

A. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	
Country	Eswatini
Region	East and Southern Africa
Grant Title	Climate Smart Agriculture for Resilient Livelihoods (CSARL)
Associated GEF Programme	Food Security IAP Program
or Framework (FSP/MSP/IP/EA)	
Grant Type (select one from GEF	Full Size Project – GEF TF
Trust Fund, LDCF, SCCF)	
Reference numbers	
PIR Implementation Status	6th
(1 st , 2 nd ,3 rd ,4 ^{th,} Final)	
GEF ID Number	9133
IFAD Grant Agreement	2000001585
GEF Focal Area and Programme	
GEF Focal Area ¹	Multi Focal Area
Critical milestones	
GEF CEO endorsement of FSP	6 July 2016
and approval of MSP	
IFAD approval date	18 July 2016
Actual implementation start date	22 August 2016
Last supervision mission date	May 2023
Actual Mid-Term Evaluation date	14 to 25 September 2020
Expected project completion date	30 September 2023
Expected financial closure date (6	31 March 2024
months after effective completion)	
Grant Financing (USD)	
GEF Project Preparation Grant	US\$ 137 615
(PPG) amount	
GEF grant amount	US\$ 7 211 009
Total GEF financing	US\$ 7 348 624
(PPG + Grant amount)	
First disbursement date	03 February 2017
GEF grant disbursed	US\$ 3 968 764
(as at 30 June of FY)	
GEF grant spent	US\$ 3 448 954
(as at 30 June of FY)	
Proposed co-financing	Government of Eswatini US\$ 7 202 206
(as at CEO Endorsement)	
Actual co-financing secured (may	US\$ 7 202 206
be different from co-financing	
proposed at CEO endorsement)	
Actual co-financing disbursed (as	US\$ 5657 370
at 30 June of FY)	
Actual co-financing spent	US\$ 5053 976
(as at 30 June of FY)	
GEF Project Preparation Grant	US\$ 137 615
(PPG) amount	
Project contact	
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¹ Select one among the following: Biodiversity; Climate Change; Land Degradation; International Waters; Chemicals and Waste; Multifocal area; Impact Programs.



B. CONTRIBUTIONS TO INNOVATION and LESSONS LEARNED	
1. Information on progress, challenge and outcomes regarding engagement of stakeholders in the projects/program based on the description included in the Stakeholders Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval	The project understands that stakeholder engagement is a key intervention that minimizes duplication of efforts, promotes harmonised information and sharing of resources and continued learning. The project continues to work collaboratively with its stakeholders through interventions that maximise reach of information to beneficiaries resulting in increased outreach. Engaging with the various stakeholders has assisted the project to contribute to interventions that promote decision making, improved adaptation and adoption of activities by beneficiaries thereby contributing to improved markets and production. The project has worked with a wide range of stakeholders across all the value chains that are promoted.
	The project has collaborated with the National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBoard) and the Ministry of Agriculture in hosting the horticulture value chains innovation platforms and in this reporting period, there has been three horticulture innovation platforms held. Having NAMBoard lead these platforms is to safeguard the sustainability after the project exit. The project also has a partnership with MTN where there are exhibitions of the livestock value chains, however, during this reporting period, the partnership saw the horticulture and legume value chains being invited and be part of the exhibitions. The Ministry of Agriculture through the Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services (DVLS) and the Small Enterprises Development Company (SEDCO) were part of the event. The UNDP also continues to support the Magele Youth Group on production and quality assurance. This is done to ensure that they meet all the quality standards as set by the Eswatini Standards Authority and required by the markets. The National Maize Corporation collaborated with the project in the Legume innovation platform whose main aim was to deliberate on how markets can standardize the buying price as the country continues to see a rise in input costs.
	Furthermore, the project has promoted environment al awareness through the commemoration of the World Observed Environment Days. Commemorative days have been jointly held together with other stakeholders both from the Government and the Private sector in the drive to raise awareness to the communities where the project is based and there has been a total of seven (7) commemorations held in this reporting year under different themes. The Ministry of Agriculture- Land Use Planning and Development department and the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, as focal points of the UNFCCC, the UNCBD and the UNCCD, respectively, have been in the forefront in the commemorative days. This reporting year also saw the collaboration with a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) called Women Unlimited, which deals with projects such as waste management initiatives. The project also joined forces with other stakeholders and participated in the Temvelo awards under the theme <i>"Promoting Nature Based Solutions as a Means for Building Back Better"</i> .
	In order to ensure sustainability of the irrigation infrastructure that the project is constructing, the LUPD is part of the design and supervision team as they are the ones that will continue assisting the communities post project. The Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development is also working with the Chiefdom Development Planning component to esure that social issues are address in the project area. The Ministry has been included in the progress meetings of the phase two earth dam construction so that they may handle social issues after the closure of the project.
	New stakeholders have been engaged for different activities and these include the Lujilo Honey Company which has become a market for honey from beekeepers in the project as well as the Pick N' Pay Supermarkets who are taking indigenous chickens from the farmers. Farmers have also signed letters of intent with markets such as Somkhandi's investment, Shiya umona fruit and vegetables, Saverite Supermarket, Mr. Veggie, Sibebe Resort and Thubelihle Supermarket.



