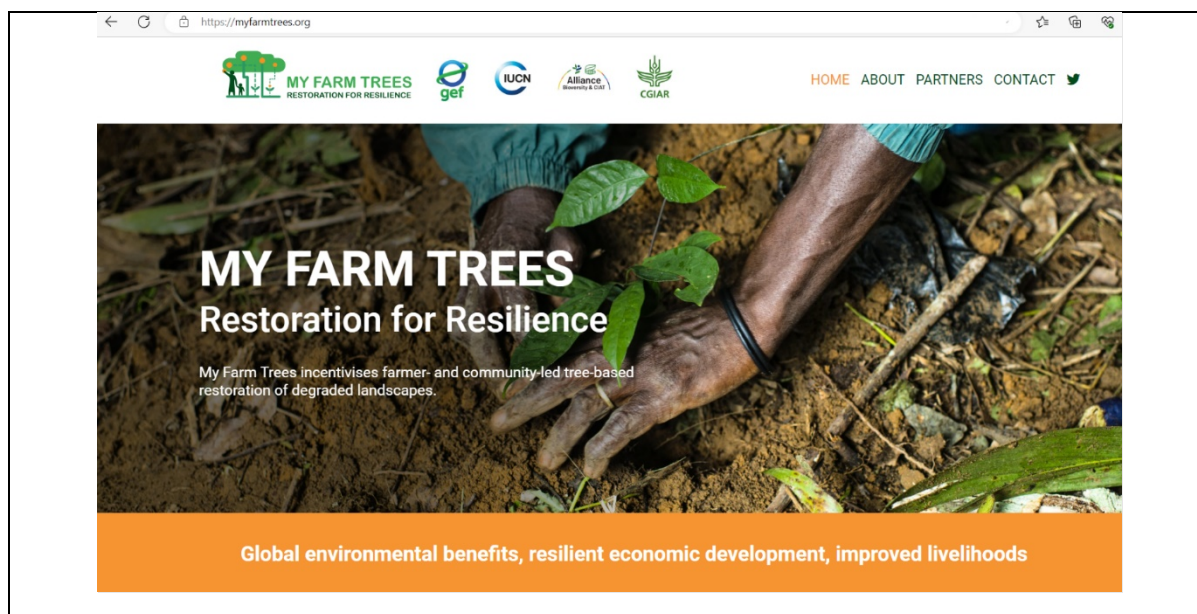
It is premature to elaborate on communication successes and challenges occurred over the reporting period.

Communication material

Please provide a list of publications, project website, project page on the IUCN website, any other facebook, twitter, flickr or youtube account related to the project, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents.

A project website has been developed and it is accessible online: <https://myfarmtrees.org/>

A proper official launch with announcements on social media is imminent and will be documented in the next report. The website contains a description of the initiative and information on the partners involved. It will be nurtured with new materials as the project unfolds.



Lessons learned

Please share any particular lessons learnt in the context of project implementation (e.g. successfully tested tools, unexpected positive or negative impacts) and/or lessons learnt regarding one of your key outcomes

Communicating impact

Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives and biodiversity and how it contributed to the target(s) pledged through internal conventions (UNCCD LDN, UNFCCC NDCs, CBD NBSAPs, SDGs, etc) and/or national policies

(The text will be used for IUCN Corporate Communications, the IUCN-GEF web-site, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts)

Please also note you can share your success story and solution on the IUCN [PANORAMA web platform](#). This will allow for knowledge retention and dissemination of project outcomes and success factors.

This is still premature to describe at this stage of implementation of the project. Baseline data is being collected to be able to track changes produced by the project.

What is the most significant change that has resulted from the project this reporting period?

Through the stakeholders' engagement and co-creation workshops with the communities, the communities' appreciation of restoration initiatives through tree planting has improved across the project sites. Community members involved in the project are getting to understand the importance of indigenous tree species and their role in addressing the impacts of climate change.

Annexes – Supplementary information

For the period July-Dec 2022:

- Annex 1: Project launch in Cameroon: [Cameroon inception workshop report](#)
- Annex 2: Kenya inception workshop report: [Kenya Inception workshop report](#)
- Links to media coverage: [media coverage](#)
- Links to meeting recordings: [recordings](#)

For the period Jan-June 2023:

- Annex 3 - Report of training workshop on app in Kenya: [app training workshop in Kenya](#)
- Annex 4 - Report of training workshop on app in Cameroon: [app training workshop in Cameroon](#)
- Annex 5 - Documentation material about the app: [description of app](#)
- Annex 6 - ESMP report for Kenya: [ESMP report for Kenya](#)
- Stakeholder engagement events in Kenya: [stakeholders in Kenya](#)
- Stakeholder engagement events in Cameroon: [stakeholders in Cameroon](#)

Annex - Ratings definitions

Implementation Progress Ratings

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 presented 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.

Global Environment Objective/Development Objective Ratings

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 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.

Development/Adaptation Objective Ratings (For LDCF/SCCF/GCF Adaptation)

Highly Satisfactory (HS): Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major development/adaptation objectives, and yield substantial adaptation benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”.

Satisfactory (S): Project is expected to achieve most of its major development/adaptation objectives, and yield satisfactory adaptation benefits, with only minor shortcomings.

Marginally Satisfactory (MS): Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant development/adaptation objectives, but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major development objectives or yield some of the expected adaptation benefits.

Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU): Project is expected to achieve its major development/adaptation objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major adaptation objectives.

Unsatisfactory (U): Project is expected not to achieve most of its major development/adaptation objectives or to yield any satisfactory adaptation benefits.

Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of its major development/adaptation objectives with no worthwhile adaptation benefits.

Risk ratings

Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project that may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risks of projects should be rated on the following scale:

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

Substantial Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.

Modest Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

The table below illustrates how the risk categories used by GEF and IUCN align with one another.

GEF risk categories	IUCN risk categories
Climate	External
Environment & Social	Part of ESMS risk assessment
Political and Governance	External
Macro-economic	External
Strategies and policies	Strategic
Technical design of project or program	Operational
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Operational
Fiduciary: financial management and procurement	Finance
Stakeholder engagement	Part of ESMS risk assessment
Other	People management; Legal / Compliance; Information systems
Financial risks for NGI projects	N/A

The table below illustrates how the risk rating/level used by GEF and IUCN align with one another.

GEF risk rating / level	IUCN risk rating / level
High	High
Substantial	High
Moderate	Medium
Low	Low