Investing in rural people

2. Information on progress on gender-responsive measures and intermediate gender result areas as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval including gender-sensitive indicators contained in the project results framework or	The project continued with giving attention to gender issues as it executed activities in the Project Development Area (PDA). It ensured the equal access and control of productive resources such as land. Women are represented in various committees that look into issues of development. Women play a pivotal role in decision making when implementing activities such as wetland conservation, land rehabilitation and rainwater harvesting interventions in their respective Chiefdoms. There are about 58% of women that are lead farmers and mentor other farmers on conservation agriculture initiatives.
gender action plan or equivalent.	There have been trainings that focused on gender in socio economic development, and these have been instrumental in facilitating that women believe in themselves and their capabilities. As a result, there is high participation of women (59%) in the Chiefdom Development Planning process. The trainings offered by the project bring out confidence in women. For example, the Television interviews that are done by the National Eswatini Television has hosted mostly women from the project to participate and talk about a variety of issues of development. Community institutions that are led by women, are in most instances, a success, particularly when the leadership has been elected after the workshops provided by the project. Furthermore, Chiefs have also appointed the youth and women as part of their advisors in the inner council. Women also form part of the Chiefdom Development Committee.
	Through this community transformation, the heavy burden of women has been lifted since the workload of women and girls in the households has been reduced. An example is that of ferrocement tanks whose construction has eliminated the time spent for the m to fetch water from rivers, a process they were doing at least twice in one day.
	Furthermore, during this reporting period, women farmers dominated trainings, business development coaching and mentoring as there were 799 women out of 1235 farmers who received mentoring and coaching in a total of 20 business groups and three (3) clusters. The trainings included sessions on group dynamics and social cohesion, market access and contract management, business planning, access to finance and financial literacy, production planning and guidelines, record keeping and other business managerial techniques.
	During this reporting period the World Day to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) commemoration was focused on women empowerment as it focused on the theme 'Her Land. Her Rights' and it was emphasizing on the importance of allowing women to have land rights for production. It was also presenting an opportunity to ignite progress towards women's economic empowerment and catalyse broader gender equality in the agricultural transformation. Traditional Leaders as well the Government of Eswatini were sensitized on issues that are aimed at reforming various land related strategies, policies, and legislation to formalize and strengthen for women to be recognised as landowners. Different speakers also highlighted the importance of women to have access to land for productivity and sustainable economic and social development. The event also stressed on how empowering women on gender equality increases their (women) understanding and how they gain confidence and become influential in decision making. It further emphasised that securing land is a source of empowerment that increases economic security and that it empowers women to have control over household decisions.
3. Progress on the implementation of the project's KM approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval	Knowledge management forms an integral part in the implementation of the project's activities because it provides a clear update on achievements, lessons learnt that can be adopted and applied to improve the project as well as identify challenges experienced and find ways to overcome them; thereby there are mechanisms in place to ensure that there is continuous progress regarding knowledge management. The project has been able to manage knowledge on the various interventions, across all components. This reporting year, there has been interventions that aid to contribute positively through sharing of information to the different stakeholders.
	Media coverage is part of the effective tools that the project uses to reach out to the masses on the interventions done in the communities. There have been articles featured on both the print media and the electronic media platforms. These include the Kusile Breakfast Show hosted by the National Eswatini Television Broadcasting Authority where successful models of SMLP/CSARL have been showcased. For this reporting period a total of seven (7) live TV shows have been conducted covering topics on apiculture, legumes, horticulture, livestock, water harvesting, environment and land



degradation initiatives amongst some of the discussions that were promoted. The shows have ensured that a wider coverage of people is reached with accurate information and testimonies from farmers who are engaged in the interventions of the project. This has ensured that people adopt the interventions and practise them on their own.

Nine (9) articles have also been published in the print media (Times of Eswatini) including an eight (8) pages supplement. The articles were on the different themes of the commemorative days such as the World Environment Day, World Wetlands Day, World Pulses Day and the World Bee Keeping Day. It covered aspects covered by the project interventions showcasing their successes at community level as well as raising awareness on issues such as climate change and the different value chains that the project is working on. The project has also provided information through digital media platforms that have immensely contributed to awareness raising such that the project has recorded a high number of participants (with approximately 285) attending meetings through livestreaming. The project continues to publish its articles in the ESWADE website platform for purposes of information dissemination.

The project has also partaken in the dissemination of information during the world commemorative days that are raised commemorations that occur internationally. Newspaper articles that contain key messages for the people on the importance of that particular day have been published. Some of the commemorative days that have been celebrated in this reporting period include the World Environment Day, the UNCCD Day, the World Soil Day, the World Water Day, the World Pulses Day, the World Bee Day as well as the World Wetlands Day. The project continues to ensure that key messages that go with the theme for particular events are emphasized through sharing of information.

The project has continued with the partnership of MTAD in the utilisation of the latter's Eswatini Broadcasting and Information Service (EBIS) for a call-in programme. This has not only increased the understanding of Chiefdom Development Planning among Chiefdoms outside of the SMLP area. This has enabled the Chiefdoms to want their own CDPs produced. The CDP is also used by the Chiefdoms in soliciting funds to potential sponsors through the marketing of their strategies for development. Furthermore, the Chiefdoms are citing their respective CDPs when they write proposals which shows the significance of CDPs in the development of Chiefdoms.

The Project also compiled a lesson's learned manual that is a guiding document covering key achievements, lessons learned and best practices, as well as recommendations captured during the implementation of the Smallholder Market Led Project (SMLP). The manual has been developed to inform and ensure that policies are aligned with government implementation mechanisms. This means that the operations and implementation mechanisms employed by the project have a strong influence in supporting the government, with particular interest the Ministry of Agriculture. The manual will be used to ensure that no replication is done but assist in determining what can be scaled up should another project be established.



C. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS	
Implementation Progress Rating (IP) Based on progress made for the given reporting period (HS/S/MS/MU/U or HU)	See Table below for rating criteria S
Information on progress, challenges and outcomes on project implementation activities Achievements and impact to date – if applicable	Progress: The marketing of CDPs was the focus of the project this reporting year since all the Chiefdoms under the project area have formulated their CDPs. The Project facilitated marketing of 11 completed Chiefdom Development Plan and review of CDPs for Nyatsini, Ndunazithini, Zulwini, Nceka, Mphumakudze, Madlenya, Hlutse, Ndlinilembi, Mphini and Zishineni Chiefdoms. This activity was meant to attract a few Development Partners who committed to supporting the above-mentioned Chiefdoms. There has been the review of seven (7) CDPs for Qomintaba, Ndushulweni, KaPhunga, Nhlalabatfu, Lulakeni, Ngobolweni and Shongwe. This was all meant to enhance the Chiefdom Development Committees to measure their achievements, challenges and lesson learned during the implementation of the CDPs. It was all meant to re-strategies and forge a way forward in the continuation of the implementation of their CDPs. A total of 35 Chiefdoms out of the 37 Chiefdoms were able to monitor
	their CDP Implementation all aimed at capacitating the Chiefdoms Development Committees on skills of developing quarterly, annual plans and complete reports to ensure that their CDPs are implemented according to what they aspire to achieve in their development. A total of 35 CDCs were trained in resource mobilization so that they can access financial resources for implementation of their CDPs on skills to develop funding proposals so that they can financially resource to implementing their CDPs. As a result, 46 projects from the 37 Chiefdoms have been implemented from the CDP in the reporting period. The project also facilitated learning and exchange visits that were conducted for the following Chiefdoms: Hlutse and Zishineni, Qomintaba and Mamisa, Ndushulweni and Qomintaba, Lusitini and Ndlinilembi, Mphumakudze, Lulakeni and Ndunayithini. Vikizijula and Ngololweni. These visits were conducted to enable the CDCs to share experiences on achievements, challenges and lessons learned during the CDP implementation. Furthermore, quarterly review meetings were conducted with Implementing Partners this reporting period with reflections on progress made during the Annual Work Plan period. These engagements with stakeholders resulted to the development of the Ministry of Tinkhundla and Administration (MTAD) which included the review of the CDP framework guidelines, documentation of success stories and lessons learned among others.
	The Chief's letter (CL) of consent for different business groups were issues for 11 groups for commercial agriculture all meant to ensure that the group legitimate right of use and enjoyment of land allocated to User Groups by the Traditional Authorities. Groups were encouraged to have constitutions for their groups in which the reporting period 26 constitutions were developed with the different value chains. A total of four (4) business groups from honey, five (5) on indigenous chickens, 12 business from horticulture and legumes, and five (5) goats' farmers. The project was also able to facilitate training of 29 business groups in Training for Transformation in which eight (8) from goats' value chain, 11 on horticulture, four (4) on indigenous chickens and six (6) for honey value chain. The training was meant to equip the business groups with knowledge and skills on how they can better manage their businesses and to build capacity on key social cohesion issues that need to be considered in their daily business activities.
	Twenty-seven (27) groups from the goats' value chain, five (5) from honey production, two (2) from indigenous chickens, seven (7) from horticulture and legumes were mentored and coached by the project. The mentoring and coaching was conducted to ensure that all the trained business groups are practically applying all the business operational strategies that they are trained in. Furthermore, the



groups were encouraged to register as legal entities in which a total of 10 business groups was trained from horticulture and legume production, three (3) business groups from goats, four (4) from indigenous chickens and six (6) from honey production. The trainings were meant to assist the groups with legal entity registration pre-requisites and process that they take an informed decision on the choice of entity. Seventeen business groups have registered as legal entities while others are still encouraged to continue to register.

With regards to the progress made in the development of the LDSF, the Technical Working Group has been trained on the R studio software that is used to manage the dashboard. The Centre for Agroforestry (ICRAF) is in the process of developing the dashboard for the LDSF. There are 18 out of 20 maps that have been developed following the soil analysis from the soil samples that were taken from the sentinel sites during field surveys. Maps that have been produced are; the Soil Organic Carbon Maps; Grassland Maps; Tree cover Maps; Soil pH Maps and Soil sand content Maps, to mention but a few. These were taken at a thirty-metre resolution and demonstrate high variability across the country. The Ministry of Agriculture has also set aside a budget to sustain the activities of the LDSF post the project. Through the LDSF, land degradation hotspots have been identified.

Chiefdoms have been sensitized on Natural Resources Management as part of sustainable development. All Chiefdoms in the PDA have formed and trained Natural Resources Management Committees as well as Rangeland Management Committees. These communities have become custodians of the management of their natural resources. In this reporting period, a total of 18ha wetlands have been protected through fencing. The protection of these natural resources has resulted in improved water recharge, the enhancement of ecosystems through secondary succession of flora and fauna species. These species are of cultural, medicinal as well as nutritional value.

Sustainable land and water management approaches continue to be adopted by Chiefdoms both at household level, since the project provided household and communal water harvesting infrastructure through ferrocement tank construction and earth dam construction, respectively. The construction of ferro cement tanks for household rooftop rainwater harvesting was done in four (4) Chiefdoms namely Lulakeni, Ndunazithini, Qomintaba and Nyatsini. A total of 845 tanks were constructed across these communities. To date there has been a total of 3151 ferrocement tanks that have been constructed, benefiting 3151 households. These households are able to harvest and store water in the tanks to use for their household needs.

Construction of phase two earth dams commenced in this reporting period with the Feasibility Study, Preliminary Designs, Draft Detailed Designs, and the Tender Document for the Phase II earth dams being completed. Critical environmental certification by the Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA) for all the dams earmarked for construction was obtained marking environmental compliance of the proposed projects. The new dams that are constructed are at Kaphunga with a downstream development area of 12ha and at Ndushulweni with a downstream development area of 9ha and this totals to 21ha to be irrigated. Two other dams that were proposed for construction are at Mgambeni and Ka Liba, which, however, are not going through because of budget constraints.

Rehabilitation of degraded lands continued in 11 sites spread across Nkonjwa, Mamisa, Luhlanyeni, Ntondozi, KaMhawu, KaMkhaya Kwendzeni, Lusitini, Hlutse and Zishineni Chiefdoms covering a total of 37ha of land. These have been rehabilitated using structural engineering by using gabion baskets. There were also major restoration works undertaken by a Contractor at KaNdinda where the 1km gulley was rehabilitated following the damage by storms. Completed additional works included fixing an attenuation pond, installation of wooden check dams, construction of side drainage channels, grassing of the site and other rehabilitation works.

Other rehabilitated sites have been developed for agricultural production and these are KaMhawu (3.4ha) and Mahlabatsini site (4ha) under Ntondozi. These have been fenced off and are currently developed for irrigation development through water supply installation and the construction of an infiltration gallery. Farmers are also encouraged to buy seedlings at local markets hence the project assists communities with the establishment of nurseries which propagate seedlings for farmers. In this reporting period there have been three nurseries that have been established and the farmers received trainings on nursery management. As part of mentoring and coaching, the nursery farmers have been



taken for exposure visits to NAMBoard for them to understand the operations of nurseries.

Under Climate-Smart-Agriculture (CSA) innovations for resilient livelihoods, the project continues to promote CSA Practices for food and nutrition security amongst food deficit poor households. In the year (cropping season), the key activities undertaken include Conservation Agriculture, Permaculture, Cottage industries and Orange-fleshed sweet potato. The project maintains the use of the lead farmer approach to reach out to the food deficit poor households across 37 chiefdoms (8 MoA RDAs). To-date, there are 80 LFs (46 females, 35 males and 5 youth) trained on CSA and capacitated with the necessary equipment to carry out their role as promoters of smart farming.

In the year, permaculture nutrition gardens continued to thrive for food and nutrition security improvement activity for mainly food deficit poor households. In as much as it is promoted along with CA which focuses on the production of field crops, permaculture nutrition gardens promote fresh vegetables and herbs for increased dietary intake of nutritious meals. The permaculture innovation is based on specific principles and is a CSA practice, which thrives under severe weather conditions like heat waves and dry spells but to a certain extent. In the current cropping season, it has been realised that their productiveness slowly diminishes in summer due to farmers shifting their focus to crop production. During field monitoring in Magele chiefdom in the Highveld, an all-year-round existence of permaculture gardens was noted as opposed to other areas which are located in the lowveld where its seasonal occurring only in winter where temperatures are low. In the year, given that an average permaculture and nutrition home garden is 5mX8m (40sqm), the total hectarage under permaculture gardens is 0.89ha while the number of households practicing permaculture nutrition home gardens is 224 where about 60 percent are in highveld areas such as Southern, Ngwempisi and Mahlalini RDA. Vegetables produced vary from Spinach, Onions, Cabbages, and lettuce.

The project further established conservation agriculture reference farms whose objectives were mainly to demonstrate CSA principles in CA and Permaculture gardens; to demonstrate CA categories, Hand tools, Animal tools and Tractor tools; to demonstrate equipment required for CA and Permaculture gardens; and to promote social cohesion amongst CSA Lead farmers and Follower farmers. Although the initial plan was to establish 3 farms, it is worth mentioning that due to the vastness of the project area, the SMLP project and the Conservation Agriculture Task Force (CATF) agreed to establish four (4) farms. The project continued to monitor CA practices and adoption across the eight (8) Rural Development Areas (RDA) under the project area. Out of 1200 CA farmers, there are about 510 (311 female, 200 male, and 51 youth) which are actively practicing CA over a hectarage of 204ha.

Over and above that, smallholder farmers are given weather related information that will guide their decision making with regards to planting patterns in any given period. This is done to guide the farmers on their farming activities. Production information reaching a total of 984 farmers (687 horticulture farmers and 297 legume farmers) was disseminated by way of the Bulk SMS platform in this reporting period. This information was targeting horticulture and legume farmers on production information and alerts to safeguard against adverse weather conditions as forecasted by local weather services. NAMBoard on the other hand continued to share updated current market buying prices to project farmers.

This year also saw the launch of the Integrated Information System (AIIS). This follows a report by the project that the Agricultural Marketing Information System (AMIS) has since been relocated from NAMBoard to the MoA. Launching the new platform, the Minister of Agriculture shared that it would enhance performance and coordination of production and marketing activities for all agricultural value chain players. In the next fiscal year, focus will be on marketing the platform to ensure registration of farmers and other key players in the value chains to make it easier to target interventions that will improve performance. Further to this, the system will make great input to improving reporting at sector level and also providing real-time data on production, inputs, produce and services across the value chains.

Hay making and planting of fodder like the velvet bean (Mucuna pruriens) has been adopted by the project for its farmers during the wet season, later grinding and sprinkling with molasses for feeding of the goats in winter. Farmers have been also taught on the mixing of crop-residues together with hay during the dry season which may be prolonged. Furthermore, it is anticipated that more feed costs will



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be reduced since farmers have adopted the preservation of leaves and pods from the indigenous trees given their appreciable crude protein contents hence fully replacing the conventional protein sources. Farmers at Mpini, Ndunazithini and Ntondozi have been supported with lucerne mainly for baling and protein supplementation in winter as well as sale to generate income.

Under the indigenous chickens' value chain, farmers have planted yellow maize of which they have started harvesting with promising returns. A by-product from National Maize Corporation, which is maize screening was procured to support farmers and there has been positive feedback in terms of the performance and feed costs reduction since its use.

Challenges:

The project has a low disbursement rate in the execution of funds for the construction of new dams. The dams design has a mass concrete spillway which, according to the initial design, requires anchoring to bedrock. However, the site did not have rock coverage at the anticipated foundation depth, therefore the contractors have had to excavate beyond the anticipated design depths in order to find sufficient rock surface. This has delayed the progress on site as the part of the works that holds the bulk of the value is the casting of the concrete spillway. Some sites that were earmarked for earth dams construction were dropped due to the escalation of price costs of doing the works since the price estimates exceeded the budget of the construction. This was due to the Russia- Ukraine war and the COVID 19 pandemic.

Outcomes on project implementation activities:

The project has resulted in many tangible outcomes across all the interventions it is driving to reach the development goal. All the 37 Chiefdoms have Chiefdom Development Plans that guide their development, they further have Chiefs Letters of Consent for any development activities that they are pursuing in the communities which shows that Traditional Authorities support community development. To date there are 45 Chiefs Letters of Consent that were issued by the Chiefs. The project interventions have also assisted communities to adapt to climate change in that issues of water scarcity have been managed by the project through the construction of earth dams that store water for multiple use by the community members and through the construction of ferrocement tank storage infrastructure for storing water for household use. There are 874 ferrocement tanks that were constructed at this reporting period which brings the number of ferrocement tanks constructed to 3151 thus benefiting 3151 households. This now provides water for households use thus further reducing the workload for women in the households. Furthermore, an indirect benefit to some destitute community members, roofing material is given to them to make a structure that will collect the water to be stored into the tank. This resulted to 58 of these households benefiting in this reporting year which totals to 58 households getting indirect benefits of corrugated iron roof sheets. Some have continued to build walls using stick and mud so that they may utilize the roof for a house as well as collecting the rainwater. Backyard gardens have been further developed in some households and these gardens are irrigated using water from the tanks as well through utilizing grey water. This is done to improve nutrition for the households through having vegetables from the backyard gardens for household use as well as selling the surplus to the community.

The rehabilitation of degraded land has brought this land to re-use as well as secondary succession of plant and animal species thereby restoring biodiversity. The project has rehabilitated 29.48ha of land in this reporting period and on the overall there is a total of 184.48ha of land that has been brought under rehabilitation and re use. Communities have planted trees, both exotic and indigenous trees as well as grasses to act as land stabilization and prevent further erosion in these areas. Furthermore, the land restoration has acted as carbon sequestration and further have brought economic benefits to the communities. The new structural designs introduced by the project have been adopted by the Government thus influenced policy.

The project has been able to restore 18 hectares of wetlands through fencing and removal of Invasive Alien Plant Species to enhance biodiversity restoration. There has been enhancement of ecosystem



	 services, improved water recharge as well as reduced sedimentation for downstream water storage. Communities have benefited through harvesting of the different kinds of flora for handcraft as well as medicinal plants. Some of the identified flora species in some of the restored wetlands include trees comprising of Wild medlar (<i>Vangueria infausta</i>), White mulberry (<i>Morus alba</i>) and Cape fig (<i>Ficus sur</i>). Sedges such as White-striped sedge (Cyperus albostriatus), Sedge (Cyperus latifolius) and Reed (<i>Phragmites mauritianus</i>). The wetlands also have shrubs such as. the Everlasting plant (<i>Helichrysum rugolusum</i>), Lemon Bush (<i>Lippia javanica</i>) and the African Potato (<i>Hypoxis hemerocallidea</i>), to mention but a few. These flora species are used by the community for different uses including medicinal, nutritional as well as for handicraft purposes. Fauna that has succeeded the restored wetlands include veterbrates such as Cape turtle dove (Streptopelia capicola), Cape Wagtail (Motacilla capensis) and the Common Toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>) whilst invertebrates including Cricket (Grylledae), Pugnacios Ant (<i>Anoplolepsis spp.</i>) and the Water Strider (<i>Gerroidea</i>). These are mostly species of Least Concern under the IUCN Red Data list, and some are not listed. Communities are now harvesting the flora species for different purposes in an organized manner that protects their resources. Payment of ecosystem services has been realized in some communities. In all its interventions, the project ensures knowledge, skills transfer as well as improvement of community members' livelihoods through employment opportunities as unskilled labor in the dam construction and land rehabilitation initiatives and this contributes to the increase in household income.
Recommendations to improve progress	The project has adopted the finish-to-finish project implementation approach in the construction of new earth dams and downstream irrigation initiatives, that is, previously the dam construction involved constructing the dam and infield irrigation subsequently, however, in order to expedite the work these different works are being done concurrently. This means that the finishing of the dam will also result in the finishing of the downstream irrigation as well, thereby allowing the farmers to start producing for the market. The project will engage the contractors in an acceleration plan that will expedite works in the respective sites. It is worth mentioning that the project received a no cost extension of 18 months, ending in March 2024. This was necessitated by the need to finish the dam construction and downstream irrigation for the phase two dams. The project will engage the contractors to cost an acceleration plan that will ensure that these works are completed by the 31 st of September 2023. Furthermore, since the project is on its exit phase, it will operationalize its exit strategy by letting the implementing partners in the various project activities take the lead in most of the activities. Partners are to be allowed to conduct trainings on their own as well as the communities will be encouraged to directly liaise with the stakeholders with issues concerning the project activities. This will be done to ensure sustainability of the activities post project. Communities will also be exposed to each other, for them to learn from one another as they implement activities in their Chiefdom Development Plans.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (IP)



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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 is subject to remedial action.
Marginally Satisfactory (MS):	Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.
Marginally 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.

D. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE RATING

Development objective Rating (DO) Based on the likelihood that by the end of the project, implementation will achieve its stated objectives (HS/S/MS/MU/U or HU)	 S- The project is expected to meet its major global environmental objectives in that it has contributed towards the Global Environment Facility focus areas on its implementation. The project has contributed into the country's reporting to the Rio Convention targets that the country is expected to report on. Biodiversity Conservation
	It has contributed towards Biodiversity Conservation through addressing unsustainable land use practices and concurrent biodiversity loss that result in, reduction of rangelands and farmland degradation. Communities were sensitised on sustainable use of natural resources, this was done through assisting them with ecosystem restoration approaches such as wetlands rehabilitation, reforestation of rehabilitated lands as well as promoting conservation agriculture and apiculture within the communities. In this reporting period, a total of 18ha of wetlands have been fenced off in communities such as Ngololweni, Lusitini and Ka Phunga. And this results into a cumulative result of 49 ha being fenced off. Furthermore, the communities removed Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPs) in the wetlands hence the wetlands are showing signs of water recharge. Species succession continue to be realized in the restored wetlands and community members continue to harvest the flora as a source of their livelihoods for their families and the neighborhood at large. Biodiversity that has been resurged includes the different types of flora including grasses or sedges, trees and shrubs as well as fauna species comprising of vertebrates, invertebrates and birds. The interventions are an integrated approach that caters for economic, social as well as environmental benefits to the communities. The project has since showcased about biodiversity conservation in many national and international platforms such as the side events of the UNFCCC COP 27 that was held in Egypt as well as the IFAD's Knowledge thematic discussions. Over and above that, it also received an award under the National Temvelo Awards, with the land rehabilitation, wetlands conservation and apiculture value chain promoting biodiversity conservation in the project.



The component has added into moving towards achieving the Land Degradation Neutrality targets of the country as well as the Nationally Determined Contributions in that it has successfully piloted improved engineering designs of land rehabilitation. In this reporting period, the project facilitated the rehabilitation of degraded lands on 11 chiefdoms including Nkonjwa, Mamisa, Luhlanyeni, Ntondozi, KaMhawu, KaMkhaya Kwendzeni, Lusitini, Hlutse and Zishineni where a total coverage of 29ha was rehabilitated through the installation of gabion structures. This totals to 184ha of land that has been rehabilitated by the project in different Chiefdoms, identified using the Land and Water Inventory that was conducted as a baseline to identify land degradation hotspots. There were also major restoration works undertaken by a Contractor at KaNdinda where the 1km gulley was re-rehabilitated following the damage by the storms. Completed additional works included fixing the attenuation pond, installation of wooden check dams, construction of side drainage channels, grassing of the site and other rehabilitation works. Erosion Control groups were also established and trained from Nkonjwa, KaMhawu and Kwendzeni communities. The project team further collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Crops and Extension Services department on the planting of fruit trees at some of the sites which include KaNdinda, Ntondozi, Sikhunyane, Nkonjwa and KaMhawu. Indigenous trees were also planted at Ntondozi and kaNdinda sites and these were provided by the Forestry department. It is worth mentioning that some of the restored sites are performing well in terms of land re-use. The Sikhunyane site has reported an income of above E19,000.00 received from their produce on a 1ha portion of land used for commercial agriculture, the market being NAMBOARD, and from fruits grown on site. Other sites developed are KaMhawu (3.4ha) and Mahlabatsini site (4ha) under Ntondozi. These have been fenced off and currently developed for irrigation development through water supply installation and the construction of an infiltration gallery.

Climate Change Adaptation

The project has assisted communities as well as smallholder farmers to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change thus contributing to the country's Nationally Determined Contributions of the UNFCCC. During this reporting period, the project has continued to build resilience for communities on negative impacts of climate change through interventions such as infrastructure development for soil and water conservation. The construction of ferro cement tanks for household rooftop rainwater harvesting was done in 4 chiefdoms namely Lulakeni, Ndunazithini, Qomintaba and Nyatsini. A total of 740 tanks were constructed across these communities which cumulates to 3151 ferrocement tanks constructed to date. Under CSA innovations for resilient livelihoods, the project continues to promote CSA Practices for food and nutrition security amongst food deficit poor households. In the year (cropping season), the key activities undertaken include Conservation Agriculture (CA), Permaculture, Cottage industries and Orange-fleshed sweet potato. The project maintains the use of the lead farmer approach to reach out to the food deficit poor households across 37 chiefdoms (8 MoA RDAs). To-date, there are 80 Lead Farmers (46 females, 35 males and 5 youth) trained on Climate Smart Agriculture and capacitated with the necessary equipment to carry out their role as promoters of smart farming. To this effect, a total of 777.62 ha of land has been brought under climate resilient practices with 189.7ha for conservation agriculture and permaculture, and 72ha brought under irrigation.

Permaculture nutrition gardens continued to thrive for food and nutrition security improvement for mainly food deficit poor households. In as much as it is promoted along with CA which focuses on the production of field crops, permaculture nutrition gardens promote fresh vegetables and herbs for increased dietary intake of nutritious meals.

Sustainable Forest Management

The project continued with reforestation in the areas that have been rehabilitated. These areas are Ka Mhawu, Ntondozi, Ka Ndinda as well as Ntondozi rehabilitation sites. Both indigenous and exotic trees were planted in these areas, and this was done in collaboration with the Department of Forestry under the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs and the Crop Production department under the Ministry of Agriculture. In this reporting year there are a total of 525 trees that have been planted as part of the land rehabilitation process. The trees that were planted in



	the previous reporting years were also monitored to determine their growth, as part of the planting 10 000 000 trees by 2025 and approximately 80% of these planted trees are growing and adapting well in the sites.
Development Progress (DO) Achievements and impact to date – if applicable	The Development Objective of the project is that smallholder households in the project's chiefdoms sustainably enhance food and nutrition security and incomes through diversified climate resilient agricultural production and market-linkages.
	In the means to achieve the Development Objective, the project has had satisfactory progress across all three components. At the output level, the project has met and, in some outputs, surpassed most of the targets in Chiefdom development planning as well as market led agriculture. All the Chiefdoms have developed and marketed their Chiefdom Development Plans. Cumulatively the project has met the target of developing 37 CDC plans of which 22 have been reviewed and plans updated. There has been a total of 141 Projects that have been implemented in the different Chiefdoms as part of Chiefdom Development Planning implementation. Furthermore, the implementation of sustainable Land and Water Management activities progressed well and is on target. There is also a total of 2244 household members who are supported with coping with effects of climate change, and of these, there are 995 females and 1249 males.
	The major setback was the Covid 19 pandemic and the Russia Ukraine war as these two disasters led to price hikes in many commodities including farm inputs. This had detrimental effects to smallholder farmers with input prices rising sharply, negatively affecting their agricultural production. This disrupted the small holder farmers' supply as it became inconsistent, resulting to the declining yields and abandonment of production forcing the country to import vegetables. However, the project, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners has been able to cushion the farmers from buying farm inputs at high costs. Through the subsidy, farmers are expected to cover 60% while the remaining 40% of total inputs will be covered by the National Agricultural Marketing Board (NAMBoard). Farmers are encouraged to make payments and send the proof to NAMBoard who will then issue a purchase voucher that will be redeemed in the selected and identified input suppliers that have an agreement with NAMBoard.
Recommendations to improve DO	The project will provide close supervision of the construction of the two earth dams under construction to ensure timely completion of the construction process as well as the commencement of the first cycle of production in the downstream command area. In order to absorb the resources that were reserved for the construction of the third earth dam at Mgambeni, the project will divert them to other alternative activities that are in line with the achievement of the project activities.
	Furthermore, in the investments in water conservation structures through earth dams' construction, the project needs to adopt the holistic approach of water use whereby the water resource caters for different needs of the community and not only focus on irrigation of smallholder farmers' command areas thus leaving no one behind. The dams committee needs to be formed taking into consideration the different uses and users of the dam.
	Chiefdom Development Planning is also imperative since The Chiefdom Development Plans are important instruments in resource mobilization for development projects in the Chiefdoms. They need to be continuously monitored and reviewed timeously so that the players at community level could be brought on board on how the respective chiefdoms are doing in as far as the achievements of the strategies are concerned. There is a monitoring tool that has been developed with stakeholders and this tool needs to be used by every chiefdom with a CDP to monitor progress in the execution of their plans.



	DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE (DO)
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.
Marginally 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.
Marginally 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.



	Investing in rural people E. KEY RISKS	
Overall risk level	Based on the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives (H/S/M o L) – See table 3 for rating criteria	
List key risks and measures implemented to resolve it	 Risks: Slow progression of the implementation of projects in the CDPs. This is being mitigated through increased capacity building in proposal writing, marketing, and negotiation skills. Civil or infrastructural works in communities may ignite social issues that could have been underlying in the Chiefdoms and may emerge thus delaying project implementation. Climate related events may affect the project's infrastructural interventions such as land rehabilitation gabion structures, ferrocement tanks and earth-dams infrastructure. The lack of commitment from the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) which is the government institution for information and communication technology who will be hosting the LDSF dashboard. The resignation of project Officers since the project is nearing its exit. Compliance to market requirements. Limited technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture. Escalation of farming input prices (especially fertilizers). Lack of financial support to farmers in the various value chains Mitigation Measures: Strengthening of CDC trainings on project proposal writing skills post CDP launch Development of the CDP Not annual basis. Development of the CDP National Framework. Infrastructural designs will incorporate climate change issues such as climate shocks to prevent structural failure. The social component of the project participates in all progress meetings for the infrastructure for soil and water conservation with Contractors and community is represented by a Community Liaison Officer in all operations and meetings on the infrastructural works. Capacitate community members on the importance of the infrastructure and beneficiary selection be done in a fair and transparent manner. Engage private tractor owner for provision of timely services. Policy formulation for the reg	
Recommendations to reduce risk level	Construction calendar must be scheduled for the dry period. There is a need for continuous stakeholder engagement for all the stakeholders that partake in the project. This needs to be done as a practical handover of the activities of the project. The Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MTAD) is to be engaged across all the project components to deal with the social issues that emerge in the communities. The project's exit strategy stipulates that the PMU staff facilitate the handover meetings with the stakeholders. Through the office of the M&E, there will be a stakeholder engagement meeting with all the stakeholders and discuss the handing over process of the project activities. The PIU is also taking the stakeholders to the sites as part of the handover process. Community members need to be continually engaged throughout the development processes so that they understand and appreciate every step of their development initiatives. It is also imperative that community members are capacitated on the importance of infrastructural development to aid their overall development, and beneficiary selection needs to be done in transparent and fair manner.	



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The project needs to curb staff resignation, which has been evident as these people hold critical positions and the brain drain could negatively affect performance in the project.

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.
Lowest 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.

	F. MEASURING FOR RESUL As defined to the Annual Work Pl		
Main indicators	Target 2022-2023 AWP	Results in 2023	Cumulative
	Component 1: Chiefdom I		
		s allocated to planned develo	pment activities
Training for transformation for business groups	18	25	81
Issuance of Chiefs letter of consent for designated areas through CDCs	6	0	45 (64.3%)
Output 1.5 National capaci Swaziland Convention target		nt and promote policies an ionally and regionally	d programmes to meet
LDSF Soil filtering and drying at Local Soil laboratories.	1	1	2 (200%)
Shipment of LDSF soil samples - ICRAF Geo- science laboratories	1	0	2
Collaborate with stakeholders on information and resources sharing	4	4	20 (100%)
	Component 2: Infrastruct	ure for Soil and Water Conser	vation
Output 2.1: Sustainable Land	d and Water Management	at or above chiefdom level	
Training of NRMCs and RMCs	7	7	37 (100%)
Conservation of Natural Resources (Wetlands & Conservation Areas)	4	18	105 (105%)
Development of Wetlands Management Plans	3	1(33%)	1(20%)
Output 2.2: Sustainable Land and Water Management at farm and household level.			



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Construction of ferrocement tanks	570	874(153%)	3151(78.8%)
	dy of Knowledge on SL	WM developed and used b	y research, policy and
development agencies Production of fact sheets	0	0	6 (120%)
Output 2.4: Erosion cont	•	-	0 (12078)
Rehabilitation of Ndinda Gully		0	1 (100%)
Community participation in restoration of degraded lands	30ha	29.8ha	184.48ha (92.24%)
Establishment of erosion control groups	4	4 (100%)	13 (87%)
Train erosion control groups	5	5 (100%)	13 (87%)
Output 2.5: New and existing	g small reservoirs supply	crop production	
Design of earth dams PHASE 2	0	0	3 (75%)
Construction supervision for PHASE 2 dams: Site establishment, clearing of damsite and partial core trench excavation	3	3	9
Facilitate O&M and handover agreements	3	3	5(50%)
Construction for minor works	0	2.5ha	18.3ha (90%)
Establishment of Water User Groups	1	3	8 (80%)
Training of Water User Groups	4	6	6 (60%)
TrainingofPIU,implementersandcontractors on environmentaland social safeguards	1	0	0
Output 2.6: Youth Enterprise			1 -
2.6.1 Youth Enterprises developed	0	0	0

G. For <u>LDCF and SCCF projects only</u> , please complete the following table		
Indicators ²	Tick if applicable	Enter number
		Please provide cumulative total

²Following the GEF guidance on results and indicators, please provide the whole results from the GEF project, which is made up of GEF financing as well as co-financing.



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	achieved from the
	inception
Total number of direct beneficiaries (enter a number)	
Ha of land better managed to withstand the effects of climate change (enter a	
<u>number</u>)	
No. of risk and vulnerability assessments, and other relevant scientific and	
technical assessments carried out and updated (enter a number)	
No. of people trained to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and/or evaluate	
adaptation strategies and measures (enter a number)	
No. of regional, national and sub-national institutions with strengthened	
capacities to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and/or evaluate adaptation	
strategies and measures (<u>enter a number)</u>	
Contribute towards public awareness of climate change impacts, vulnerability	
and adaption	
(<u>Tick if relevant</u>)	
Expand access to improved climate information services (Tick if relevant)	
Expand access to improved climate related early-warning information (Tick if	
<u>relevant)</u>	
No. of regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes	
developed or strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation	
strategies and measures (enter a number)	
No. of sub-national plans and processes developed or strengthened to identify,	
prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures (enter a number)	

H. DOCUMENTS

Please share any document pertaining to this PIR. Uploaded documents may also include any geospatial file or be linked to reported minor amendments, as appropriate.



I. GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Ndushulweni Earthdam				Description	Proposed Earth dam Construction
	27 ⁰ 01′ 34″ S	31 ⁰ 33′ 49″ E		Stream	
Ka Liba Earthdam	27º 07′ 8″ S	31 ⁰ 29' 96" E		Stream	Proposed Earth dam Construction
Ka Phunga Earthdam	26º 45' 46″ S	31º 29' 15" E		Stream	Proposed Earth dam Construction
Mgambeni Earthdam	26 [°] 55′ 40″ S	31 [°] 31' 42" E		Stream	Proposed Earth dam Construction
Ngololweni Earthdam	27° 5'51.34"S	31°25'45.66"E		Earth Dam	Completed Earth dam
Nceka Earthdam	26°48'14.37"S	31°33'48.06"E		Earth Dam	Rehabilitated Earth dam
Ngololweni Wetland	27 ⁰ 5' 45.24" S	31º 26' 38.06" E		Wetland	Wetland Conservation through fencing
Lusitini Wetland	27º 05' 24.20" S	31º32'28.90" E		Wetland	Wetland Conservation through fencing
Mphini Wetland	26 ⁰ 36' 14.5" S	31º17'51.1" E		Wetland	Wetland Conservation through fencing and construction of an infiltration gallery
Nceka Land Rehabilitation Site	26°47'32.69"S	31°36'28.91"E		Rehabilitated Site	Land Rehabilitation
Luhlanyeni Land Rehabilitation Site	26°50'21.83"S	31°34'9.32"E		Rehabilitated Site	Land Rehabilitation
Ndinda Land Rehabilitation Site	26°37'0.24"S	31°15'57.73"E		Rehabilitated Site	Land Rehabilitation
Nkonjwa Land Rehabilitation Site	26°56'19.79"S	31°36'45.41"E		Rehabilitated Site	Land Rehabilitation
Ntondozi Land Rehabilitation Site	26°37'15.20"S	31°13'51.00"E		Rehabilitated Site	Land Rehabilitation
Mhawu Land Rehabilitation Site	27° 4'48.03"S	31°34'2.67"E		Rehabilitated Site	Land Rehabilitation
Nyatsini Land Rehabilitation Site	27° 6'30.40"S	31°36'43.52"E		Rehabilitated Site	Land Rehabilitation

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



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J. MINOR AMENDMENTS

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

Each user selects any minor amendment that happened to a project during the latest fiscal year and provides a description of the minor amendment in a narrative format as appropriate in the related textbox. Users may also attach supporting documents as appropriate within the PIR module.

Select the boxes below and give some explanation to why you ticked it.

Minor Amendment	Explanation
Results Framework	
Components And Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	The project was extended by 18 months due to the delay in the construction of phase two earth dams and irrigation infrastructure and will be completed by March 2024
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	
Others	